

DISASTER MANAGEMENT NEED, PLANNING AND ISSUES IN LIBRARIES : AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract : In modern era library and information centre have play a key role in the various colleges, universities and other libraries. But in this modern age the libraries and centers are not secure because of forth coming various natural and human disasters. Even in the past, many libraries and science centers have been destroyed by natural and man-made disasters. The present condition also shows that many library and information centers are still facing various natural and man-made disasters. But today it is necessary to save library in any situation. In order to save the library and information centers, the authority should adopt different techniques and methods of disaster management.

The present research paper defines the concept, meaning and various types of disaster management. Its types and the terms related with library and disaster management. It also includes objectives of disaster management in library and information centers. The paper present the major hazards faced by all types of libraries. The researcher also present a framework for need of disaster management planning and present issues in various libraries. At the end of this paper some recommendations are suggested to reduce disaster vulnerabilities.

Key words : Disaster, Disaster management, library, Planning, Current issues, etc

Introduction : The last couple of decades the world has faced the great disasters such as floods, cyclones, earthquake and terrorist attacks etc. No one knows when and how disasters strikes. Disasters means sudden and horrible events. It can strike anyway, anytime, anyplace. Natural disasters are earthquake, floods, storms etc. and technological disasters are fires, terrorism etc. The different disasters killed many innocent peoples in the world.

At present many libraries in India and outside India seem to have been severally affected by the disasters. Libraries are called store house of old valuable information. Proper planning and implementation is

required to presence the information and resources in the library with a view to the future. Disaster management is a programme that reduces risk. It also supports to society at the time of disasters. The disaster management is an unending process. It is multidisciplinary activities. An effective disaster management depends on disasters planning the co-operation and communication between authority and members of staff of particular organizations. December 26, 2004 is known as red letter day in Indian history. Tsunami affected in all parts of India especially coastal areas. After this tsunami the awareness about the disaster is increased. In such a situation the library needs proper development disaster management system.

Literature Review (Bhade & Aute, 2016), The researcher in the research paper entitled the researcher "Disaster management for Libraries" studies. The aim of disaster management is to reduce or avoid risk and assist to affected victims. The entire calamity management cycle comprises the shaping of public policies and plans which either modify disaster causes or alleviate its impact on human beings, property and infrastructure. There are different types of disasters like geophysical, Hydrological, Climatological, Meteorological, Biological and Manmade or technological hazards.

In this article researcher give details of different disasters in libraries from ancient time to current time. It starts from The University of Vallabhi built by the Maitraka Kings during the years 475-775 A.D., to Yongquan Monastery in China typhoon Longwang in October 2005. In this long period many libraries were affected from many disasters like Flood, Cyclone, Fire, Strom, Cross firing Burning and destroyed by invaders and looted the valuable manuscripts. These are the main disasters in the libraries.

(Biswas & Choudhari, 2012), This paper aims at presenting a systemic literature review on "Digital Information Resources for Disaster Management of Libraries and Information Centers". The present

research paper focuses on the meaning, the types, features and effect of disasters. A disaster comprises both natural and man-made disasters. Natural disasters are called as geological, hydrological, climatic & atmospheric, wildfire etc and Human- made disasters are sociological, technological. Natural disasters have caused tremendous harm and continue to threaten million of human and various infrastructure capabilities each year in India. Human made disasters have come to pose a grave threat to the gain made by the development. The biggest cultural disasters destroyed Baghdad in 1258. Disasters are not uncommon events and take many forms. Libraries have stock of books, journals, thesis, newspaper etc. A public library run by Mukti in Nagendrapur has been damaged recently. Sahana, Relief Web, International recovery platform, ADRC, Academic and research institutions, Government and non government organizations etc. are important databases and information system available and provide solution for disasters management. Disaster planning is essential for any library to provide the protection from various disasters. Disaster planning is important component of the overall management plan for a library and information centers.

(Barua, 2018), In his research paper the researcher highlights "Disaster Management in College Libraries : a Study in India". Libraries are important institution that provides information to user. The disaster management and planning should be important aspect of library management. Researcher has made various questionnaires. The questionnaire is designed with different sections. The academic libraries provide the information as per the need of the community belonging to the institutions like school, colleges, universities etc. In this paper 10 college libraries of Assam have been selected for study. The design of the study was descriptive survey. The data generated for the study is analyzed by using some descriptive statistics of percentages.

Disasters are not predictable. Assam is prone to many disasters but the situation of the disaster is not found to be suitable as found in the present study. It is however needed to conduct further studies for disasters management in college libraries of Assam.

Objective of the Study :

The objectives of this study are given below :

1. To find out the causes of disaster as the libraries.
2. To inspect the planning & implementation of disaster management in libraries.

3. To find out the some disaster issues in over all libraries.
4. To advice some steps to taken in before, after and during disaster management in libraries.

1. To find out the causes of disaster as the

libraries.-The library as well as other institutions were also damaged due to the various disasters. Buildings are destroyed, books are burned and submerged. The valuable records are exposed in the water. These damages are irreparable. The primary sources of disaster are fire and water. It may be follow a disaster such as earthquake, flood, typhoons, volcanic eruption etc. The causes of disasters classified by nature of it's origin. Natural disasters which are caused because of natural phenomena. Examples of natural hazards are cyclones, tsunami, earthquake etc. Man-made disasters are extreme hazardous events that are caused by human beings. Such man-made disasters are terrorism, theft, war, arson, building deficiencies and negligence of staff of their assigned duties.

a) Natural Disasters : Some examples of natural

disasters are i. Floods - Heavy rains across the state of Maharashtra, including large areas of the metropolis Mumbai which received 567 (tmkoc inches) alone on 26 July 2005 killed at-least 1,094 people. The day is still remembered as the day Mumbai came to a standstill, as the city faced worst ever rain. Mumbai International Airport remained closed for 30 hours, Mumbai-Pune Expressway was closed for 24 hours with public property loss was estimated at 550 crore. August 2019 Indian floods including 2019 Kerala floods: Following high rain in late July and early August 2019, series of floods that affected over nine states in India. The states of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat were the most severely affected.

ii. Earthquake - Minor earthquakes occur nearly constantly around the world in places like California and Alaska in the U.S., as well as in Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala, Chile, Peru, Indonesia, the Philippine, Iran, Pakistan, the Azores in Portugal, Turkey, New Zealand, Greece, Italy, India, Nepal and Japan. The 1960 Chilean earthquake is the largest earthquake that has been measured on a seismograph, reaching 9.5 magnitude on 22 May 1960. The ten largest recorded earthquakes have all been mega thrust earthquakes; however, of these ten, only the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake is simultaneously one of the deadliest earthquake in history.

iii. Tsunami - While Japan may have the longest recorded history of tsunamis, the sheer destruction caused by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami event mark it as the most devastating of its kind in modern times, killing around 230,000 people. Tsunami in 2004 destroyed school, and public libraries in Sri Lanka and Maldives.

iv. Cyclone - Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Yaas made landfall over the state of Odisha becoming the second cyclone to hit the nation within a span of ten days. The most affected states are West Bengal and Odisha. At least 10 million people were affected and 300,000 houses were damaged v.etc.

b) Man-made Disaster - Under this category we may put such emergency situations that occur due to an unintentional or deliberate action of people (staff and users). It includes act of war and terrorism, fire following short circuit, flooding of library due to pipe burst or leakage. Building design deficiency and poor maintenance of the building also may lead to an emergency situation. Sometimes power failure also leads to emergency situation. Flooding, once the water subsides, leaves dampness in its aftermath which becomes cause of biological agents that inflict damage to the books.

i. War and Arson : The earliest example of destruction and damage to library due to war, as mentioned earlier, is that of Alexandria Library which was burnt in war during the reign of Caesar in the second century BC. In the first half of the last century the two World Wars inflicted irreparable damages to libraries in most of the European countries. The recent examples are those of the Serbian attack on Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1992, US attack on Iraq in 2003 and USSR attack on Afghanistan in 1979. In the US in 1980-81, there were 23 reported cases of library fires and of which 17 or 85% were listed as arson fires.

ii. Theft : Barry Landau (born c. 1948) and his accomplice Jason Saved off, who stole over 10,000 documents from museums and libraries along the East Coast of the United States former New York State archivist Daniel D. Lorello. Frede Moller-Kristensen, who between 1968 and 1978 stole some 1,600 historical books worth more than \$50 million from the Danish National Library. Antiquities dealer Forbes Smiley, who stole nearly 100 maps from libraries in the United States and Great Britain over the course of eight years. Greg Priore, manager of the Oliver Room at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, who stole \$8 million worth of rare materials between 1992 and 2018..

iii. Building Deficiency and Negligence:

The US National Fire Protection Association while investigating causes of fire at the Los Angeles Central Library of 1986 observed that the disaster could surely have been avoided by the utilization of an automatic water sprinkler system. The cause of the 1988 fire in the Library of the USSR Academy of Sciences was traced to defective electric wiring. In the Patent Registration Office library, Government of India, Kolkata, 1.56 lacs Indian and 8 lacs foreign patent literature are facing decay due to lack of adequate preservation measures .

- iv. Biological contamination
- v. Chemical spill
- vi. Explosions (bombs)
- vii. Gas leak
- viii. Nuclear disasters
- ix. Robbery
- x. Strikes
- xi. Toxic fumes
- xii. Vandalism
- xiii. etc

2. To inspect the planning & implementation of disaster management in libraries : Disaster planning is a primary security for the libraries. It is an integral part of planning to save the library. It is one of the aspect of library administration. It is called as disaster control, planning, disaster containment risk management. It is a set of rehearsed action to minimize the effect of disasters. Emergency preparedness is also necessary for it.

- a. Increasing the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of disaster emergency response mechanism.
- b. Strengthening staff and user based preparedness through dissemination of guidelines for warning system, evacuation and exit routes, salvaging activities.
- C. Developing activities that are useful for day to day preservation problems and also for responding to disaster situation.

The preparedness calls for taking certain basic steps which include:

- a. Prepare a lists of external experts and organization. It is useful for consultation at the time of emergency situations.
- b. Updating toll free telephone number for emergency use.
- c. Prepare and keep all inventory library assets up to date. It is useful for insurance claim. The claim is based on accession records.

- d. To study the library potential in consultation with local fire and safety services agency.
- e. To develop a list of items in an archive with security priorities.
- f. Prepare a disaster planning booklet and keep it up to date.
- g. Disaster management training should be conducted for the staff.

3. To find out the some disaster issues in over all libraries: The following Libraries have been affected by either natural or man-made disaster. a. Nalanda University complex (the most renowned repository of Buddhist knowledge in the world at the time) was sacked by Turkic Muslim invaders under the perpetrator; this event is seen as a milestone in the decline of Buddhism in India.

The library of congress was destroyed during the War of 1812 when British forces set fire to the U. S. Capital during the Burning of Washington. This attack was retaliation for the burning of the Canadian towns of York and Niagara by American troops in 1813. Soon after its destruction, the Library of Congress was reestablished, largely thanks to the purchase of Thomas Jefferson's personal library in 1815. A second fire on December 24th, 1851 destroyed a large portion of the Library of Congress collection again. However, resulting in the loss of about two-thirds of the Thomas Jefferson collection and an estimated 35,000 books in total.

C. During the American Civil War, Union troops destroyed most building on the University of Alabama campus, including its library of approximately 7,000 volumes.

D. During the January 28 incident in the second Sino-Japanese War Japanese forces bombed the Commercial press and the attached Oriental Library, setting it alight and destroying most of its collection of more than 500,000 volumes.

E. In May 1981, a mob composed of thugs and plainclothes police officers went on a rampage in minority Tamil-dominated northern Jaffna, and burned down the Jaffna Public Library. At least 95,000 volumes- the second largest library collection in South Asia were destroyed.

F. Birmingham Central Library, a fire broke out behind a wooden partition serving as a temporary wall during building. The fire caused extensive damage, with only 1,000 volumes saved from a stock of 50,000.

G. The 1988 fire in the Library of the USSR Academy of Sciences (now Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences) broke out on Sunday, February 14, 1988, in the newspaper section on the third floor of the library.

According to the library's acting director Valeriy Leonov, the fire alarm sounded at 8.13 pm, when the library was closed for visitors. By the time the fire was extinguished the following afternoon, it had destroyed between 300,000 and 400,000 books of the 12 million.

H. On August 1, 1994, Norwich Central Library caught fire due to an electrical fault. Over one hundred firefighters responded as the flames escalated and smoke become visible from twenty miles away. Ultimately, over 100,000 books and thousands of historical documents were destroyed.

i. Thousands of manuscripts, rare books are severely damaged by the followers of Sambhaji Brigade in Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune.

j. Nobel Prize of Rabindranath Tagore was stolen from Viswabharati Rabindranath Sangrahasala.

4. To advice some steps to taken in before, after and during disaster management in libraries:

Chakrabarti A. and Abhijit had made recommendations for libraries during the disaster :

- a. At the time of disaster, Library and Information Centre authority should instantly bring to the notice of the local police or/and the Disaster Management Authority or/and security agency.
- b. Users and the staff should not use elevators and they should not rush for doors during disaster.
- c. Use of cell phones is needed at the very moment.
- d. The security staff should turn off power supply and they might turn off air conditioner as the case may be.
- e. Emergency exit door should be made in the building of the library or information centre.
- f. An extra sheet of duplicate bunch of keys is needed.
- g. Library and information centre staff should not discuss the threat with other staff. People should not create panic or not jeopardize personal safety.
- h. SMS service may be used to communicate with others.
- i. The members of the staff and the users should not stay near the windows, mirrors, chimneys, false ceilings and tall furniture's at the time of fire and earthquake.
- j. The members of the staff and the users should take shelter under a huge table at the time of earthquake. They should stay inside until authorities directed. They may go to the basement or underground. They should assist disabled persons.

Conclusion -Disaster is one of the big calamity occur anywhere, anytime, anyplace. Libraries are working to preserve this invaluable source of information. Due to some natural and man-made disaster, the literature in the library is being damaged. Disaster management needs to be done well if information is to be protected from such losses.

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