

Concept of Green Library in Indian Context

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Abstract

The term "green" is defined as "pertaining to, or supporting environmentalism." Thus green library concept is contribution of library professionals towards protection of environment. Library can be made healthy and rich by adopting means of ecology and economy. Indian libraries have also started going green by adopting wide windows, planting trees around library premises, using soft pads on chair feet, digitizing the offline material to save paper etc. Some eco friendly initiatives taken by Indian libraries are discussed in this paper.

Key word: ventilation, online catalogue, digital reading material, wide windows, LED light

Introduction

Green library means environment friendly library that uses all means to minimize pollution of all kind. It restricts the usage of paper and avoids the use of plastic of any kind. It is also called sustainable library. Green or sustainable libraries are the structure that is designed, built, renovated, operated, or reused in an ecological and resource efficient manner. The major advantage of Green Libraries is they can serve for the information needs of the users as well as will be helpful for saving environmental resources for future generation.

Library professionals can play an important role for sustainability of the green library by providing suitable and relevant information related to green issues and concerns. For the upcoming generation, it can be a better steps to assurance of future sustainable development of libraries. The idea of "Green" or "Sustainable" approach is useful for preserve natural resources that are essential for our survival. Overall, the development and operation of Green building advances a sound situation for the Library clients and helps to promote sustainable Library development.

Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)

The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was formed in the year 2001. The vision of the council is, "To enable a sustainable built environment for all and facilitate India to be one of the global leaders in the sustainable built environment by 2025".

The council is committee-based, member-driven and consensus-focused. All the stakeholders

of construction industry comprising of architects, developers, product manufacturers, corporate, Government, academia and nodal agencies participate in the council activities through local chapters. The council also closely works with several State Governments, Central Government, World Green Building Council, bilateral multi-lateral agencies in promoting green building concepts in the country.

The council offers a wide array of services which include developing new green building rating programmes, certification services and green building training programmes. The council also organises Green Building Congress, its annual flagship event on green buildings.

Areas for management towards green library

1. **Building Material:** Thermal repellent material can be used. Holes/ pits can be filled by garbage. India's diversity is not only on its language, culture and traditions but also it differentiates itself by its locality, weather and area. So before planning for a constructional setup it is most important duty of the institutional head to think about all sides benefit and drawback.
2. **Electricity:** Solar system can be implanted to generate electricity. The high voltage appliances can be replaced by LED lights. Ducting can be used for cooling in summer to reduce electricity consumption. Use of wind and sun can manage temperature and light in place of electricity. Its saves lot of natural

resources like coal and emission of harmful gases.

3. **Water:** Rain water harvesting, recycling of water, green toilets, etc. can be used to save water consumption.
4. **Site location:** The library should be situated as far as possible in the middle of any campus to save fuel and energy and to make it easily accessible. Rest rooms and cafeteria should be constructed in the premises itself or at a walk in distance. It should be away from the noise zone like club, auditorium, entertainment hall etc. to make concentrate on their study.

Green libraries in India

Mumbai University Library

The University Library and Rajabai Clock Tower above it are located in a Heritage Building with a height of 280 feet. The architecture itself makes it more environment-friendly as it boasts than the recent low-height, less-width, non-thick walls.

Reading facilities are rendered beyond University to outsiders like writers, journalists' and visitors. The library provides vast area of open space for its readers. The heavy wooden furniture mostly with antique values mingles well with the environment. Natural light comes through the wide windows that run through the wall. The electric lights are also used subtly to facilitate reading but not to cause glares or any other discomforts.

Madras University Library

The existing library building is built in a symmetrical mixture of Indian and British architectural style. It was opened on 3rd September 1936. Granite arches and domes with octagonal base make this Building a pleasure to the eye. Islamic Architecture in India has also come in the inclusion of kiosks.

As is prevalent in those days, ample scope for letting in natural air has been provided. Wide corridor makes a buffer zone for the entry of hot and humid air. Windows are large and too many accelerating both fresh air and sunlight. Enormous amount of open space is provided. Sunshades are there outside the windows that prevent the direct sunlight but allow adequate natural lights.

Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur

Soft pads have been used in the feet of chairs to reduce noise. Cataloguing has been computerized to reduce paper usage. The size of windows has been enlarged for natural lightening. Glass is amply used as an eco-friendly material to create great looks and sense of open space and for facilitating natural lights as much as possible.

Most of the collection has been digitized and made available to the users to save the cost of paper.

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The old lightening system has been replaced by LED light to reduce electricity consumption. A large number of trees have been planted in the library campus to make the atmosphere cool and soothing. The library building has been constructed in such a way that less movement is needed to be made to go from one place to another. Cataloguing has been provided through OPAC to save paper and man power.

National Library of India, Kolkatta

The library is using various green measures such as Use of eco-friendly open space and pot plants. For library furniture bio-degradable and environment-friendly Wood is mostly used. Open space is provided for reading. The main facilities include sitting, supply of drinking water and Wi-Fi connectivity. It is more pleasurable to read in atmosphere surrounded by lush green trees and colourful flowers. The system is a blend of heritage including scope for group discussions in the silence of the green space.

Conclusion

Green libraries are related to the overall green building movement, libraries have specific needs that raise some extra challenges for their preservation books must be kept away from sunlight as well as moisture and temperature change.

The duty of a Librarian is not only to provide information to the users but they should play a role of leader to construct modern Green Buildings to save our natural environment. Library buildings fall under nonrecurring type and should be designed for long term basis investments made to benefit the community so when designing them architects need to be looking for a greater life span.

Suggestions

1. Library planning for information dissemination and awareness raising programs and some programs such as holding meetings, film screenings, lectures and participatory programs.
2. The implementation of green management plan in library in coordination with green management association to implement standards relevant to management of energy, water, waste, paper, air, transportation, for making libraries into green ones.
3. Interaction with academic education and research to strengthen and pay attention to environmental issues in determining the study course and research plans.
4. Library planning for green acquisition according to the collected digital resources and environmental issues.

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