

Library 2.0 @ Parliamentary Libraries

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Abstract:

This 21st century is known as century of information communication technology (ICT) or century of revolution because of rapid changes in technology bring speedy transformation in every field of life. Latest technologies have great impact on the routine tasks of libraries and librarians increasingly, with Library 2.0 services at the vanguard. Today many libraries in the world with the help of Library 2.0 services are offering enhanced and more applicable services to their patrons. In the present world Parliamentarians also using Web 2.0 technologies i.e. twitter, Facebook, blog, YouTube etc. it is right time for parliamentarian librarians to transform their services into Library 2.0 services for ease of parliamentarians. Librarians may improve their parliament libraries services status with the integration of Web 2.0 services. The implications of Library 2.0 services in Parliament libraries have massive implications for how libraries now and in the future will stay relevant to parliamentarians and how they will face the next generation of new information technology.

Keywords: Library 2.0, Web 2.0, Parliamentary library, Services

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Pakistan: an overview

Republic of Pakistan is South Asian country it's population exceeding 191 million people, Pakistan is the sixth most populous country and with an area covering 796,095 km² (307,374 sq mi). Pakistan has a 1,046-kilometr coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman in the south and is bordered by India to the east, Afghanistan to the west, Iran to the southwest and China in the far

northeast respectively. It is separated from Tajikistan by Afghanistan's narrow Wakhan Corridor in the north, and also shares a maritime border with Oman.

Pakistan obtained independence from British colonial rule in August 1947. Pakistan is a federal parliamentary republic consisting of four provinces i.e. Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa, Balouchistan and four federal territories (FANA, FATA, Azad Kashmir & Federal Territory Islamabad). Pakistan is an ethnically and linguistically diverse country, with a similar variation in its geography and wildlife. A regional and middle power, Pakistan has the seventh largest standing armed forces in the world and is also a nuclear power as well as a declared nuclear-weapons state, being the only nation in the Muslim world, and the second in South Asia, to have that status. It has a semi-industrialized economy with a well-integrated agriculture sector, its economy is the 26th largest in the world in terms of purchasing power and 45th largest in terms of nominal GDP and is also characterized among the emerging and growth-leading economies of the world. Pakistan has bicameral legislatures comprises a 100 members Senate which is upper house and a 342 member National Assembly which is lower house. Pakistan has four provincial Assemblies included Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa and Balouchistan.

Valentine (2010) revealed that “the building of the current Sindh Provincial Assembly in Karachi was the site of the formal establishment of the independence of Pakistan. The swearing-in of the founder of Pakistan and president of the Constituent Assembly, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, as its first governor general occurred on August 14, 1947. The Sindh Assembly’s pre-independence roots were originally established in 1937 as the “Sindh Legislative Assembly.” After the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the Sindh Assembly Building was redesignated as the National Assembly of Pakistan and continued with this status until 1964 when the federal capital was shifted to Islamabad. With the dissolution of the “One Unit” of West Pakistan in 1971, the Sindh Assembly was reestablished and resumed its work in the same building after a lapse of about twenty-four years”. Under the USAID PLSP (Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Program) Sindh Assembly Library was successfully implemented KOHA Software. PLSP train, consult, and monitor the conversion of LAMP to Koha from 2006–8. This was the first project in Pakistan to adopt the Open Source Software at a national level.

1.2 Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study are

- i.** To identify Library 2.0 tools used
- ii.** To study the purpose of using library 2.0 tools and technologies
- iii.** To propose the Library 2.0 services to Sindh Assembly Library

1.3 Library 2.0 Concept

Library 2.0 is latest phase of library technology, the differences between Library 2.0 and other new services can be clarified. This clarification will put a concrete base for developing Library 2.0 services. The definition of Library 2.0 is helpful to start from the beginning and examine the genesis of the term. Library 2.0 is compound name of “Library” and “2.0”. It is clear that the term generally explains the association between Web 2.0 and libraries. Therefore, Library 2.0 must express an exclusive service model that happens when libraries implement Web 2.0 services. Library 2.0 services are those services which are intended to meet user needs caused by the straight and tangential effects of Web 2.0. After arrival of Web 2.0, it is rapidly changing library patron needs and the Library 2.0 services are helpful to meet the patron needs. The above words make clear that Library 2.0 services are the only way to serve library user in present age. At recent past librarians have move violently to know their relationship to a new types of Web services that, like libraries connect patrons with the information they need. In addition to this because of extensive use of these services, there are cultural transformations affecting library patrons’ information seeking behaviors, communication approaches, and prospect. Initially in September 2005 Michael Casey introduced this term Library 2.0. From beginnings Casey persists to be one of the most outspoken advocates of the Library 2.0 concept. The term was exposed to a wider audience when Michael Stephens discussed Library 2.0 on the ALA’s Techsource Blog.

1.4 Parliamentary library 2.0

Access to correct, well-timed, unbiased, secret, eminence information and research is said to be an elementary part of the democratic process. Information is conveyed to members of Parliament from a diversity of information sources including general parliamentary systems and services. Parliamentary Libraries worldwide are playing vital role in delivering information and research services to their patrons. Parliamentary Libraries are a chief resource of information for their clients. Within the funding available, library collections emphasis quality, reliable sources, adapted to the specific needs of that parliamentary community. Contrasting their print collections, the digital collections are easy to get regardless of time and place. Progressively more, libraries are digitizing their print repositories for ease of access and use. Mahmood (2007) conducted a survey research on Parliamentarian Information Needs assessment: a Pakistan perspective. The main objective of the study was to evaluate the basic information needs of graduate parliamentarians in Pakistan. The study revealed that the parliamentarians are well aware regarding their information needs but not aware regarding information sources. They use internet, digital media, and print media as information sources.

Within parliamentary libraries there is a growing amount of testing into how Web 2.0 tools can be used for sharing information and connecting staff. Moira Fraser revealed the results of a survey of

members of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments to the Conference of the Section in Rome in 2009. This showed blogs and wikis being used, though not necessarily on a widespread scale. These tools were not relocating more established methods of partnership such as cross group project teams. Roxanne Missingham, Parliamentary Librarian of the Australian Parliamentary Library has described how a Wiki was used as a means of storing and giving access to complex information to indexers. And in the United Kingdom parliament John Pullinger has explained the use of a social media to facilitate better collaboration and joint working between researchers preparing research papers.

2 PROPOSED LIBRARY 2.0 SERVICES FOR SINDH ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

2.1 Library Portal

A library portal Sindh Provincial Library Portal (SPLP) is proposed for Sindh Assembly Library. Through this portal Sindh Assembly parliamentarians easily access various library resources. This library portal also serve as library website, in which information regarding Sindh Assembly library i.e. opening hours, library policies, library services, library resources and library staff. This library portal also serve as Gateway to finding information about Library, its resources, services, policies, latest news, and publications, etc. It allows members to view their online profiles, accounts history, and status of borrowed books. SPLP provides online searching facility and allows making online reservations. Through this portal parliamentarian may connect with library 24/7. Access of various online databases, digital archives of Sindh Assembly also provide through this portal. A comparatively latest attribute enables users to utilize a library portal's search interface to search at the same time or successively in heterogeneous resources that do not share metadata schemes or search-and-retrieval techniques.

2.2 Instant Messaging

Through this library 2.0 service Sindh Assembly library may serve all library patrons equally both in-house or remotely. This is real-time online service for every library patron. Through instant messaging library reach users where they are, its mean library provide service to its user around the world. Instant messaging is easy to use for both the librarian and the user, through IM document sharing is very fast and easy, librarian may share URLs, images and voice rapidly and all sharing is free of cost. The interactive nature of IM is closer to spoken conversation than written correspondence, the IM allows library users to communicate in a mode that e-mail does not. IM users have a sense of attendance of other library users, as if they were in a room together. The technology facilitates the kind of online communication, with its observations of distance and safety that many

find especially calm. Most of parliamentarians use smart phones and it is very easy for them to connect library through their mobile phones.

2.3 Parliamentary Blog

A blog is also a new version of website; it is generally maintained by an individual which contains habitual entries of commentary, descriptions of events or other materials such as videos. Blog is a web site includes concise, periodically arranged items of information. King and Porter (2007) suggested that blogs in libraries could be used for internal communication, to facilitate debate and to communicate with patrons, promoting new books and providing subject guides, current awareness and customized catalogue searches. Huwe (2006) highlighted that a factor of personal touch can be introduced in outreach services through the use of Web 2.0 tools. In the same study, Huwe studied how blogs can be used for personalizing libraries' outreach services. Blogs are uniformly accepted for internal as well as external communication. Blogs are hosted on public domains, which are available freely for every user. The existing form of blogging has emerged as a result of development of web log development software, which was produced by the Pyra Labs in 1999. The Technorati indexed over 133 million blogs in 2008 (Winn, 2008). New blog is created every second and the blogosphere doubles in size every 5.5 months. However, Clyde (2004) reported a lack of blog use in academic libraries.

2.4 Parliamentary Wiki

A Wiki is type of a website, which make possible the formation and editing of web pages using a simplified markup language or WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) based text editor, through this language librarians or IT persons may create collaborative websites and library user with a web browser can edit content of Wikis, which are organized by Wiki software. Ward Cunningham was developed the first Wiki software. Libraries and institutions have been using Wikis for group learning, for sharing knowledge, experiences and open source products, and also to provide subject guides (Frumkin, 2005; King & Porter, 2007; Payne, 2008). After Web 2.0 discovery Wikis have newly been adopted to support a variety of joint activities within libraries. Bejune (2007) emphasized the role of Wikis in libraries in extending collaboration activities: a) among libraries, b) among library staff, c) between library staff and patrons, and d) among users. The Sindh Assembly library may encourage its patron contributions in the preparation of speeches, point of order and assembly motions. Internal Wikis can be used by assembly library to make possible communication among staff members, distribute documents, communicate about planning, policy or ICT developments, for details of special projects, and as a helpdesk.

2.5 RSS Feeds

RSS Really simple syndication is a family of web formats used to distribute information about frequently updated works such as blog entries, news feeds, live audio, and video in the standard formats (Libby, 1999). Wusteman (2004) stated the significant role of RSS in keeping library patrons updated with the latest information. RSS feeds quickly inform patrons about the additions or changes which take place on websites of interest, providing updates from one source instead of accessing individual websites (King & Brown, 2009). Parliamentarian can subscribe to those RSS feeds that cater to their assembly and research needs. Sindh Assembly library has plan to provides news feed on RSS to inform parliamentarians about activities and events held in the Sindh Assembly as well as National Assembly of Pakistan.

2.6 Podcasting / Vodcasting

The word podcast comes from the combination of the words iPod and broadcast. While, the “pod” is a crumb of a misnomer as podcasts can also be played on computers and mp3 players. Podcast tool is used to exchange and share audio programmes among patrons over the Internet. Sindh Assembly library has plan to share assembly proceedings video through library portal. Through this tool our library staff can easily share pictures, events, and instructions by podcast. Podcast is an attractive tool to promote library services and attract new users. The delivery of audio streams by podcast is managed through pod-catchers such as iTunes, Armangil or Juice. Parliamentarians can listen to past assembly proceedings through podcast instead of reading in the text format. Audio streams of proceedings may be beneficial for parliamentarian who are visually challenged or have poor reading and comprehension competencies. Podcasts are frequently used to broadcast speeches and interviews of important personalities. Libraries use podcasts mainly for offering tips, using the audio format.

2.7 Conclusion

With the help of Library 2.0 tools Sindh Assembly library may enhance its services and provide better & efficient services to its library patrons. Through library 2.0 library save the time of respectable parliamentarians and able to provide library services 24/7.

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