

BLI-221: LIBRARY, INFORMATION AND SOCIETY

TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Part I

Question-1) Define knowledge society. Discuss the characteristics of knowledge society.

Answer:

Definition of Knowledge Society:

A **knowledge society** is a society where knowledge becomes the most important resource for economic growth, employment, and societal progress. In this type of society, knowledge drives innovation, creates opportunities, and ensures sustainable development. It is characterized by its ability to generate, process, and use knowledge effectively to improve the quality of life and achieve equitable growth.

Manuel Castells, a renowned scholar, highlights that knowledge societies rely on advanced technological systems and are deeply interconnected. These societies prioritize the generation of new knowledge and emphasize the role of highly skilled individuals in economic and social activities.

A vision for a knowledge society, as described in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Civil Society Declaration, focuses on creating people-centered, inclusive, and equitable societies. Such societies empower individuals and communities by ensuring access to information and communication tools for improving their lives and achieving their potential.

Characteristics of Knowledge Society:

1. Exponential Growth of Knowledge

- a) The amount of newly created knowledge is expanding rapidly in all fields.
- b) The number of researchers and research activities has significantly increased compared to earlier times.
- c) Knowledge creation and dissemination are supported by technological advancements, leading to continuous progress.

2. Widespread Education and Literacy

- a) Literacy levels and access to education have improved globally.
- b) More people are now equipped to absorb, interpret, and apply knowledge effectively.

3. Advancements in Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

- a) Modern ICT tools have connected the world, turning it into a "global network."
- b) The speed and ease of communication, along with access to ideas and information, have transformed society.

- c) ICT enables teamwork and collaboration across geographical boundaries, fostering innovation.

4. Network Society

- a) Knowledge is no longer confined to individuals but is shared within interconnected networks.
- b) Manuel Castells describes today's society as a "network society" due to its interconnectedness and reliance on shared knowledge.

5. Inclusive Access to Information

- a) A knowledge society ensures open and timely access to information for all its members.
- b) It provides opportunities for people to use knowledge in decision-making and improving their quality of life.

6. Capacity Building and Empowerment

- a) The society focuses on empowering individuals through education and skill development.
- b) It ensures opportunities for everyone to participate in economic and social growth.

7. Equity and Sustainability

- a) Knowledge societies aim for equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.
- b) They focus on sustainable development, democracy, and social justice.

Conclusion:

In a knowledge society, knowledge becomes the foundation for progress and development. With advancements in technology and education, these societies create a platform for innovation and equitable growth. Open access to knowledge and opportunities for capacity building ensure that all members of the society can contribute to and benefit from its progress. As such, knowledge societies hold the potential to transform lives and promote global development.

Total Word Count: 491 (For Your Reference)

Question 2) Describe the public library and its role in knowledge society.

Answer:

Public Libraries:

A **public library** is a vital part of community life, offering services that promote literacy, provide access to information, and serve as hubs for cultural enrichment. Public libraries are open to all and provide a variety of resources for education, entertainment, and lifelong learning. Their services are supported by public funds, making them accessible to everyone, regardless of age, gender, or social status.

Public libraries have evolved from being mere lending institutions to becoming local gateways to knowledge. Their role has expanded to include supporting self-education, providing access to digital resources, and serving as centers for community interaction.

The **UNESCO Manifesto on Public Libraries (1995)** defines the mission of public libraries as fostering lifelong learning, independent decision-making, and cultural development. Libraries are seen as essential tools for peace, social well-being, and bridging the knowledge gap in societies.

Role of Public Libraries in Knowledge Society:

In a **knowledge society**, knowledge is considered a public good and must be accessible to everyone. Public libraries play a key role in ensuring this accessibility and fostering the equitable distribution of knowledge. They act as agents of education, information, and cultural enrichment, contributing to the overall development of society.

1. Education and Lifelong Learning

- Public libraries support self-education and provide resources for lifelong learning.
- They offer materials and programs that help individuals grow personally and professionally.

2. Access to Information

- Libraries ensure free access to a wide range of information for all members of the community.
- This access promotes informed decision-making and supports human rights.

3. Cultural Enrichment

- Public libraries provide access to diverse sources of information and promote literacy and cultural awareness.
- They encourage reading as a means to acquire knowledge and improve understanding.

4. Economic Development

- Libraries serve as information centers for local economic needs, such as tourism, agriculture, and technology.

- They offer resources and data to support community development and entrepreneurship.
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Importance of Public Libraries in Knowledge Societies:

1. Promoting Equality

- Public libraries are accessible to all, ensuring that knowledge is not restricted to privileged groups.
- They serve individuals of all ages, occupations, and educational backgrounds.

2. Facilitating Communication

- In a knowledge society, communication and information exchange are essential. Libraries provide the infrastructure for these activities.

3. Supporting National Development

- Public libraries contribute to building knowledge societies by promoting education, innovation, and informed citizenship.
 - They align their goals with national strategies, such as India's National Knowledge Commission (NKC), which prioritizes library development for creating a knowledge-based economy.
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Conclusion:

Public libraries play an essential role in knowledge societies by ensuring access to information, fostering lifelong learning, and supporting community development. They are not just places for books but dynamic hubs of knowledge and innovation. In the rapidly evolving knowledge-based world, public libraries must continue to adapt and expand their services to meet the needs of society.

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Question-3) What do you mean by the term “library and information networks”? Discuss its characteristics and major components.

Answer:

Library and Information Networks

A **library and information network** is a collaborative system where libraries and information centers connect to share resources and services. These networks aim to address the information needs of their users effectively by pooling resources, leveraging technology, and fostering cooperation among member libraries.

The **UNISIST-II Main Working Document** defines an information network as “a set of interrelated information systems associated with communication facilities, cooperating through formal agreements to jointly implement information handling operations, with a view to pooling resources and offering better services to users.”

Characteristics of Library and Information Networks

1. Equal Access

- All members of the network are provided equitable access to core resources. Third-party licensed resources may be available on a subscription basis.

2. Interdependence

- Member libraries rely on each other for sharing resources, expertise, manpower, and infrastructure.

3. Use of Standards and Protocols

- Networks adopt common standards for database structure, metadata representation, and interoperability to ensure seamless integration and service delivery.

4. Shared Decision-Making

- Decisions made by the network’s executive committee are collectively binding on all member libraries.

5. Broad-Based Services

- Services include union catalogues, licensed databases, document delivery, interlibrary loans, and expert databases.

6. Centralization

- Core network activities, such as maintaining bibliographic databases, are centralized for efficiency, though distributed databases may also exist with unified search interfaces.

7. Cost Efficiency

- Costs for maintaining services and licensing third-party databases are shared among members, making services more affordable.

8. Global Reach and Collaboration

- Networks connect with other networks internationally, enabling knowledge sharing and collaborative initiatives.

9. Research and Development

- Networks provide infrastructure and data for research, enabling analysis of usage trends and feedback to enhance services.

Components of Library and Information Networks

1. Human Network

- Professionals such as librarians and technical staff drive the network's success by ensuring collaboration and resource sharing. Regular training and conferences enhance skills and foster leadership.

2. Online Databases

- Databases are the backbone of library networks. They include union catalogues, bibliographic records, and licensed e-resources. Examples:
 - **WorldCat:** A global union catalogue by OCLC.
 - **DELNET:** A union catalogue in India with millions of records from member libraries.

3. Computer Infrastructure

- High-performance servers host databases, digital objects, and interfaces.
- Necessary software includes database management systems, search engines, digital library tools, and metadata management systems.

4. Data Networks

- Library networks use national and international data networks (e.g., National Knowledge Network in India, JANET in the UK) for connectivity and resource sharing.

5. Member Libraries

- The network's effectiveness increases with the number of participating libraries. A larger membership base reduces costs per institution and strengthens collective bargaining power with publishers.

Importance of Library and Information Networks

1. Resource Sharing

- Libraries can access a broader range of materials and services than they could individually.
 - 2. **Economic Efficiency**
 - Shared costs reduce financial burdens on individual libraries.
 - 3. **Enhanced User Experience**
 - Users benefit from expanded access to information and services, often through a unified interface.
 - 4. **Global Connectivity**
 - Collaboration across networks fosters innovation, learning, and access to global knowledge.
 - 5. **Support for Research and Learning**
 - The network infrastructure supports academic and professional research, contributing to knowledge creation and dissemination.
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Conclusion

Library and information networks exemplify the power of collaboration in addressing the diverse needs of information seekers. By leveraging technology and collective resources, these networks ensure cost-effective, equitable, and comprehensive access to knowledge, supporting education, research, and community development.

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Question-4) State the aims and objectives of library associations.

Answer:

Aims and Objectives of Library Associations

Library associations play a crucial role in advancing the library profession and promoting the development of libraries and information services. By providing a unified platform for library professionals, these associations ensure collective action for addressing professional issues, fostering development, and serving societal needs.

Key Aims and Objectives

1. Promoting the Library Movement

- Advocate for spreading knowledge and information to enhance human resource development.
- Encourage public awareness about the importance of libraries and demand access to public library services.

2. Legislative Advocacy

- Work towards the enactment of public library legislation based on progressive principles.
- Draft library bills and create social pressure for developing library services.

3. National Library and Information System Development

- Strive for an integrated national library and information system supported by a national policy.
- Highlight deficiencies in the current library infrastructure to authorities.

4. Providing a Forum for Professionals

- Facilitate the exchange of information, ideas, and experiences among library professionals.
- Advocate for the betterment of salaries, service conditions, and the professional status of librarians.

5. Promoting Professional Standards

- Enhance the image of the library profession in society.
- Foster cooperation among libraries and professionals to promote high standards of service.

6. Resource Sharing and Efficiency

- Encourage the sharing of resources to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize library services.

7. Manpower Development

- Organize education and training programs to develop library and information professionals.
- Promote research, and provide incentives, awards, and rewards to encourage professional excellence.

8. Organizing Events and Activities

- Conduct national conferences, seminars, and roundtable discussions on relevant themes.
- Collaborate with other institutions to celebrate National Library Week and other events.

9. Publishing and Dissemination

- Publish journals, newsletters, and other materials to disseminate information and promote library science research.

10. Standardization and Accreditation

- Formulate standards, norms, and guidelines for managing libraries and information systems.
- Advocate for accreditation of library schools to ensure quality education.

11. Collaboration with Other Organizations

- Affiliate with state, national, and international library associations with similar objectives.
- Promote cooperation between institutions to enhance library services globally.

12. Establishing Libraries and Documentation Centers

- Support the establishment and development of libraries, documentation, and information centers.

13. Promoting Research and Bibliographic Studies

- Encourage and support research activities, bibliographic studies, and innovations in library science.

14. Improving Library Services

- Focus on improving the quality and accessibility of library services to meet users' needs effectively.

Conclusion

Library associations play a pivotal role in uniting professionals, addressing collective issues, and promoting the development of libraries and librarianship. Through advocacy, education, resource

sharing, and collaboration, they contribute to the advancement of the profession and serve the broader societal goal of knowledge dissemination and empowerment.

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Part II

Question-1) Discuss the implications of first law of library science.

Answer:

Implications of the First Law of Library Science: "Books are for Use"

The First Law of Library Science, "Books are for use," emphasizes making books accessible and usable rather than merely preserving them. Historically, libraries prioritized preservation, as seen in medieval chained libraries, where books were secured to shelves. With advancements like the printing press, the focus shifted to promoting book usage. This law guides libraries to enhance access and utility for their users.

Implications in Library Operations

1. Library Location

Libraries should be centrally located in accessible, quiet areas to encourage usage. For public libraries, central, noise-free zones are ideal, while school libraries should be prominently placed within the school. University libraries should be strategically located at the campus center.

2. Working Hours

Library hours must align with user schedules, ensuring availability when users are free. Flexible timings, accommodating different user groups, help maximize visits and engagement.

3. Library Building and Furniture

Libraries should have functional, inviting buildings with ergonomic furniture. Shelves should enable easy access to books, while children's libraries should feature vibrant designs to attract young readers. Aesthetic and practical designs enhance the user experience.

4. Staff

Courteous, knowledgeable, and helpful staff are vital for fostering a welcoming atmosphere. Beyond qualifications, a positive attitude and commitment to reader service ensure optimal book usage. Service quality directly impacts user retention and satisfaction.

Through these measures, libraries fulfil the First Law by creating spaces that actively promote the use of their resources.

(Word Count: 250)

Question 2) Explain the code of ethics in digital era.

Answer:

Code of Ethics in the Digital Era

The modern information environment is significantly shaped by information communication technologies, creating a shift from traditional libraries to those with electronic collections and internet-based services available 24/7. This transformation brings both opportunities and challenges, requiring librarians to adopt a strong code of ethics to address issues unique to the digital era.

Key Ethical Issues in the Digital Era

1. Privacy

With digital resources accessible from anywhere, libraries must safeguard user data and browsing habits to protect privacy. Licensing agreements often come with conditions that librarians must navigate carefully to maintain confidentiality.

2. Authenticity and Validity

The internet's vast resources can often include unreliable or unauthenticated information. Librarians are responsible for curating and verifying the accuracy of the information they provide to users.

3. Accuracy and Timeliness

Ensuring that users have access to current and accurate information is vital. Libraries must regularly update digital collections and monitor the quality of their resources.

4. Intellectual Property

Unlike traditional libraries that own physical copies of books, digital libraries operate on licensing agreements. Librarians must ensure compliance with copyright laws and facilitate fair use of digital materials.

5. Accessibility

Libraries are tasked with providing equitable access to digital resources for all users, regardless of caste, creed, gender, or social status. Bridging the digital divide is a critical goal in promoting inclusivity.

Commitment to Ethical Practices

Libraries now serve not just as information hubs but also as societal institutions responsible for bridging the digital divide. Their commitments extend to ensuring equal access to information, maintaining information security, and serving the community with integrity. In this evolving landscape, ethical considerations are paramount for fostering trust, reliability, and inclusiveness.

Word Count: 250

Question-3) Discuss the objectives and activities of IFLA.

Answer:

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is a global organization that represents the interests of library and information services and their users. Established in 1927 in Edinburgh, Scotland, IFLA serves as the global voice for library and information professionals. Headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, it now boasts more than 1,600 members from approximately 150 countries.

Objectives

IFLA operates as an independent, international, non-governmental, and not-for-profit organization with the following aims:

1. **Promote International Cooperation:** Foster global collaboration, information exchange, education, and research within the library and information sector.
 2. **Preserve Cultural Heritage:** Protect, preserve, and document written, printed, and cultural heritage.
 3. **Uphold Core Values:**
 - Endorse principles of freedom of access to information and expression, as stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
 - Advocate universal and equitable access to information for social, educational, cultural, and economic development.
 - Deliver high-quality library and information services to guarantee access for all.
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Activities

1. **Annual General Conference:**
Held annually in a different city, this event gathers over 3,000 delegates to discuss professional issues, share experiences, and explore the latest innovations in the information industry while experiencing the culture of the host country.
2. **Core Activities:**
IFLA's professional and core activities address global library and information service issues. These include:
 - **Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP):** Focuses on the concerns of developing nations.
 - **Preservation and Conservation (PAC):** Addresses the preservation of resources.
 - **ICABS and UNIMARC:** Handles bibliographic standards.
3. **FAIFE Initiative:**
Established in 1998 in Copenhagen, the Free Access to Information and Freedom of

Expression (FAIFE) office champions intellectual freedom and reports to IFLA's Executive Committee.

4. **Workshops and Seminars:**

IFLA organizes global professional meetings and workshops to enhance skills and share knowledge among library professionals.

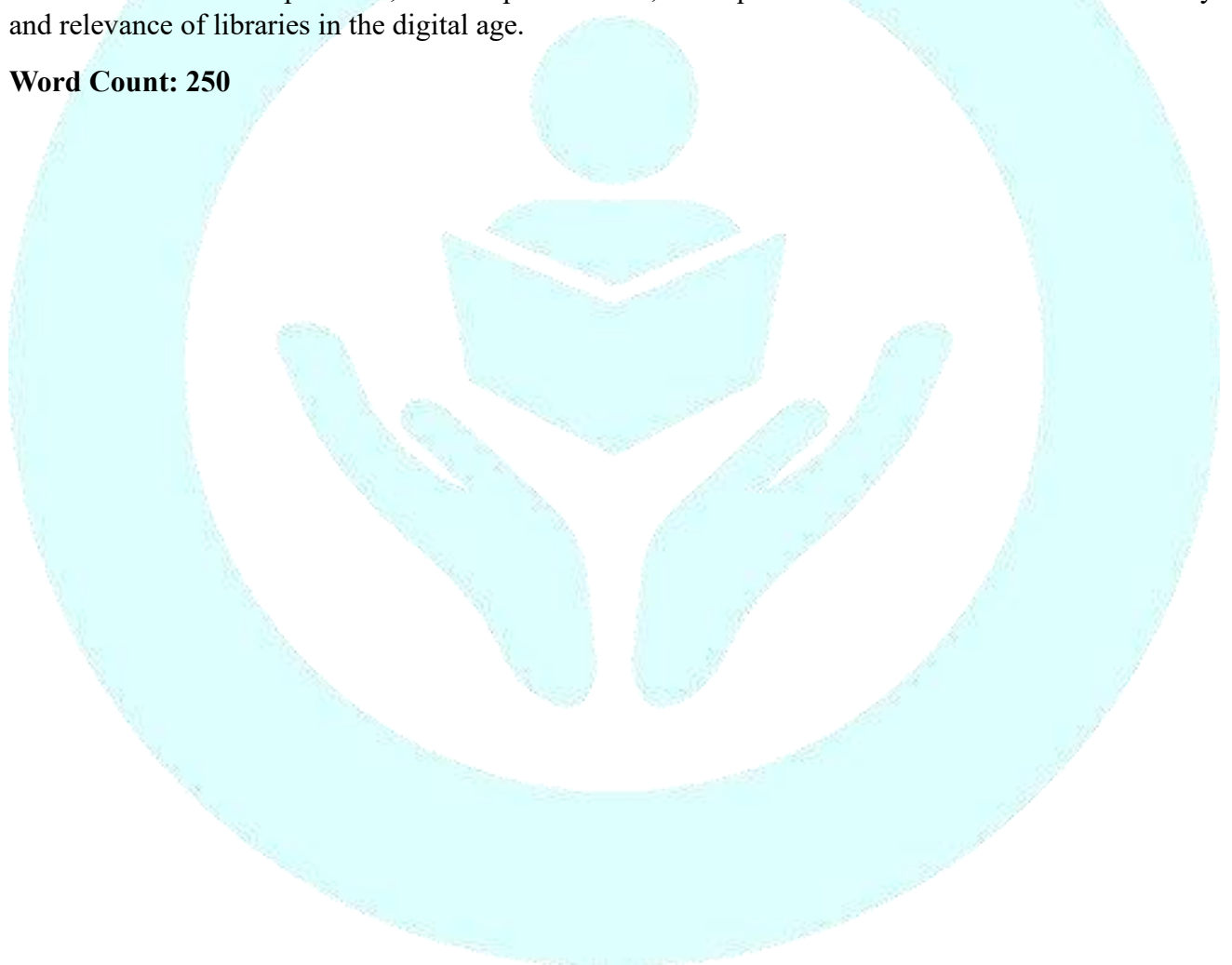
5. **Publications:**

IFLANET and IFLA Journal provide updates on activities, events, and developments within the library and information field.

Conclusion

IFLA plays a pivotal role in advocating for the library and information sector globally. Its commitment to ethical practices, cultural preservation, and equitable access ensures the sustainability and relevance of libraries in the digital age.

Word Count: 250



Question-4) Discuss the Model library and information services Act.

Answer:

Model Library and Information Services Act

The **Model Library and Information Services Act** was originally drafted in 1989 by Dr. Venkatappaiah at the request of the Indian Library Association, Delhi. It was developed to address the evolving needs and challenges in library services and was discussed at the National Seminar on Library Legislation held in New Delhi in 1990.

Subsequent developments in India, including the **New Panchayat and Municipal Acts (1992)**, the release of the **UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994)**, and campaigns such as the **Total Literacy Campaign**, necessitated a revision of the Act. The revised **Model Library and Information Services Act** was introduced in 1995 and further updated in 2005 to reflect the growing demand for information and library services.

Salient Features

1. **State Policy on Library and Information Services:**
A formal policy for library services to provide a comprehensive framework for the state.
2. **State Library Authority:**
A central body chaired by the Minister for Libraries to oversee policy-making and execution.
3. **Directorate of Public Libraries:**
Established to streamline administration and manage public library services efficiently.
4. **Library Authorities at Various Levels:**
Creation of **City and District Library Authorities** to ensure service delivery from district to village levels.
5. **Integrated Network:**
Development of a **Public Library and Information Service Network** that connects libraries at all administrative levels.
6. **Constitution of Library Services:**
Establishment of a framework for State Library and Information Services.
7. **Library Cess:**
Introduction of a **library cess** collected from taxes such as house tax, property tax, entertainment tax, professional tax, and vehicle tax to fund library services.
8. **State Boards for Coordination:**
Formation of State Boards for education, book production, and coordination of library services.
9. **Accountability:**
Ensuring transparency and accountability in public expenditure and library services.

Conclusion

The **Model Library and Information Services Act** reflects a forward-thinking approach to address the growing importance of information access in India. By establishing a structured framework for library services, it ensures equitable access, accountability, and development of libraries from the state to the grassroots level.

Word Count: 250



Question-5) Discuss the objectives and features of Consortium on Core electronic resources in Taiwan (CONCERT).

Answer:

Consortium on Core Electronic Resources in Taiwan (CONCERT)

The **Consortium on Core Electronic Resources in Taiwan (CONCERT)** was established in 1990 to leverage the increasing popularity of web-based full-text documents. Its membership primarily includes universities, colleges, and research institutes in Taiwan. The **Science and Technology Policy Research and Information Center (STPI)** serves as the coordinator for CONCERT, focusing on maximizing the benefits of group purchases and resource sharing. In 2002, CONCERT leased 22 international database systems, partially funded by the **Ministry of Education** and the **National Applied Research Laboratories**.

Objectives

1. **Enhance Sci-Tech Policy Research and Establish a Knowledge Bank:**
Focuses on addressing critical national issues and building a centralized knowledge repository.
 2. **Establish a National Integrated Information Service Mechanism:**
Aims to provide seamless access to information services for research and policy-making.
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Features

1. **Sustaining Academic Research Progress:**
 - Develops and integrates national information resources.
 - Introduces international information resources to support domestic research through services like **CONCERT** and **ILL (Inter-Library Loan)**.
 2. **Supporting Policy Decision-Makers:**
 - Provides insights for governmental policy-making through sci-tech policy research.
 - Conducts value-added analyses and monitors manpower allocation in the S&T industry.
 - Ensures information and communication security as endorsed by the **Executive Yuan of ROC**.
 3. **Facilitating Circulation of Industrial Innovation:**
 - Acts as a dissemination hub for knowledge and innovation.
 - Supports advanced technology research, performs patent analyses, and facilitates technology transfers.
 - Aims to bring economic benefits by fostering industrial and technological innovation.
 4. **Enhancing S&T Cooperation Across Nations:**
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- Promotes bilateral and multilateral collaborations in global information activities.
- Showcases Taiwan's research accomplishments on international platforms to boost its global image.

Conclusion

CONCERT plays a vital role in advancing Taiwan's academic research, policy-making, and industrial innovation. By integrating national and international resources and fostering collaborations, it supports the development of science and technology while contributing to economic growth and global engagement.

Word Count: 250



Question-6) Explain the internal objectives of ALA.

Answer:

Internal Objectives of the American Library Association (ALA)

The **American Library Association (ALA)**, established in 1876, is the world's oldest and largest library association. Headquartered in Chicago, it strives to advance library and information services. Among its goals are several internal objectives designed to strengthen the organization and enhance its impact.

Internal Objectives

1. Develop Comprehensive Campaigns:

- Create campaigns that represent and serve all types of libraries effectively.

2. Provide Turnkey Tools and Resources:

- Develop ready-to-use tools, resources, and materials beneficial for libraries across different types and sizes.

3. Share Best Practices:

- Facilitate the exchange of public relations, marketing, and advocacy best practices within the library community.

4. Unify ALA Promotions:

- Coordinate promotions under one unified brand to reinforce key messages and enhance visibility.

5. Address Emerging Issues:

- Respond swiftly to pressing challenges, such as library funding cuts or changes in the library landscape.

6. Foster Cross-Collaboration:

- Encourage collaboration across the association to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness in campaigns and initiatives.

7. Support Local Chapters and Affiliates:

- Work closely with ALA Chapters and Affiliates to help them achieve their public awareness and advocacy objectives.

8. Promote Library Staff Contributions:

- Highlight and celebrate the roles and contributions of all library staff, including both librarians and support personnel.

9. Expand Funding:

- Seek increased foundation and sponsor funding to broaden the scope and impact of ALA Campaign activities.

10. Conduct Public Opinion Research:

- Perform ongoing research to refine and expand campaign messages based on public opinion and feedback.

11. Coordinate Awareness Efforts:

- Align campaigns with other ALA initiatives like **READ Posters**, **National Library Week**, and **Library Card Sign-Up Month** for a cohesive approach to public relations and marketing.

Conclusion

The internal objectives of the ALA emphasize inclusivity, collaboration, and responsiveness. By developing campaigns, sharing best practices, and supporting all types of libraries and staff, ALA reinforces its mission to advocate for and enhance library services on a global scale.

Word Count: 250

