

GREEN LIBRARY- A NEW CONCEPT OF LIBRARY

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Abstract:

The creation of green libraries is approaching a tipping point, generating a Green Library Movement, which is comprised of librarians, libraries, cities, towns, college and university campuses committed to greening libraries and reducing their environmental impact. Constructing a green library building using a performance standard is a way some libraries are choosing to become green and sustainable. Environmental challenges like energy depletion and climate change will influence the type of information resources and programs libraries will provide to their communities. The amount of information available on green libraries and green library practices is limited but continues to grow.

Keywords : Green Library , Sustainability , Environment effects

Introduction

Ecological sustainability which can often be an undervalued aspect for the marketing strategy of the library, has more impact on clients and on stakeholders than one might expect. Enthusiastic library users are calling on libraries not just to provide popular services but to communicate a clear green identity. Libraries as gateways for knowledge are particularly responsible not only for disseminating the idea of sustainability but also for leading by example and thus serving as exemplars. Ecological sustainability could be part of the marketing strategy of the library as a socially responsible body. Small steps in going green can have a big impact for the library's image. A small financial input can produce an important marketing outcome. Bringing environmental awareness to libraries does not necessarily require huge financial effort or a big budget. Activities in this field can be developed in cooperation with unpaid partners like NGOs, Friends of the Library groups, school projects, library suppliers and, last but not least, the library users. There is a wide range of ways to promote the idea of the GREEN library: use of environmentally friendly or recycled materials, virtual user services and resource-saving copy services, waste separation, elimination of plastic bags, no more paper cups and instead recycled/private

crockery, fair-trade coffee in the library's coffee shop, green events and choosing library suppliers with green certificates

The interconnected topics of sustainability and green libraries have received a great deal of coverage in recent years in publications targeted toward World librarians. Sustainability can be defined as the capacity to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It has economic, social, and environmental aspects . While the term green library is often used specifically to describe a library building that has received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification from the United States Green Building Council , it can also refer to a library that is becoming more environmentally sustainable in significant ways, whether by using nontoxic cleaning supplies, reducing energy use, or collecting and promoting materials with environmental themes

Many librarians and other information professionals are taking action to ensure that their workplaces will be environmentally friendly. This depends on working with institutional initiatives or working out what needs to be done and gathering institutional support for action. Acting to take care of the environment can result in major cost savings

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“Becoming Green and Sustainable” (2004), Gregory mention the following areas as relevant to the greening of academic libraries:

- weeded materials
- office paper/junk mail
- outdated computers
- obsolete media
- building utilities

There are several reasons why libraries would want to build green or incorporate green features into their buildings. First, the cost of constructing green buildings has become affordable. It is now possible for libraries to build green buildings on conventional budgets. Second, most readily available energy resources are finite resources. It is vital to the health of the planet and our libraries' budgets that we use these energy sources prudently

How to do Greening libraries

Not everyone can be so lucky as to have a new, environmentally ambitious library building. But it can be highly effective to check all aspects of the building, management and services that might be seen as environmental sustainable.

What you can consider with a new library building - sustainable aspects of the structure of the building, the façades, the building climate, ventilation, heating and cooling, the lighting, the interior fittings, green information and communication technology - are all features that you can point to for green marketing after opening and from which you can benefit for years. And you can also check your existing building, your renovated or second-hand library building, to identify all the areas that can be made of sustainable.

In order to pick the key points to include in your strategic plans, look for areas that lend themselves to cooperation with partners in sustainable activities and projects and the unique green features to create a specific green identity for the library. And for all this, the library needs no budget – just make use of what you already have! Alternatively the library administration can check the user services, the library management and the facility management to see what can be planned; a checklist is an easy way to identify what the library can do on a low level, far removed from certificates and green awards. A good checklist is a tool to identify the green potential for further steps to achieve a convincing green image.

The strategic management of the library can easily be linked to sustainability objectives. It is advisable to adopt strategies from the entire body of the library: the university, the community or the parent organization to which the library belongs. The aim of the library is to be part of an overall strategy. Create your own “eco-action plan” according to the aims of the whole organization. The impact for the library is to participate in wider programmes and thus be part of a green profile for the entire institution. A public library may be part of a network of the municipalities: the library can highlight the municipality’s green profile and this could be a good marketing strategy.. To be part of community-wide green thinking is a good strategy for a library

Libraries’ interest in going green

Two quick searches each on Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) and Library and Information Technology Abstracts (LISTA) for the concepts “going green” and “paperless society” in the titles of publications, depicts some of the current interest amongst LIS in “going green” and at least cutting down on the use of paper. These are briefly categorized here:

- Holistic and scholarly aimed at research agendas: Development of information services that can limit GHG emissions throughout the lifecycle of the generation, publication, organization, distribution, access, use and disposal of information; finding a balance between green IT and the philosophy and theory of “going green”
- Aimed at feasibility, practical issues and progress: Including reports on progress made; examples of efforts in libraries and countries; reviews of progress made in countries and in sectors of industry and society; keeping (publically available) records of projects; screen colour of computers; guidelines for specific sectors of society such as small businesses, trade, patents, law libraries, and pension agencies; addressing navigation in paperless information systems; IT architecture; building design; sustainability
- Publishing: Including means of electronic publishing, implications, copyright.
- Digitization and repositories
- Applications and services in LIS that lends itself to going green e.g. interlibrary lending, ordering, cataloguing, marketing, promoting “green” issues.
- Targeting: Including targeting young people and the Net Generation, users of e-books, studies on LIS professionals and how “green” they are, specific sectors such as academic or schools, and specific media ..
- Effects and implications: Including health effects of IT ,ethical issues: increasing the digital divide when relying only on IT
- Collaboration: Including collaborative work in a “green environment”

- Access to the literature supporting “going green”: Scholarly research, blogs and websites There are numerous challenges and opportunities for LIS on all levels to make a contribution.

Suggestions for making Green Library

What Library Staff Are Already Doing:

- Turning off lights when they leave their offices
- Using recycled paper
- Pulling paper out of trash bins and using
- Using plastic sheeting strips to keep cold air out in the winter
- Using re-usable mugs/beverage containers rather than disposable
- Purchasing printers that duplex and have a standby energy mode
- Placing light sensors among the stacks
- Turning off computers and monitors at night
- Using stairs rather than elevators
- Recycling returnable beverage containers, with a recycle box by the vending machines from which the Food Bank picks up the containers
- Having every-other light off where possible
- Recycling jet bags
- Using two wastebaskets in each office, one for trash and one for paper
- Recycling toner cartridges

More that Library Staff Would Like to Do or Have Done:

- Find a way to recycle books
- Segment the lighting circuits so that one switch doesn't turn on so many lights
- Eliminate personal printers and use networked printers
- Decrease the building temperature in the winter
- Do a better job of recycling toner cartridges
- Provide bins for recycling non-returnable bottles and paper
- Eliminate the decorative lighting and reduce the halogen lights on 2nd and 4th floors
- Re-fill toner cartridges rather than buying new
- Improve the building HVAC system to improve the inconsistency of heating and cooling throughout the building
- Install low flush toilets
- Install a new server and run multiple servers on one server box
- Reduce number of ceiling panels lit in the primary east-west corridor of first floor
- Automate shutoff of computers at night

- Have a method of recycling cardboard
- Reduce use of individual electric heaters
- Reduce printing at student computer stations
- Recycle University furniture (e.g., Salvation Army)

Other Comments/Suggestions/Needs/Information:

- Need more recycle bins
- Recycling of old books is an ongoing challenge; being able to shred would be great
- Harmony House will recycle Styrofoam
- Why is dining using Styrofoam containers?
- Departments/faculty/staff/programs should reduce distribution of printed flyers
- Faculty need to be educated to save and send powerpoint presentations to students in a manner that they can print six slides to a page and so that the slides are black on white, rather than white on black which uses so much ink
- Custodians may not be emptying the paper only wastebaskets into recycling as they should be
- Maybe the Library can initiate a cardboard recycling program like Maucker Union has
- Establishing a small “Green Committee” within the Library to keep this initiative alive among staff may be helpful

There is a recycling station on the road east of the Power Plant that has a bin for almost every kind of recyclable material

Computers:

We shut down all public computers (165) and 76% of the staff computers (80 of 105) each night shortly after closing. They are automatically turned on at opening each day.

During the hours the library is open all public computer monitors go to power mode after 20 minutes of non use.

Cardboard:

We now have a cardboard recycle bin in our loading dock drive. All library cardboard, including that discarded in our staff lounge, is broken down and placed in this bin for pick up by Physical Plant

Unwanted/discarded books:

We remove the covers of hard cover books. Physical Plant uses a machine to cut off signatures and send the resulting text block for recycling. We remove the covers from paperbacks which don't have signatures and put text block into our recycling bins for disposal.

Cans and plastic:

Many library staff eat in the staff lounge and many eat foods in disposable containers. All plastic and tin is now being washed and taken to recycle bins on campus.

Conclusion

“Going green” and environment friendly, sustainable information systems and services are serious issues requiring immediate attention of librarians. . A first step would be to recognize the need for more information on the issue, to seek information, to gain insight and confidence and enthusiasm, and then to put information to use, and find “green” means to share and disseminate information. Information dissemination can be by means of LIS websites, blogs, and literature reviews. LIS professionals can promoting evidence based decision-making in “going-green”, and develop services that allows for information grounds .. These can raise awareness of “going green” issues and initiatives. They can promote inter-disciplinary awareness and collaboration. *They* can collaborate in finding solutions. A first step for LIS might be to each start a journal club on “going green” – allowing no print copies and no print notes... and challenging each other to find solutions

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