

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

'People's perception main challenge facing librarians'

TNN 13 October 2009, 03:13am IST

PUNE: People's perception about their usefulness in the information technology age is the major challenge faced by librarians today, Janice Lachance, chief executive officer of the Washington DC-based Special Libraries' Association (SLA), said on Monday.

Lachance, who is currently on an India tour, placed librarians from the city at par with colleagues around the world. The remarks came during a workshop on embedded libraries held on Monday.

The event, titled 'The future of the information profession: Embedded librarians and beyond', was organised by the SLA jointly with the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) and the Pune University Library and Information Science Alumni Association (PULISAA). GIPE librarian Nanaji Shewale coordinated the workshop, organised at the institute campus.

Speaking to TOI on the sidelines of this workshop, Lachance said, "People still feel that libraries are no longer needed in today's world of information technology. However, this is not true many don't realise that libraries can come to the rescue when there's information overload."

Lachance, who has over 20 years of experience in the field, elaborated, "Today, if I type in a query in a search engine, I will get thousands of hits. In such a case, I will not know which one has the right information and will also waste time looking for it; and that is why we need librarians. Thus, people's perception is a challenge for us today."

As regards librarians in India and Pune in particular, Lachance remarked, "I feel the professionals here are at par with their international colleagues. They have a thirst for knowledge and hence, India is a priority for the SLA. This field is changing drastically and people need a place to turn to; and I'm sure the libraries will serve them well."

On what librarians need to do to change people's opinion, Lachance stated, "Libraries and librarians must find their own ways to inform people about their usefulness and values. They must understand the role of their organisation and accordingly be proactive to its needs."

The SLA is a non-profit organisation that works for the interests of innovative information professionals (librarians) and their strategic partners. These include librarians involved in corporate, academic, government, media, finance, science, museums and the research fields.

Topics: [People](#) [Librarians](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Airtel Broadband-Rs.1299 : Get 512 kbps in the day, 1 Mbps in the night & download unlimited data : Airtel.in/Broadband ▪ 8.25% Interest from ICICI : High Interest Rate on Fixed Deposit with Highest Credit Ratings. Apply! : ICICIfc-FixedDeposits.com
--

Ads by Google

Powered by Indiatimes

[Home](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Life & Style](#) | [Hot on the Web](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Photos](#) | [Videos](#)

[The Times of India](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

Connect with us: [RSS](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [TOI Mobile](#) | [mPaper](#) | [ePaper](#)

Other Times Group news sites: [Indiatimes](#) | [The Economic Times](#) | [इकनॉमिक टाइम्स](#) | [ਓਐਨੋਲਿੰਕ ਟਾਈਮਜ਼](#) | [नवभारत टाइम्स](#) | [महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स](#) | [Mumbai Mirror](#) | [Times Now](#)

Living and entertainment: [iDiva](#) | [Bollywood](#) | [Zoom](#)

Networking: [itimes](#) | [Dating & Chat](#) | [Email](#)

Hot on the Web: [Hotklix](#)

Services: [Book print ads](#) | [Online shopping](#) | [Business solutions](#) | [Book domains](#) | [Web hosting](#) | [Business email](#) | [Free SMS](#) | [Free email](#) | [Website design](#) | [CRM](#) | [Tenders](#) | [Remit](#) | [Cheap air tickets](#) | [Matrimonial](#) | [Ringtones](#) | [Astrology](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Property](#) | [Buy car](#) | [eGreetings](#)

[About us](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [Terms of use](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sitemap](#)

Copyright © 2009 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: [Times Syndication Service](#)

This site is best viewed with Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher, or Firefox 2.0 or higher, at a minimum screen resolution of 1024x768.