

THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES: HOW TO FIGURE OUT WHAT AWAITS US

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Abstract

The article discusses current trends in the development of libraries in the context of digitalization of society. It analyzes changes in the role of libraries, the emergence of new services and technologies, as well as the continuing mission of libraries as centers of knowledge, culture and social integration.

Keywords: Libraries, digitalization, innovation, social mission, information technology, cultural heritage.

Introduction

The development of technology is radically changing all spheres of society, including librarianship. In the context of rapid digitalization, the question arises: what will be the role of libraries in the future? On the one hand, information is becoming more and more accessible thanks to the Internet and electronic resources. On the other hand, there is still a need for places that provide high-quality access to knowledge, support a culture of reading and promote critical thinking.

Body. Libraries are transforming from traditional repositories of printed books into multifunctional information and cultural centers. They offer users access to electronic databases, digital collections, educational platforms and distance learning services [1].

Modern libraries are actively introducing innovative technologies: RFID systems for automated accounting of literature, 3D printers for creative workshops, virtual and augmented realities for educational programs [2]. Information competencies are becoming the most important part of library services, which requires new professional skills from employees.

One of the priority areas for the development of libraries is the creation of inclusive spaces that are convenient for all categories of users, including people with disabilities. Libraries are becoming places of social inclusion, intercultural dialogue and the promotion of sustainable development [3].

Despite the changes in formats, the library remains a pillar for the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. The digitization of rare publications, the creation of open electronic archives and participation in global projects for the preservation of information allow libraries to play an active role in cultural diplomacy.

An important trend is the rethinking of library space. Modern libraries are designed as open, flexible areas that promote collaboration, teamwork and informal learning [4]. They become

not only a place of reading, but also laboratories of ideas, creative platforms for meetings and knowledge exchange.

Conclusion

The future of libraries lies in their ability to adapt to changing conditions and the needs of society. In the digital age, libraries remain relevant as guarantors of free access to knowledge, platforms for cultural development and innovative educational centers.

References

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