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Theme

Current trends on the libraries of the Islamic world

Presenter

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Topic

Libraries of Islamic World: Challenges of 21st Century

Challenges of 21st Century

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Libraries of Islamic World :

Challenges of 21st Century

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Abstract
The paper will discuss about causes and benefits of developing library science in the Muslim world. Paper will also give some important points for developing library and library science of the Islamic world and Muslim people all over the world which will drive us to the reviving process of our golden age of science and knowledge. If we ignore library science definitely our research and innovation sector will be speed less and our existence will be meaningless.

Key words:

Library, Muslim world, challenges, Recommendations.

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Introduction

Libraries and laboratories are mother of research and invention. Muslim, have great contribution in library management and information science which is indelible. Surely, it can be said that modern library movement was started by Muslim in middle age. At that time when Queen Isabela's library contained only 201 books, at the same time Cordova library contained about one million books. At that time the biggest Library and Information Resource center owned by Muslim (Kader: 1936). Pertinently it can be note that Muslims are pioneer of modern library and information movement. In this paper we will discuss comparative contribution, present status, problems and challenges of libraries of the Islamic world and the process of reviving past invincible golden age of knowledge and science. Currently there are 58 Muslim countries in the world and the one-third population of the world is follower of Islam.

Jews have only one crore brains. They control the power of whole world by cultivating these brains. So we can compete with rest of the world in this process.

We have to focus on Muslim country and Muslim population.

Major necessity of developing library sector of Muslim world

- Library and laboratory are the center of research and innovation. No research and invention is possible without library and laboratory. It is labour house of research and innovation.

- "Library movement" can be a peaceful Muslim movement that can speed up Muslim Renaissance.

- We want to start a new social movement "knowledge movement" by strengthening library sector of Muslim world.

- Effective research and innovation is impossible without strengthening library sector. We can decrease time consumption of research by innovating digitizing modernizing the library sector. We can increase speed of research & innovation. By giving modern service.

- We want to revive the age of knowledge and science again to the Muslim world.

- **Library movement can be elixir for Muslim Ummah.**

- We want to create a new Muslim world that will be effective, well informed and knowledge based society. It is possible by modernizing of library and information sector.

- Reading habits of Muslim world hundred times lower than rest of the world. It can be increased by decorating outer and inner form of library and information center of the Muslim world.

- We think we have "one third brain" of the world. We want to cultivate, improve, and flourish each brain of Muslim ummah. Only by cultivating brain of every Jews, Zionist movement is controlling the Major power of the world. But the amount of brain is less than one crore.

- Developed library sector means developed knowledge and scientific innovation. Without developing this sector it is impossible to revive the golden age of Muslim.

- First Quranic verse is "Read by the name of Allah who has created you." Islam emphasize on knowledge acquiring from birth to death.

- Ignoring library science will make our existence meaningless. Because without developing, modernizing library sector radical contribution in science and knowledge is not possible.

So we can say library movement and developing library science should be indispensable part of Muslim Ummah.

Comparative situation of present and past of libraries of the western and Muslim world.

Extraction from Muslim History

Past (Middle era):

- Muslims were founder of modern library and library movement.

- They were basically inventor of modern public and academic library system.

- They invested core wealth for development of this area.

- Founder of modern science.

- Owned world biggest library. (Cordova library)

- Library was well decorated and resourceful place of the society.

- There were resourceful public libraries in all provinces.

At present (21ˢᵗ Century):

- Within the world top five hundred libraries based on collection and service pattern there is no library owned by Muslim.

- Policy makers are unwilling to invest for this sector.

- Most backdated, manual services rendered.

- Library is the worst and bad place of the society so that people do not feel attraction for going to library.

- Maximum libraries are not automated and digitised.

- No remarkable public library.

Extraction from history of western civilization (Middle era):

- They completely ignored this sector.

- There was no remarkable library in the west.

- When Cordova library owned about 1 million books then Queen Isabela's library had only 201 books and Royal France Library contained only 900 books.

- They were unwilling to invent for the development of this sector.

At present (21ˢᵗ Century):

- They owned biggest library of the world (Library of congress).

- They have seven thousand enrich libraries.

- Have world class information science institution.

- Library and information center are best decorated and resourceful place of the society.

- Transformed the libraries into "entertainment and knowledge center for all citizens.

- Donate big budget for development of library and library science.
- Transmute it profitable as social business.
- Maximum libraries are automated and digital.
- Millions of library rendered effective and innovative service.
- Highly decorated public, special and academic library.
- They arranged hundreds of conference on library science.
- They developed thousands of well equipped public academic and special libraries.

Major problems for not developing library sector of Muslim world

Lack of proper realization

Islam seriously emphasizes on knowledge gathering and dissemination. The first sentence of Islam is "Read". Prophet (Sm) said "One hour acquiring knowledge in night is equal to spending the whole night for Allah's another work." Prophet (Sm) also said "It is mandatory for every Muslim to acquire knowledge. But in modern time ruler of Muslim countries brutally ignored this realization.

Want of investment

Library sector is a non-profit sector and Muslim countries are mostly under developed and developing country. The government of Muslim countries are unwilling to invest in such a non-profit sector also the reality is maximum Muslim countries are very poor and they are struggling for their food and fundamental necessity of the citizen.

Lack of world-class library science institution or department throughout the Muslim world

There are 58 Muslim countries in the world but no mentionable world class library science department in universities. Throughout the Muslim world there is no skilled and effective research on library science.

Lack of IT application in library & information center

Computer and information communication technology (ICT) have great impact on libraries and information centers at the present time. In the developed world they use every ICT material in their library and information center. They cope up themselves with ICT innovation. At the same time Islamic world have to plan about digitization process in their library.

Deficiency of proper planning

Proper, exhaustive, timely planning and implementation can give, actual speed to a particular issue. Muslim world have no effective, visionary plan for developing library sector.

Lack of trained, visionary & extra ordinary skilled professional personality

A visionary person can drive a nation towards achieving an ultimate goal. For developing this sector there is enough shortage of visionary and skilled personality for actual development of library and library science of the Muslim world.

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Absence of classification scheme

In the modern world there are several knowledge classification schemes i.e. DDC, UDC, LC, CC, BC, etc. every scheme is slanted to particular country continent, region or religion. But there is no existence of scheme for Islamic countries invented by Muslim for this reason arranging Islamic resources.

Absence of Effective library organization and lack of scholarship

There are hundreds of library organizations in the world but there is no library organization for Muslim countries which will play vital role. In the western world i.e. USA, UK etc. gave hundreds of scholarships for students of library science but Muslim world brutally ignore it. In the western world every year hundreds of conferences arranged for the professional and student of this field.

Subject heading

The widely used subject heading i.e. LC and sears list but no effective subject heading for arranging Islamic resources.

Core Challenges

Information explosion

Information explosion is a term that describes, and analyzes the rapidly increasing amount of published information and the effect of this abundance of data. As the amount of available data grows, the

problem of managing the information becomes more difficult which can lead to information overload. It requires skilled qualified personality. Otherwise research and innovation will be speed less.

Expansion of information and communication technology

Information and communication technology (ICT) is expanded everyday. Coping with this technology is a great challenge for librarian and information scientist. Without ICT knowledge managing digital information is not possible. So modern library science education is vital challenge for Islamic world.

Emergence of library science as a Multidisciplinary subject

Library science emerged as the most modern subject in western world. The course titles are-
   a) Informatics.
   b) Information science.
   c) Knowledge management.
   d) Chemi-informatics.
   e) Bio-informatics.
   f) Health informatics etc.

But Muslim world backdated course curriculum rendered in some countries and there are some countries till now unaware about this sector's revolution. Emergence of digital library and library business.

Emergence of Digital library and library Business

Now-a-days digital library contributes as the main media of information. Effective, modern digital library provides some innovative service. For this reason digital library emerged as the social business center of information. Western world specially U.K, USA, Australia by British council, American center made a new business throughout the Muslim world. They made their information center profitable organization.

Innovation of public library as a entertainment center

At present public library work as "knowledge & entertainment center". In America they made slogan "why not library as a third place" Means after home, and job office library is third time consumption place. Their library's ins and outs are very attractive charming and libraries are resourceful. For this reason people rushed the library.

Fig: Seatle public library

Information networking and resource sharing

Information networking and resource sharing is a burning issue in this age of information explosion because single library has no sufficient budget for buying all necessary resources. In western world thousands of libraries network exist.

Digital and virtual library

Currently digital and virtual library emerged as the most necessary for user, researcher and scientist. Managing digital and virtual library is important for an information scientist. Specially for Muslim world which 90% libraries are not digital.

Special library as a innovation and research center

In 21ˢᵗ century special libraries transformed into the "innovation and research center" throughout the world.

60% success of research and innovation depend on quick and innovative service rendered by library and information center.

Innovation of E-society and E-library

Thousands of E-libraries emerged in modern time i.e. Emerald, Amazon.com etc. It is a great challenge for Muslim world to cope with this invention.

E-society is one that uses digital media in most relationship. Our aims should make our brother hood cemented by using this technology.

Classification scheme

There is no classification scheme by which Islamic information resources will arranged effectively.

This is the high time to think about a classification scheme and subject heading invention for the Muslim world by managing uniformity with others so that international information networking and resource shaming will be easier.

Library software package

There are hundreds of library software packages in the world i.e. GLAS, LIBSYS, Alice, DRA etc. but no software work effectively for arranging Islamic resource and other resources combine. A library software package invention is necessary for Islamic world.

Solution and Recommendation

After describing and inventing actual situation of libraries and library science of the Islamic world, we want to mention some necessary recommend for long time and short time remedy.

1. Establish world class branded library world wide like British Council, American Center, Russian Cultural Center etc. I am proposing the name **"Global Amity Center".**

2. Urgently establish a **library commission** under OIC for Modernizing library sector of the Islamic world.

3. WCOMLIS Responsibility:
   a) It should be global, active, invincible library organization for the Muslim Ummah.
   b) It should a permanent secretariat and proper plan for raising fund.
   c) It should arrange conference every year.
   d) Co-operate with OIC, IDB, RABETA etc. of Islamic international organization for developing library and library science of Muslim world.

4. Making a visionary plan by OIC initiated by WCOMLIS that may be "vision-2050" vision may include.
   a) Establishing "Global Amity Center" in minimum 100 countries of the world.
   b) Book for every Muslim and library for every Muslim.
   c) Knowledge based Muslim world.
   d) 70% library digitization.

e) Establishing world-class public library for each Muslim country and Non Muslim country where Muslim citizen live.

f) Effective Muslim information network and resource shoring program formation

g) Founding some special library for researcher.

h) A mosque and A automated library project: This project will insist on following issues.

1. Every Mosque should have automated and resourceful library means where mosque exist, library also exist as the integral part.

2. Every Mosque Imam will be responsible for increasing reading habits of his 'Musalli'.

3. This library's collection include all necessary, national, international scientific and other books as well as information resources.

i) Invention of subject heading, unique clarification scheme and software package for Islamic world.

j) A resourceful Muslim world means every educated Muslim have minimum 2000 books.

k) Establishing some world class scientific laboratory. Realize "vision creates hope".

5. Establishing world-class library science institution for Muslim world initiated by OIC.

6. Muslim organization i.e. OIC, IDB, RABETA, WAMY should give enough scholarship for the student and professional of library science. Realize that without developing library sector developing knowledge and science is impossible.

7. Taking public, special, academic library project: WCOMLIS should take proper, timely initiative for starting a project for following aims:

   a) Establishing modern, effective public, special and academic library and information center throughout the Muslim countries and non-Muslim countries where Muslim citizen live.

   b) Project should also be insist on establishing library in the least develop country i.e. African LDC countries.

   c) Awareness program for increasing reading habits of Muslim people.

8. Digitization and automation project: This project include following tasks.

   a) Administer research about the actual situation of established libraries of Muslim world.

   b) Step by step digitization of settled libraries of the Muslim countries.

9. Taking and implementing awareness program by WCOMLIS which may include:

   a) Fund raising.

   b) Every educated Muslim should have collection of 2000 books.

   c) Every Muslim community should have automated, resourceful library.

   d) Every Mosque's integral part is a library.

   e) Every Muslim should have minimum knowledge of science.

   f) Creating library based intellectual and readers group.

10. Develop concept "Esteem librarian and Library" throughout the Muslim world.

11. We have one third human resources of the world and 58 countries. That means we have one-third brain of the world. So our responsibility is to take proper plan for human resource development and consider human resource as "the amanat from our lord".

If we capable to cultivate every brain of Muslim ummah surely we will be able to revive our past day of "Science and knowledge".

Fig: Map of Muslim Countries.

Muslims Population

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- ■ 100-70%
- ■ 69-50%
- ■ 49-30%
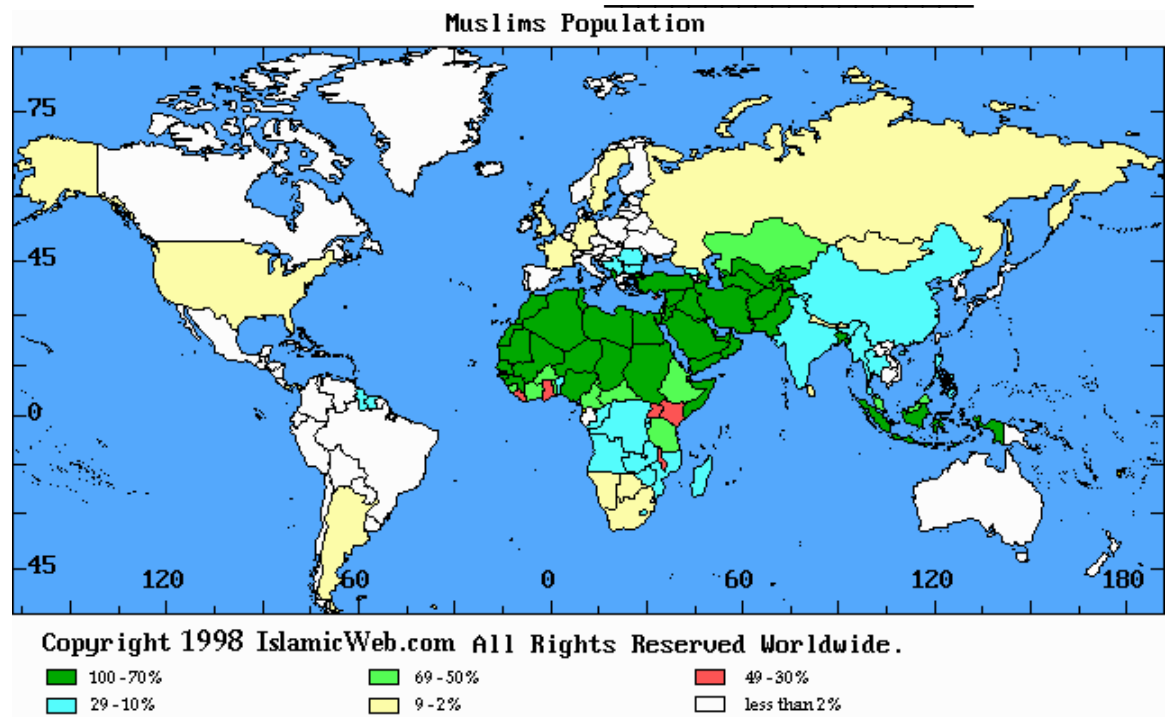- ☐ 29-10%
- ☐ 9-2%
- ☐ less than 2%

Fig: Muslim Human resource map.

12. Develop E-society throughout the Muslim world.

13. Upgrading library science as a multidisciplinary and modern subject throughout the Islamic world.

14. Invest core wealth for developing library and library science of the Muslim world.

WCOMLIS should play the major responsibility relating to implement, the noted recommendation because WCOMLIS is expert of this field in Muslim world.

Conclusion

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World congress of Muslim librarian and information scientist (WCOMLIS) can play a vital role for spreading knowledge all over the world. It can be torchbearer, hope center, inspiration arouser, and thought provoker towards peace, Muslim awakening and Islamic renaissance. WCOLIS can be lighthouse for the world peace and knowledge movement. Our slogan should be "knowledge is peace, light" and knowledge can effectively disseminate by library and information centers.

We should give proper attention, take timely decision towards this field and should invest core wealth for developing, library and information center of the Muslim and rest of the under developed world.

At last I want to note that WCOMLIS should realize that it has numerous responsibility towards Muslim Ummah for reviving the golden age of science and knowledge, for international Muslim awakening (new Renaissance).

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