Promoting National Unity: The Roles of Library and Information Science Professionals

A paper presentation

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Abstract

This paper focuses on promoting national unity by the roles of library and information science professionals in the society. Library and information science professionals play important roles in promoting unity in the society through evaluation, acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information to the people. This information is needed for the understanding and management of differences between individuals and groups in order to achieve unity. Library and information science professionals include librarians, archivists, curators, database managers, reporters etc. Through information management, library and information science professionals contribute in achieving national unity. National unity is the coming together of individual from with differences in terms of ethnicity, religion, gender etc., to respect, help, interact etc., with one another in order to move the nation forward. In doing these, information is needed. This information can be accessed from libraries and information centres with the help of librarians, archivists, curators etc. also, the information provided by library and information science professionals is needed for the promotion of national unity through tolerance, respect to one another, avoidance of discrimination etc. The major activities library and information science professionals carried out in libraries and information centres are information acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination. Carrying out these activities appropriately contributes to the achievement of national unity. It is concluded that library and information science professionals such as librarians, archivists, curators among others

contribute towards the achievement of national unity. This is if they carry out their activities of information management appropriately.

Background

Library and information science professionals play important roles in promoting unity in the society. This unity can be achieved through coming together of individuals from different ethnic groups, religion, location among others (Tripathi, 2021). They are involved in the evaluation, acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information to the people in the society. This information is needed for the understanding and management of differences between individuals and groups in order to achieve unity. The information managed by the library and information science professionals is expected to be evaluated before acquisition. This is because the information which is not evaluated can lead to damage to individuals or groups' image which can also lead to disunity. After evaluation of the information, the library and information science professionals go ahead and acquire that information. The acquisition can be through purchase of the documents, donation, interview, among others. During acquisition of information, the library and information science professionals should make sure that the information is reliable. This can be done by considering the reputation, the position among others of the authors. After acquisition of information, the library and information science professionals start processing the information. The information can be in the forms of books, letters, newspapers among others. Information is expected to be processed in efficient and effective way irrespective of the form of the information in order to provide right information to the user to contribute to the achievement of national unity. This unity is needed for the achievement of development in the society (Gupshups, 2022). The activities involved in information processing can be labelling, editing, stamping among others. The library and information science

professionals during information processing, should not add, remove or change the information they acquire in order to tarnish the image of individual or group. This can lead to hate, or damage of individuals or groups' image, which can lead to disunity. As such, library and information science professionals including librarians, archivists, curators, among others, who are responsible for information management if they are honest, unbiased in their work will lead to access and use of the right information which is needed for the understanding of individuals and groups. This is needed by individuals in order to achieve unity in any environment. For example, if a particular information provider allows bias in the process of information provision by changing the information from its original state and disseminate to the society. This information can lead to igniting of chaos, which can lead to disunity. This hinders the achievement of unity in the society which is needed for the development of that society. As such, the library and information science professionals, who carry out their work of information evaluation, acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination to the people in an efficient and effective way contribute towards promotion of unity in the society. This unity leads to the achievement of development in the society (Ahmed, 2018).

Concept of Library and Information Science Professionals

Library and information science professionals are individuals, who acquire the knowledge of information acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval, dissemination together with the ethical principles. These professionals include librarians, archivists, curators, database managers, reporters among others. They are individuals, who manage information irrespective of the environment. The environment can be school, hospital, ministry, department, agency, bank, court of law etc. People in the society access information from these individuals for its use (Echem,

Lulu-Pokubo and Ejuh, 2018). This is because information is needed for the activities carried out by human being. The activities include farming, travels, building, diagnosis, reporting, teaching, among others. The information accessed from the library and information science professionals is expected to be reliable. This is because the library and information science professionals are individuals, who have the knowledge of the information need of the people, the information search, information retrieval, information access, information evaluation, and information dissemination from the right source to the target users at the right time. They are found in libraries, archives, museums among other information centres by the information professionals. They manage information in the forms of documents such as books, reports, newspapers, encyclopaedia, letters among others, in order to help the information users in the society to access information in order to satisfy their need. The librarians, archivists among others are expected to manage the documents that will help in promoting national unity. This is by making sure that the information presented in such documents is studied in order to make sure that is right. Also, the library and information science professionals at the end, disseminate the information to the people (Eniekebi, 2021). This can be through channels such as Internet, radio, notice board, catalogues, etc. This information is needed for the achievement of unity in the society. For example, if a particular issue happens in the society, and that issue is documented appropriately without altering the issue while documenting it, and a librarian or any information science professional evaluates and acquires that document, here the librarian or information science professional is helping in managing information, by avoiding what can lead to tarnishing of the image of a particular individual or group. Here, the librarian or information science professional is contributing towards promotion of unity in the society. Also, a reporter, who collects the information and has the responsibility of editing such information helps in promoting

unity by editing the information appropriately by avoiding altering the information, which can lead to hate. This can further lead to disunity in the society.

Concept of National Unity

National unity is very important in achieving development in any society. When people are united, they can be able to move their nation to a greater height in different sectors of the economy. These include agriculture, health, education, communication, security, transportation among others. This is because, if people come together, they can easily contribute towards changing their nation to the good. This means national unity is critical in any society. Umaru and Usman (2015) indicated that national unity involves coming together of people from different locations, with different backgrounds, different capacity among others to help, respect, protect one another as well as working collectively in order to move their nation forward. This can cannot be achieved without information generation, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination. At the end of theses, the information is needed for use. For example, in a nation of different ethnic groups, the citizens of that nation need information to understand other ethnic groups. This information can be found in the information centres, where librarians, archivists, curators etc., manage such information. This information can be in different forms. These include books, letters, newspapers, encyclopaedia, among others. The Information in these documents is expected to be managed in efficient and effective way. This includes information evaluation, acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination. The library and information science professionals during information management, should not carry out anything that will lead to tarnishing of the image of individual or group. This is because, this can lead to hate, which can further lead to disunity in the society. Also, when library and information science professional is to disseminate information to the society, right information is expected to

be disseminated at the right time, to the right users. This can be done through radio, television, notice board, catalogues, web page, social interaction among others. This is to avoid misinforming individuals in the society, which can lead to damage of the image of individual or a particular group in order to contribute in promoting unity in the society, which is needed for development. This unity is when individuals come together to help, respect etc., one another (Dawood, 2014).

Promotion of National Unity

Promotion of national unity is important in order to achieve development in the society. It is needed in order to move a nation forward. Citizens of any nation are expected to contribute in promoting unity in their nations. This is achieved if the citizens unite (Shodunke and Subair, 2020). They should come together to make sure that the nation is progressing. When citizens of a nation unite themselves, development can easily be achieved. This development will be achieved if right information is used. This information is acquired, processed, stored, retrieved and disseminate by library and information science professionals in different environments such as schools, hospitals, ministries, departments etc. The following are some of the means of promoting national unity:

1. Tolerance: Individuals in the society need to accept, manage, endure etc., others with different views and actions. This will lead to unity in the society (Edeh, 2021). For tolerance to take place, information is needed. This can be accessed from library and information science professionals.

2. Avoidance of discrimination: It is important to carry individuals along in moving the society forward. They should be allowed to participate in planning, implementation and decision in the

society. In order to do this information is needed, which can be accessed from library and information science professionals.

3. Fairness in distributing resources: Individuals need to be fairness in relating with others in the society. This will make individuals to come together, which will lead to stability in the society (Edosa, 2014). To achieve fair relationship between individuals or groups, information is needed. This can be accessed from books, newspapers, encyclopaedia and other documents managed by library and information science professionals.

4. Respect to one another: People in the society need to respect one another. This leads to unity in the society. Information is needed to identify individuals in order to respect them. This information can be accessed from library and information science professionals, irrespective of the environment. The environment can be schools, hospitals, agencies etc.

5. Protecting one another: Protection of lives and properties is a major issue in the society. It leads to the achievement of unity in the society. Individuals need information about the importance of peace in the society. This information can be accessed from library and information science professionals.

6. Helping one another: It is important to help one another in the society. This leads to the achievement of development in the society (Ahmed, 2018). Also, it helps in achieving unity etc. to help individuals, information is needed about them, the type of help needed, the time of the help among others. Library and information science professionals provide such information.

Activities Carried out by Library and Information Science Professionals and Promotion of National Unity

The following are the activities carried out by library and information science professionals in promoting national unity:

1. Information acquisition: This is a process of bringing documents into the information centres. Information managers including librarians, archivists etc., acquire documents such as books, newspapers, encyclopaedia among others, in order to help the users to satisfy their information need. The librarians, archivists among others are expected to acquire the documents that will help in promoting national unity. Echem, Lulu-Pokubo, and Ejuh (2018) maintained that the documents will be used to provide information to the people. The documents should be evaluated to make sure that they contain the right information (Viera, 2019). For example, the contents of the documents need to be studied in order to make sure that the information presented in such documents is genuine. This is because some authors may put bias in their writing in order to damage the image of individual or group. And this bias will appear in the documents they write. If these documents are acquired into the information centres such as libraries, archives etc., and read by the users, it can lead to hate by individual or group to another, which can lead to disunity between individuals or groups in the society.

2. Information processing: This is a processing of making sure that information irrespective of the format is labelled, edited, packaged among others for efficient and effective use. Information processing comes after acquisition of that information. Williams (2016) indicated that the library and information science professionals process the information irrespective of the format in order to help individuals in the society to access the information with an ease. Information processing includes stamping, labelling, catalogueing, classifying, editing, of the documents among others. For example, in the case of editing the document, the library and information science professionals are expected to carry out his or her work without adding, removing or changing the

information. This can lead to the damage of individuals or groups' image, which can lead to the hate. If this happens, an individual, who access such information can spread the hate to the people in the society, which can lead to disunity.

3. Information storage: This is a process of keeping documents in information centres for their use. Library and information science professionals including librarians, archivists etc., store documents such as books, letters, newspapers, encyclopaedia among others, in order to help the individuals to satisfy their information need (Agbo and Onyekweodiri, 2014); (Eniekebi, 2021). These documents are stored on shelves, cupboard, drawers, Compact Disk, Digital Versatile Disk, computers, Internet etc. While storing these, library and information science professionals should be fair so that access to them should be to all individuals, who are authorized in order to promote unity in the society.

4. Information retrieval: This is a process of removing documents from the information centres. Information retrieval is carried out using tools such as catalogues, index, web address, among others. Library and information science professionals retrieve documents that will be used by individuals in order to satisfy their information need (UKEssays, 2021). They are expected to be fair in retrieving the information needed by individuals irrespective of their gender, ethnic identity among others in order to promote unity in the society.

5. Information dissemination: This is a process of sending information to the society. The information can be from library, archives, museums among other information centres by the information professionals. The information professionals can librarians, archivists etc. The information disseminated by the information professionals to the society can be in the forms of documents such as books, newspapers, encyclopaedia, letters among others, in order to help the individuals in the society to satisfy their information need (Eniekebi, 2021). The librarians,

archivists among others are expected to disseminate information from the documents that will help in promoting national unity. They should make sure that the information from the documents is studied in order to make sure that it is reliable. For example, if library and information science professional is to disseminate information about a particular individual or group, he or she should make sure that there is no bias in it. This is because disseminating information, which is not right can lead to disunity. Also, the information should be disseminated at the right time, to the right users using appropriate channels such as radio, television, notice board, catalogues, web page among others. This is in order to avoid misinforming the people in the society, which can lead to damage of the image of individual or group in order to promote unity in the society.

Conclusion

It is concluded that library and information science professionals such as librarians, archivists, curators among others are individuals whose work of information management can lead to promotion of unity in the society. This is if they are honest, neutrality in their work among others. These will lead to access and use of information that will lead to understanding of individuals and groups. This is needed in order to achieve unity in the society. The unity in the society is needed for the development of that society. In order to achieve this the library and information science professionals should make sure that they carry out their work of information evaluation, acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination to the people in an efficient and effective way in the society. This will lead to the access to the right information by the individuals in order to live in unity. This unity is very important in the improvement of agricultural, health, education, security, transportation, environmental, and other sectors in the society.

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