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## Future Trends and Challenges in Indian Academic Libraries

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### ABSTRACT

Libraries have long served as essential hubs for knowledge preservation and dissemination, continuously adapting to the evolving demands of the digital era. This paper explores how emerging technologies such as blockchain, expert systems, extended reality (XR), the metaverse, big data, artificial intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT) have transformed library operations, enhancing efficiency, accessibility, and user engagement. However, a significant gap persists between libraries in developed countries and India, with the latter struggling with resource limitations, outdated infrastructure, and a shortage of skilled professionals.

Findings indicate that addressing this disparity requires a comprehensive strategy. Library and Information Science (LIS) schools must focus on cultivating a technologically skilled workforce, while investments in ICT infrastructure, continuous professional development, and strong institutional support are crucial for overcoming systemic challenges. This study highlights that collaboration among LIS schools, libraries, policymakers, and users is key to fostering innovation and inclusivity. Eventually, by embracing emerging technologies and implementing strategic policy reforms, libraries can maintain their role as dynamic, trusted sources of authentic information, ensuring equitable access to knowledge in an increasingly digital world.

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