**ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN ENHANCING QUALITY OF RESEARCH OUTPUT IN SOCIAL SCIENCES**

A study by Research Libraries UK and Research Information Network 11 identified the following as key ‘messages’ pertaining to role of libraries in research output.

1. **Good libraries help institutions to recruit and retain top researchers:**

Among other factors, the quality, nature, and extent of the library’s collections, of its staff and services they provide, and of its buildings are all important factors to attract good researchers towards an institution.

1. **Libraries help researchers win research grants and contracts:**

Normally, researchers don’t consult libraries for information about research grants and contracts. Libraries can help researchers in finding out the research grants. Libraries, if their involvement in this activity is formalized by research intensive institutions or universities, also use their skills to help researchers improve the quality of their funding applications, and thus, to enhance the institution’s success in winning research grants.

1. **Libraries promote and exploit new technologies and new models of scholarly communications:**

Libraries can play an important role helping researchers to exploit the full benefits and opportunities of the networked world, such as open access, social media, research tools etc. Hence, libraries need to establish stronger links with researchers and re focusing their services to promote and exploit new technologies and new models of scholarly communication.

1. **Repositories increase the visibility of the institution and raise its research profile:**

Institutional repositories (sometimes called as digital libraries) store and make available institutional assets such as research papers, theses and digitized contents of various documents. But repositories are only as valuable as the content they hold. Hence libraries should try to build an institutional culture of making it routine for researchers to deposit their outputs in the institutional repositories.

1. **Outward-facing libraries contribute to institution-wide initiatives:**

Presently, some of the libraries mostly situated in western countries have demonstrated that they can seize the opportunities to help institutions respond to the changes in research environment. Another example could be a librarian designing workflows and systems to organize, manage, and deliver project documentation or other needed materials (Carlson, 2011).

1. **Specialist staff work in partnership with academic departments:**

Information specialists and subject librarians focus on the needs of the researchers. Information specialists/ subject librarians need to take a proactive role by working in partnership with academic departments can contribute significantly towards enhancing the quality of the research output of social science institutes.

1. **Connecting with researchers enhance the value of the library’s services:**

One of the disadvantages of digital revolution seems to be a sort of complete separation of the library staff and the researchers. Hence, libraries are trying to find ways to reconnect with them, and to fill the gaps in their knowledge and understanding of researcher’s needs.

1. **Dedicated spaces provide a better work environment for researchers:**

For many researchers, the physical library building as a place to work and study. Hence, a space conducive to the needs of researchers should be provided in the library building for better work environment for researchers.

1. **Easy access to high quality content is a key foundation for good research:**

Access to high quality content is crucial to research. Libraries spend huge amounts to sustain develop their collections, ad researchers across the sector now have access to more content then ever. However, some factors such as downward pressure on institutional budgets, continuing increases in subscription costs ad fluctuations in exchange rates puts a lot a pressure on libraries. This holds good especially for social science libraries in India most of which are struggling to sustain their collection (especially journal subscription) and services.

1. **Libraries are a physical manifestation of the values of the academy and of research:**

Libraries are traditionally considered as heart of the academic institutions but in a period of austerity they are being asked to justify their existence, which is a very unhealthy trend. Libraries have been and shall remain crucial to research and academic environment in any academic institute. The basic idea behind all the above messages is to convey that libraries.