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Sustainable development goals: the roles of knowledge institutions and the public service

The library's role in supporting SDGs in a SMART world: The reality in the Republic of Maldives

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Abstract

The emergence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and associated SMART (self-monitoring, analysis, and reporting technology) as well as disruptive technologies have transformed how we live, work and entertain. Governments as well as citizens have had to adjust to effectively cope with the digital information landscape. Libraries, as an integral part of the social infrastructure, have evolved to stay relevant.

The overarching vision of the UN2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a universal literacy initiative for equitable access to information. As an institution with a social responsibility, libraries are perceived to be well placed to help achieve the UN2030 Agenda. The assumption is that LIS professionals are equipped with the requisite skills to carry out the needful. However, the reality is that the current state of library services in many countries does not present an ideal situation due to many factors. Particularly LIS professionals are challenged to fit into their new roles due to lack of adequate opportunities for professional development. The objective of this paper, based on a study of capacity building of LIS professionals in the Republic of Maldives, is to draw attention to the lack of readiness of these individuals and the limitations of the LIS sector. These findings may resonate with developing countries that may face similar conditions.

Keywords: *Continuing Professional Development, LIS professionals, Library sector, UN2030 SDGs, Republic of Maldives,*