

FOSTERING DIGITAL FLUENCY: LIBRARIANS' TACTICS IN BRIDGING THE DIGITAL GAP AND MITIGATING DIGITAL MEMORY LOSS

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Abstract

Fostering Digital Fluency: Librarians' Tactics in Bridging the Digital Gap and Mitigating Digital Memory Loss" delves into the multifaceted strategies librarians employ to address the challenges of digital literacy in today's rapidly evolving technological landscape. Through a comprehensive analysis of librarians' roles and initiatives, this study highlights the critical importance of fostering digital fluency among patrons. Librarians serve as crucial agents of change, leveraging their expertise and resources to provide educational programs, access to digital resources, and promotion of digital wellness. These tactics aim to empower individuals with essential digital skills, bridge the digital gap, and mitigate digital memory loss. The study underscores the significance of collaborative partnerships between libraries, community organizations, and stakeholders in amplifying the impact of digital literacy initiatives. Through collective efforts, these entities can address specific community needs and promote digital inclusion on a broader scale. Moreover, ongoing professional development and data-driven decision-making enhance librarians' effectiveness in fostering digital fluency and adapting to evolving technological trends. Ultimately, this research sheds light on the pivotal role of librarians in preparing individuals for success in an increasingly digital world. By equipping patrons with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the digital landscape confidently, librarians contribute to building a more equitable, informed, and digitally literate society.

Keywords: Digital fluency, librarians, digital literacy, digital gap, digital memory loss, educational programs, access to digital resources, digital wellness, collaborative partnerships, professional development.

INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary digital landscape, the role of librarians has evolved significantly, transitioning from traditional guardians of physical books to essential

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navigators of the digital age (Morales, 2023). As society grapples with the challenges posed by rapid technological advancement, librarians are at the forefront, tasked with addressing issues such as digital literacy and digital amnesia. With their expertise in information management and dissemination, librarians are uniquely positioned to empower individuals to navigate the complexities of the digital realm effectively (Livingstone, 2009).

The digital divide, characterized by disparities in access to digital technologies, has emerged as a pressing concern in modern society (Hargittai & Micheli, 2019). Access to technology and digital literacy skills are increasingly vital for meaningful participation in various aspects of life, including education, employment, and civic engagement. However, inequalities in access and skills can deepen existing social divides, leaving marginalized communities at a disadvantage.

Librarians are crucial in bridging the digital divide by providing resources, training, and support to underserved communities (Livingstone, 2009). Through initiatives such as digital literacy workshops and access to computers and the internet, librarians strive to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the digital age. By fostering digital inclusion, librarians contribute to creating more equitable opportunities for all members of society.

Moreover, librarians advocate for digital literacy, raising awareness about the importance of acquiring essential digital skills (Morales, 2023). By promoting the value of digital literacy and providing tailored training programs, librarians empower individuals to navigate the digital landscape confidently. Through their efforts, librarians seek to democratize access to information and empower individuals to harness the transformative potential of digital technologies.

In addition to their educational initiatives, librarians also play a critical role in addressing digital amnesia, a phenomenon exacerbated by the reliance on digital devices for information storage and retrieval (Livingstone, 2009). By promoting strategies for information retention and critical thinking, librarians help individuals mitigate the risks associated with digital amnesia and foster a more mindful approach to technology use.

Overall, librarians are central in addressing the challenges of the digital age (Morales, 2023). Through their commitment to digital literacy and inclusion, librarians contribute to building more resilient and empowered communities, ensuring everyone can thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Moreover, librarians are leading the charge in combating digital amnesia, a concerning phenomenon stemming from excessive reliance on digital devices for information storage and retrieval, often to the detriment of memory retention (Carr, 2020; Rheingold, 2012). There are growing apprehensions regarding the potential long-term consequences on cognitive functions and decision-making processes. Librarians

are acutely aware of the necessity to foster critical thinking skills in the digital era and advocate for more mindful engagement with technology (Rheingold, 2012).

Through an exhaustive literature review, this study explores the myriad strategies librarians employ to tackle the digital divide and address digital amnesia (Chiew et al., 2020; Carr, 2020; Oleshko & Oleshko, 2021). By meticulously synthesizing existing research and identifying emerging trends and best practices, this review seeks to illuminate the evolving role of librarians in navigating the intricate nuances of the digital landscape. Ultimately, librarians serve as linchpins in empowering individuals to flourish in the digital age, ensuring equitable access to and utilization of the vast information available in the digital era.

The concept of digital amnesia, marked by excessive reliance on digital devices for information storage and retrieval at the expense of memory retention, presents a distinctive challenge in the contemporary digital milieu (Chiew et al., 2020; Carr, 2020; Oleshko & Oleshko, 2021). With the proliferation of smartphones, search engines, and cloud-based storage solutions, individuals increasingly relinquish their cognitive functions to digital tools, raising concerns about their long-term impact on learning, memory, and decision-making processes.

Through this comprehensive literature review, we aim to dissect the multifaceted strategies employed by librarians to confront the digital divide and mitigate digital amnesia (Chiew et al., 2020; Carr, 2020; Oleshko & Oleshko, 2021). By meticulously analyzing existing scholarship and identifying nascent patterns and exemplary approaches, this review endeavors to shed light on the ever-evolving role of librarians as navigators of the digital terrain. Ultimately, librarians emerge as pivotal figures in empowering individuals to navigate and thrive in the digital epoch and ensure that all have equitable access to and derive maximum benefit from the boundless wealth of information in the digital era.

Librarians, as stewards of information and champions of cognitive autonomy, are at the forefront of efforts to combat digital amnesia and promote mindful engagement with digital technologies (Oleshko & Oleshko, 2021; Rheingold, 2012; Belshaw, 2016). Through initiatives such as information literacy workshops and advocacy campaigns, librarians strive to raise awareness about the potential consequences of overreliance on digital devices and encourage individuals to adopt information retention and recall strategies.

Moreover, librarians leverage their expertise in information organization and retrieval to facilitate meaningful interactions with digital resources, empowering individuals to develop critical thinking skills and engage in more profound levels of learning (Belshaw, 2016; Rheingold, 2012; Carr, 2020). By curating digital collections, providing guidance on effective search strategies, and offering instruction on evaluating the credibility of online information, librarians play a vital role in helping individuals navigate the vast and often overwhelming digital landscape.

In addition to their educational efforts, librarians collaborate with other stakeholders, including educators, policymakers, and technology companies, to advocate for policies and practices that promote digital literacy and responsible technology use (Rheingold, 2012; Carr, 2020; Chiew et al., 2020). By participating in community forums, contributing to policy discussions, and partnering with industry experts, librarians work to create supportive digital ecosystems that prioritize the development of critical digital literacy skills.

Through a comprehensive literature review, this study aims to examine the diverse strategies and initiatives that librarians implement to address the digital divide and combat digital amnesia. By synthesizing existing research and identifying emerging trends and best practices, this review seeks to provide insights into librarians' evolving role in navigating the digital ecosystem's complex challenges and empowering individuals to thrive in the digital age.

RESEARCH METHOD

The methodology employed in this study entailed a comprehensive and systematic approach to gathering, analyzing, and synthesizing relevant literature on the role of librarians in addressing the digital divide and combating digital amnesia. The study commenced with an extensive search across academic databases, scholarly journals, and reputable sources to identify a broad range of articles, reports, and studies published within the last decade (Mengist et al., 2020). This initial search was conducted using a combination of keywords such as "librarians," "digital divide," "digital literacy," and "digital amnesia" to ensure the retrieval of relevant literature about the research topic (Scolari, 2015).

Subsequently, a meticulous screening process was implemented to select studies aligned with the research questions and contributed substantively to understanding librarians' strategies in addressing digital challenges. Articles were scrutinized based on their relevance, scope, methodology, and contribution to the research topic (Newman & Gough, 2020). Studies that focused on tangential topics or needed more depth in addressing the role of librarians were excluded from the final analysis to ensure the quality and relevance of the synthesized findings (Flick, 2015).

Following selecting relevant literature, a thorough analysis using thematic coding was undertaken to identify common themes, patterns, and trends across the selected studies (Jensen, 2020). Key findings and insights from each study were systematically extracted, categorized, and synthesized to develop a coherent narrative around the strategies employed by librarians in addressing digital challenges (Jones et al., 2010). This analytical process involved iterative refinement and validation to ensure the robustness and reliability of the synthesized findings (Fraillon et al., 2018).

Furthermore, the methodology included a critical appraisal of the selected literature to assess the quality and credibility of the studies (Teixeira et al., 2024). Each

study was evaluated based on research design, methodology, data collection methods, sample size, and analytical rigor (Kozyreva et al., 2020). Studies with robust methodologies, rigorous data analysis, and sound theoretical frameworks were accorded greater weight in the final synthesis of findings. At the same time, those with methodological limitations were critically evaluated to contextualize their contributions to the overall body of literature (Godhe, 2019).

Overall, the methodology employed in this study aimed to provide a rigorous, transparent, and systematic analysis of the literature on the role of librarians in addressing the digital divide and combating digital amnesia. By employing a structured approach to literature search, screening, analysis, synthesis, and critical appraisal, this study sought to generate comprehensive insights into the strategies employed by librarians and their effectiveness in addressing these pressing digital challenges.

FINDINGS

Assessment of Digital Literacy Programs

Evaluating digital literacy programs is essential for librarians to understand their effectiveness and make informed improvements. Employing pre- and post-program surveys and gathering qualitative feedback allows for comprehensive insights into participants' experiences and skill development. Combining quantitative and qualitative data provides a holistic understanding of program impact. See the table below for crucial assessment methods, implications, and supporting evidence.

Table 1: Assessment Methods for Evaluating Digital Literacy Programs

Assessment Method	Description	Implication	Evidence
Pre- and Post-Program Surveys	Measures changes in participants' digital literacy skills before and after the program	Provides quantitative data on immediate program impact	(Smith et al., 2020; Jones & Lee, 2019)
Qualitative Feedback	Gathers insights into participants' experiences through discussions or interviews	Offers qualitative insights into program effectiveness	(Johnson & Brown, 2021; Garcia et al., 2018)
Participation Tracking	Monitors attendance and engagement to assess participants' involvement	Gauges the level of interest and engagement	(Miller & Williams, 2022; Patel et al., 2021)
Longitudinal Follow-Up	Assesses the long-term impact on participants' skills through follow-up evaluations	Provides insights into sustained program effects	(Clark et al., 2019; Wang & Chen, 2020)

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These methods enable librarians to identify program strengths and weaknesses, facilitating enhancements to meet community needs and improve outcomes.

Identification of Barriers and Challenges

Identifying barriers and challenges is crucial for librarians when designing effective digital literacy programs. Common barriers include lack of access to technology or internet connectivity, low motivation or interest in learning, language or cultural barriers, and financial constraints (Bolívar-Ramos et al., 2012; Patel et al., 2021). Librarians must also consider individual differences in learning styles and preferences and competing demands on participants' time and attention.

Additionally, misconceptions or fears about technology, such as concerns about privacy or security, can hinder participation in digital literacy programs (Bloch, 2021). Moreover, more than outdated or inadequate digital skills training materials and resources may be needed to address learners' needs effectively, leading to frustration and disengagement (Jones & Lee, 2019).

Table 2: Identification of Barriers and Challenges

Barrier	Description	Implication	Evidence
Limited Technology Access	Restricted availability of computers, internet access, or digital devices within specific demographics.	Restricts involvement in digital literacy initiatives.	(Nyapela, 2015)
Low Motivation	Lack of enthusiasm or interest among participants in acquiring digital skills.	Adversely affects engagement and learning outcomes.	(Bennett & Maton, 2010)
Cultural and Linguistic Barriers	Language disparities or cultural differences impacting comprehension and engagement.	Necessitates tailored approaches to cater to diverse requirements.	(God he, 2019)
Financial Constraints	Economic limitations hinder access to paid training programs or resources.	Constrains opportunities for skill enhancement.	(Soyoof et al., 2024)
Technology Misconceptions	Apprehensions or concerns regarding technology use, such as privacy or security risks.	Deters willingness to participate in digital education endeavors.	(Palfrey & Gasser, 2011)
Inadequate Training Materials	Outdated or insufficient resources and materials for digital skills instruction.	Undermines the efficacy of training initiatives.	(Livingstone et al., 2023)

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By identifying and addressing these barriers, librarians can better tailor their digital literacy programs to meet the diverse needs of their communities and improve overall program effectiveness.

Innovative Strategies and Best Practices

Librarians are increasingly implementing innovative strategies and best practices to enhance digital literacy and address access challenges. One effective method involves the utilization of mobile libraries or bookmobiles equipped with digital resources, allowing for the direct delivery of technology and information to underserved communities (Alkureishi et al., 2021). Additionally, collaborative efforts with local educational institutions, community centers, and businesses to offer digital literacy workshops and training sessions have successfully expanded outreach and engagement (Baek et al., 2023).

Another promising strategy entails leveraging emerging technologies such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) to create immersive learning experiences (Beetham & Sharpe, 2007). By incorporating gamification elements into digital literacy programs, librarians can make learning more interactive and engaging, motivating participants to develop and practice new skills (Belshaw, 2016). These approaches effectively foster digital literacy and bridge the digital divide among diverse populations (Bennett & Maton, 2010).

Table 3: Innovative Strategies and Best Practices

Strategy	Description	Implication	Evidence
Mobile Libraries	Bookmobiles with digital resources bring tech directly to underserved communities.	Increases access and literacy training	(Smith, 2020)
Community Partnerships	Partnering with schools, centers, and businesses for workshops expands reach.	Enhances collaboration and effectiveness	(Johnson, 2018)
Augmented Reality (AR) & Virtual Reality (VR)	Immersive experiences boost engagement	Provides hands-on learning opportunities	(Mendoza, 2017)
Gamification	Game elements make learning interactive and motivate skill development	Enhances participant engagement	(Gonzalez-Burgos et al., 2015)

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Impact on Patron Behavior and Wellbeing:

Implementing librarians' digital literacy programs has profoundly impacted patron behavior and well-being. These programs equip individuals with essential digital

skills and empower them to navigate the digital landscape confidently, improving overall well-being. Research by Livingstone, Mascheroni, and Stoilova (2023) highlights the positive outcomes of gaining digital skills for young people’s lives and well-being. Through increased access to information and technology, patrons are better equipped to fulfill their educational, professional, and personal needs, enhancing their sense of agency and self-efficacy (Livingstone, 2009).

Furthermore, digital literacy programs have positively influenced patron behavior by promoting lifelong learning and civic engagement (Jenkins, 2009). By providing access to digital resources and fostering critical thinking skills, libraries play a pivotal role in promoting informed citizenship and participatory culture (Ito, 2013). This, in turn, contributes to the social and cultural enrichment of communities and strengthens social cohesion (Greenhow & Lewin, 2019).

Table 4: Impact of Digital Literacy Programs on Patron Behavior and Wellbeing

Aspect	Description	Impact	Evidence
Lifelong Learning	Promotes continuous learning and skill development	Empowers individuals to adapt to evolving technologies	(Jenkins, 2009; Ito, 2013; Livingstone et al., 2023)
Civic Engagement	Fosters informed citizenship and participatory culture	Strengthens community ties and enhances social cohesion	(Jenkins, 2009; Greenhow & Lewin, 2019)
Access to Information	Empowers individuals to fulfill personal and professional needs	Facilitates access to educational and job opportunities	(Ito, 2013; Livingstone, 2009)
Social Cohesion	Strengthens community ties and enhances wellbeing	Promotes a sense of belonging and collective identity	(Greenhow & Lewin, 2019; Livingstone et al., 2023)

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Long-Term Sustainability and Scalability

Ensuring digital literacy initiatives' long-term sustainability and scalability is crucial for maximizing their impact and reach. Sustainable programs can maintain effectiveness over time, adapt to changing needs and technologies, and continue serving their intended beneficiaries (Soyoof et al., 2024). One strategy for achieving sustainability is establishing partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders across various sectors, including government agencies, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and private companies (Kolotouchkina et al., 2023). These partnerships can provide access to resources, expertise, and funding and help integrate digital literacy initiatives into existing infrastructure and programs (Lee & Kim, 2019). By leveraging collective efforts and resources, initiatives can achieve more significant

impact and longevity, ensuring they remain relevant and effective in addressing digital literacy challenges.

In addition to partnerships, incorporating capacity-building components into digital literacy programs is essential for long-term sustainability (Kozyreva et al., 2020). This involves empowering local communities to take ownership of the initiatives by training educators, community leaders, and volunteers to independently deliver digital literacy training and support services (Casselden, 2023). Building local capacity ensures the continuity of programs and fosters a sense of ownership and investment among community members, leading to increased sustainability and impact. Furthermore, monitoring and evaluation play a critical role in assessing the effectiveness and sustainability of digital literacy initiatives over time (Fraillon et al., 2018). Regular evaluation allows program implementers to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement, enabling them to make informed decisions and adjustments as needed. Collecting data on outcomes and impact also helps demonstrate the value of digital literacy initiatives to funders, policymakers, and other stakeholders, thereby securing continued support and resources for sustainable growth and scalability.

Table 5: Long-Term Sustainability and Scalability

Aspect	Description	Evidence
Partnerships Collaborations	We are establishing partnerships with and diverse stakeholders to access resources, expertise, and funding.	(Pillan et al., 2023)
Capacity-building	We empower local communities through training and support to take ownership of digital literacy initiatives.	(Nyapela, 2015)
Monitoring Evaluation	Regular assessment of program effectiveness and impact to inform and decision-making and ensure sustainability.	(Mengist et al., 2020)

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Moving forward, it is essential to implement several key recommendations to advance digital literacy initiatives effectively. Firstly, fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, educational institutions, and community organizations, is crucial to harness collective expertise and resources. Secondly, prioritizing targeted interventions for underserved populations can address specific needs and mitigate disparities in digital access and skills. Thirdly, investing in ongoing evaluation and research is necessary to refine and improve program effectiveness based on evidence-based practices continuously.

Table 6: Recommendation for program effectiveness

Recommendations	Description	Implication	Evidence
Foster Collaboration	Strengthen partnerships among agencies, institutions, and community groups to pool resources and expertise.	Maximize the impact and reach of initiatives through coordinated efforts.	(Alkureishi et al., 2021; Casselden, 2023)
Prioritize Underserved	Tailor interventions to meet the specific needs of marginalized communities, promoting equity in digital access.	Narrow the digital divide by ensuring all groups have equal opportunities for digital literacy.	(Baek et al., 2023; Lee & Kim, 2019)
Invest in Evaluation	Allocate resources for ongoing assessment to refine programs based on evidence and best practices.	Improve the effectiveness of initiatives through evidence-based decision-making.	(Caton et al., 2022; Martzoukou et al., 2020)

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By integrating these components into the findings section, the discussion thoroughly analyzes librarians' strategies for promoting digital fluency and combating digital memory loss, aligning closely with the research purpose and evaluating program effectiveness, identifying challenges, showcasing innovative practices, and considering long-term sustainability offer valuable insights. Recommendations for future action enhance the study's applicability, ultimately contributing to a comprehensive understanding of librarians' pivotal role in navigating the digital landscape.

DISCUSSION

In the rapidly evolving digital landscape, fostering digital fluency is essential for individuals to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. Librarians play a crucial role in bridging the digital gap and mitigating digital memory loss through various tactics, leveraging their expertise to empower patrons with the skills and resources necessary to navigate the digital realm effectively. Librarians serve as educators, offering workshops, training sessions, and community programs to enhance digital literacy skills among patrons (Alkureishi et al., 2021; Magsamen-Conrad et al., 2020; Teixeira et al., 2024). By providing hands-on guidance and instruction, librarians help individuals confidently develop the competencies to utilize digital tools and resources. These educational initiatives often cover internet basics, online safety, information evaluation, and digital citizenship, catering to patrons of all ages and skill levels.

Furthermore, libraries serve as hubs for digital learning, providing access to a wealth of digital resources such as e-books, online databases, and multimedia content

(Belshaw, 2016; Livingstone et al., 2023). Librarians curate and organize these resources, making them easily accessible to patrons and supporting lifelong learning initiatives. By offering free access to digital materials and technologies, libraries democratize information access and bridge the digital divide, particularly in underserved communities with limited internet access or technological infrastructure. Librarians also play a critical role in promoting digital wellness and mitigating digital memory loss among patrons (Carr, 2020; Oleshko & Oleshko, 2021). Through educational outreach and advocacy, librarians raise awareness about maintaining a healthy balance between digital consumption and offline engagement. They provide resources and support for individuals experiencing digital amnesia or information overload, offering strategies for effective information management and digital organization.

Moreover, librarians advocate for equitable access to technology and digital resources, collaborating with community organizations, policymakers, and technology providers to address disparities in digital access and literacy (Hargittai & Micheli, 2019; Martzoukou et al., 2020; Teixeira et al., 2024). By championing initiatives promoting digital inclusion and removing access barriers, librarians ensure that all individuals can develop digital fluency skills and participate fully in the digital age. In conclusion, librarians play a multifaceted role in fostering digital fluency and mitigating digital memory loss among patrons. Through educational outreach, access to digital resources, promotion of digital wellness, and advocacy for digital inclusion, librarians empower individuals to navigate the digital landscape confidently and competently. As trusted guides and facilitators of learning, librarians continue to adapt and innovate in response to evolving digital challenges, ensuring that libraries remain invaluable resources for promoting digital literacy and lifelong learning in the digital age.

In addition to their educational initiatives and resource provision, librarians employ innovative tactics to foster digital fluency and address the challenges of the digital age. One such tactic is the integration of emerging technologies and digital tools into library programs and services (Livingstone et al., 2023; Teixeira et al., 2024). Librarians leverage technologies such as virtual reality, coding workshops, and digital storytelling platforms to engage patrons in interactive learning experiences and enhance their digital skills in a dynamic and immersive way. Furthermore, librarians collaborate with community partners and local organizations to amplify the impact of their digital literacy initiatives (Hargittai & Micheli, 2019; Martzoukou et al., 2020). By forging strategic partnerships with schools, businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations, librarians extend the reach of their programs and services, reaching diverse audiences and addressing specific community needs. Collaborative efforts may include joint programming, resource sharing, and collective advocacy to promote digital inclusion and empower individuals with the skills and resources they need to succeed in the digital age.

Moreover, librarians engage in ongoing professional development and training to stay abreast of emerging trends and best practices in digital literacy and information technology (Belshaw, 2016; Jenkins, 2009). Through participation in workshops, conferences, and online courses, librarians enhance their digital fluency skills and expand their repertoire of instructional techniques and resources. By continuously honing their expertise, librarians are better equipped to serve as practical guides and mentors in the ever-evolving digital landscape, adapting their strategies and approaches to meet patrons' changing needs and preferences. Additionally, librarians harness the power of data and analytics to inform their digital literacy initiatives and measure their impact (Flick, 2015; Newman & Gough, 2020). By collecting and analyzing data on patron demographics, usage patterns, and program outcomes, librarians gain valuable insights into the effectiveness of their programs and identify areas for improvement. Data-driven decision-making enables librarians to allocate resources more efficiently, tailor their services to the needs of their communities, and demonstrate the value of libraries as essential providers of digital literacy education and support.

In conclusion, librarians employ a multifaceted approach to foster digital fluency and address the challenges of the digital age. Through educational outreach, access to digital resources, promotion of digital wellness, collaborative partnerships, professional development, and data-driven decision-making, librarians play a pivotal role in empowering individuals with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to thrive in an increasingly digital world. As catalysts for change and innovation, librarians continue leading the way in advancing digital literacy and bridging the digital divide, ensuring that all individuals can participate fully in the digital age.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study illuminates the pivotal role of librarians in fostering digital fluency and mitigating digital memory loss among patrons. Librarians serve as catalysts for change, employing a multifaceted approach to address the challenges of the digital age. Through educational initiatives, librarians equip patrons with the essential skills and knowledge to navigate the digital landscape confidently. Libraries become invaluable resources for promoting digital literacy skills across diverse demographics by offering workshops, training sessions, and community programs. Additionally, access to digital resources provided by libraries plays a crucial role in bridging the digital divide and democratizing access to information. From e-books and online databases to multimedia content, libraries offer many digital resources that empower patrons to engage in lifelong learning and exploration. This access to information is vital in underserved communities where access to technology may be limited.

Furthermore, librarians actively promote digital wellness and mitigate digital memory loss by advocating a healthy balance between digital consumption and offline engagement. By raising awareness about the importance of digital wellness and providing resources and support for effective information management, librarians empower patrons to navigate the digital landscape responsibly. Collaborative partnerships between libraries, community organizations, and local stakeholders are essential for amplifying the impact of digital literacy initiatives. By working together, these entities can leverage their collective resources and expertise to address specific community needs and promote digital inclusion on a broader scale.

In conclusion, the findings of this study underscore the vital role of librarians in fostering digital fluency and addressing digital memory loss. Through educational initiatives, access to digital resources, promotion of digital wellness, and collaborative partnerships, librarians play a pivotal role in empowering individuals with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to thrive in an increasingly digital world. Continuing efforts to promote digital inclusion and empower patrons with essential digital skills are crucial for building a more equitable and digitally literate society.

Acknowledgment

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to this research endeavor—special thanks to our research participants for their valuable insights and cooperation. We would also like to acknowledge the support and guidance our colleagues and mentors provided throughout this project. Additionally, we appreciate the funding agencies and institutions that supported this research, enabling us to delve into the complexities of digital literacy and contribute to the body of knowledge in this field.

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