

Inclusive Libraries in the Smart City

All people have the right to access library materials whenever needed. Guaranteeing these rights not only ensures the freedom to know as a social system but also promotes equality. Libraries, as organizations responsible for ensuring the freedom to learn, play a crucial role in promoting equality in our communities.

Libraries are at the heart of our communities. Every day, people of all ages visit their local library to read, learn, conduct research, communicate with others, or socialize. But some patrons, or would-be patrons, cannot, for various reasons, use their library's offerings. Some potential users have disabilities or other limitations and cannot access the resources.

Persons with disabilities comprise roughly 15 percent of the global population, according to the World Health Organization. This is a significantly sized population that is understudied and poorly understood within the library profession. Hence, the purpose of this book is to identify current problems faced by mainstream libraries for the provision of library services for persons with disabilities and also to present practical, implementable solutions that are appropriate to all, instilling a sense of hope and optimism.

The book covers serving users with diverse needs and various abilities and disabilities. It is organized to gather knowledge about international best practices for implementing accessible library facilities within various relevant institutions, such as schools, universities, and national and public libraries.

The emphasis is to create awareness among library professionals about the need for library services for persons with disabilities in mainstream libraries. As a knowledge system, libraries have much to do with information dissemination to support sustainable development. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are transformative changes needed to cater to the immediate needs of the present generation without causing harm to the future generation in terms of meeting their own needs.

The items that formed the sustainable development goals were carefully selected and included after a wide consultation by the UN. There are seventeen of them. However, this book is based on the fourth goal: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" (United Nations, 2015).

The library, as an institution responsible for the acquisition, processing, and dissemination of information, is supposed to provide its services to patrons without discrimination.

Information is vital to everyone regardless of religion, race, nationality, tribe, and age.