

The Library as a Metaphor: Perceptions, Evolution, and the Shifting Role in Society Through a Librarian's Lens

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Abstract : This comprehensive study, through the perspective of librarians, explores the library as a metaphor and its profound significance in representing knowledge and learning. It delves into how librarians perceive the library as a metaphor and the ways in which it symbolizes the acquisition, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge. The research investigates the most common metaphors used to describe libraries, as witnessed by librarians, and analyzes how these metaphors reflect the evolving role of libraries in society. Furthermore, the study examines how the library metaphor influences the perception of librarians regarding academic libraries as physical places and academic library websites as virtual spaces, exploring their potential for learning and exploration. It investigates the evolving nature of the library as a metaphor over time, as seen by librarians, considering the changing landscape of information and technology. The research explores the ways in which the library metaphor has expanded beyond its traditional representation, encompassing digital resources, online connectivity, and virtual realms, and provides insights into its potential evolution in the future. Drawing on the experiences of librarians in their interactions with library users, the study uncovers any specific cultural or generational differences in how people interpret or relate to the library as a metaphor. It sheds light on the diverse perspectives and interpretations of the metaphor based on cultural backgrounds, educational experiences, and technological familiarity. Lastly, the study investigates the evolving roles of libraries as observed by librarians and explores how these changing roles can influence the metaphors we use to represent them. It examines the dynamic nature of libraries as they adapt to societal needs, technological advancements, and new modes of information dissemination. By analyzing these various dimensions, this research provides a comprehensive understanding of the library as a metaphor through the lens of librarians, illuminating its significance, evolution, and its transformative impact on knowledge, learning, and the changing role of libraries in society.

Keywords : library, librarians, metaphor, perception

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