International Journal of Science, Strategic Management and Technology
Volume **02** Issue **04** April-**2026** | ISSN: **3108-1762 (Online)** | Impact Factor: 3.8
An International, Peer-Reviewed, Open Access Scholarly Journal Indexed in recognized academic databases

New Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies in Library Science

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https://doi.org/10.55041/ijsmt.v2i4.510

Cite this Article: Supatkar, J. (2026). New Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies in Library Science. International Journal of Science, Strategic Management and Technology, *02*(04). https://doi.org/10.55041/ijsmt.v2i4.510

ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a powerful technological innovation that is reshaping Library and Information Science (LIS). By introducing automation and intelligent decision-making, AI supports libraries in improving information retrieval, organizing digital collections, and delivering user-focused services. Technologies such as Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP), virtual assistants, recommendation engines, Optical Character Recognition (OCR), robotics, and predictive analytics are helping libraries shift towards smart and technology-driven knowledge environments. This paper provides a conceptual and analytical overview of major AI technologies currently being adopted in libraries and highlights their practical applications in cataloging, classification, digital preservation, reference services, and management planning. Additionally, the study discusses major barriers including privacy risks, algorithmic bias, copyright issues, shortage of trained manpower, and financial limitations. The study concludes that although AI increases efficiency and service quality in libraries, its successful implementation depends on proper infrastructure, librarian skill development, ethical guidelines, and effective data governance.

KEYWORDS

Artificial Intelligence; Library Science; Machine Learning; NLP; Smart Library; Digital Preservation; Information Retrieval

1. INTRODUCTION

Libraries have always played an important role in preserving knowledge and providing access to information. Over time, libraries transitioned from manual record-keeping systems to computerized and automated platforms such as Integrated

Library Management Systems (ILMS), OPACs, and digital library repositories. In the present era, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is creating a new transformation by making library services smarter, faster, and more interactive.

Artificial Intelligence refers to the ability of machines and software systems to simulate human intelligence, such as learning from data, reasoning, recognizing patterns, processing language, and generating solutions. In library environments, AI is being utilized not only for automation but also for enhancing search mechanisms, supporting decision-making, enabling personalized services, and providing real-time user assistance.

With the rapid expansion of digital content and academic publications, libraries are required to manage large-scale information resources efficiently. AI-based tools provide support for handling big datasets, improving retrieval accuracy, and assisting research communities. As a result, AI is redefining the librarian's professional responsibilities and encouraging a shift towards digital curation, information analytics, and technology-enabled research support.

2. NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF AI IN LIBRARIES

The demand for AI in library science has increased mainly due to the growth of digital resources and changing expectations of users. Traditional library systems face difficulties in organizing and delivering information effectively in today's information-rich environment.

2.1 Rapid Growth of Information and Big Data

The production of academic resources such as journals, dissertations, books, and online learning materials is expanding continuously. Libraries must handle large digital collections, which require intelligent systems for automatic indexing, classification, metadata creation, and quick organization of resources.

2.2 Changing User Expectations

Modern users expect quick, accurate, and personalized information services similar to those offered by search engines and online shopping platforms. AI helps libraries provide personalized services by understanding user behavior and delivering customized recommendations.

2.3 Time-Saving and Resource Management

Many libraries operate with limited staff and financial resources. AI technologies reduce workload by performing repetitive tasks such as book issue/return processes, reminders, overdue notifications, and database management. This allows librarians to focus more on academic support and advanced information services.

2.4 Support for Academic Research

Academic institutions increasingly rely on libraries for research assistance. AI supports research by improving literature search, assisting citation management, enabling plagiarism detection, and offering analytical insights for scholarly communication.

3. RESEARCH GAP

Several studies have highlighted the growing use of AI in library services; however, many papers remain theoretical and do not provide a structured comparison of major AI technologies along with their library functions, benefits, and limitations. In addition, the ethical challenges of AI adoption—such as privacy concerns, algorithmic bias, and copyright issues—are often not discussed in sufficient detail, particularly in the context of Indian libraries. This paper attempts to address this gap by presenting an organized analysis of emerging AI technologies and their practical role in modern library systems.

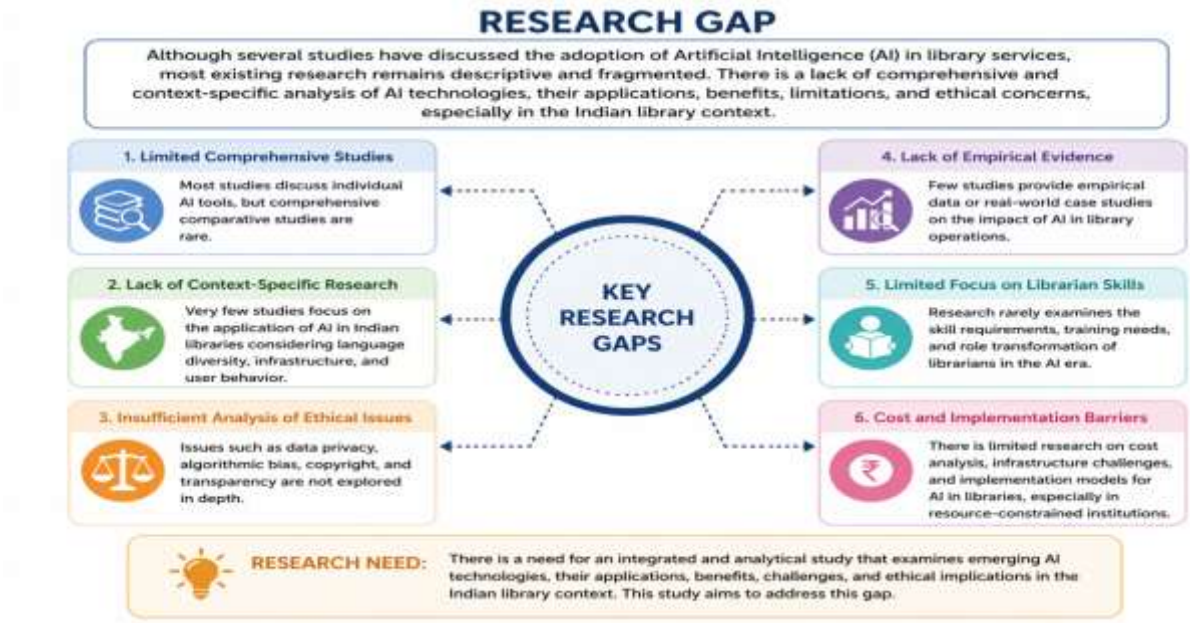

Figure 1: Research Gap

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are:

1. To examine the significance of AI in Library and Information Science.
2. To identify major emerging AI technologies being used in libraries.
3. To analyze how AI influences library operations and user services.
4. To explore limitations and ethical concerns related to AI-based systems.
5. To discuss the future direction of AI-driven smart libraries.

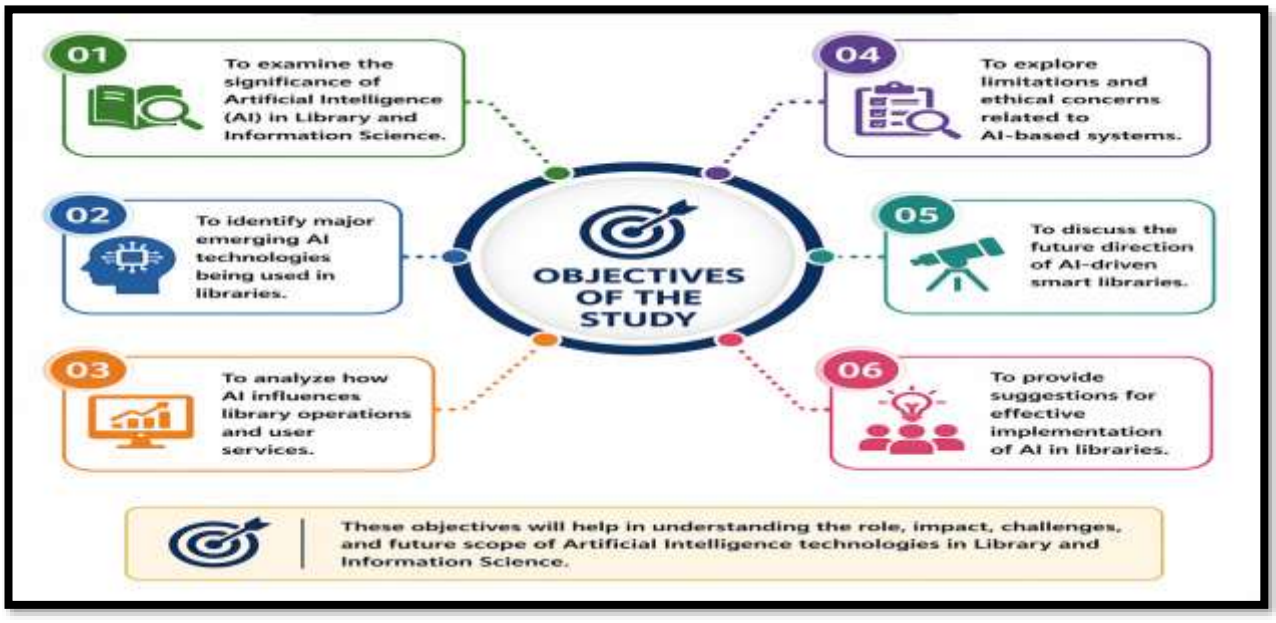

Figure 2: Objectives of the Study

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This paper is based on secondary sources such as books, journal articles, conference proceedings, institutional reports, and documents published by national and international library organizations. A descriptive and analytical research approach has been used. The collected literature was reviewed to identify major AI tools relevant to library functions. These tools were categorized based on their applications in technical processing, digital preservation, reference services, and library administration. Finally, a comparative evaluation was conducted to highlight the advantages and limitations of each technology.

6. EMERGING AI TECHNOLOGIES IN LIBRARY SCIENCE

6.1 AI Chat bots and Virtual Reference Assistants

AI-powered chat bots are increasingly being used in libraries to provide instant assistance to users. These chat bots are capable of answering common queries related to library services, book availability, working hours, and database access. Through NLP-based systems, chatbots can interpret user questions and offer relevant responses.

6.2 Machine Learning for Cataloging and Metadata Creation

Machine Learning helps in automating technical processing activities such as cataloging, classification, and metadata generation. By learning from existing library records, ML systems can suggest subject headings, keywords, and classification numbers.

6.3 Natural Language Processing for Intelligent Searching

Natural Language Processing supports libraries by improving information retrieval systems. Unlike traditional keyword-based searches, NLP allows semantic search, meaning that users can search using natural language sentences.

6.4 Recommendation Systems for Personalized Services

Recommendation engines are designed to provide personalized suggestions of books, journals, and other digital resources. These systems analyze user preferences, search history, and borrowing patterns to recommend relevant materials.

6.5 Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for Digitization

OCR technology converts printed or scanned documents into editable and searchable text. It is highly useful for digitizing rare manuscripts, old books, and archival records.

6.6 AI Tools for Digital Preservation and Archiving

AI supports digital preservation by detecting damaged files, managing storage systems, and performing automatic tagging of archived documents.

6.7 AI-Based Plagiarism Detection Tools

Plagiarism detection software powered by AI compares submitted documents with large databases and identifies similarities, supporting originality in academic writing.

6.8 Predictive Analytics in Library Planning and Management

Predictive analytics uses AI algorithms to analyze past data and predict future trends. Libraries can use predictive analytics for forecasting user demand and planning acquisitions.

6.9 Robotics and Automated Library Systems

Robotics is being adopted in some advanced libraries for automated book handling tasks such as sorting, shelving, and retrieval.

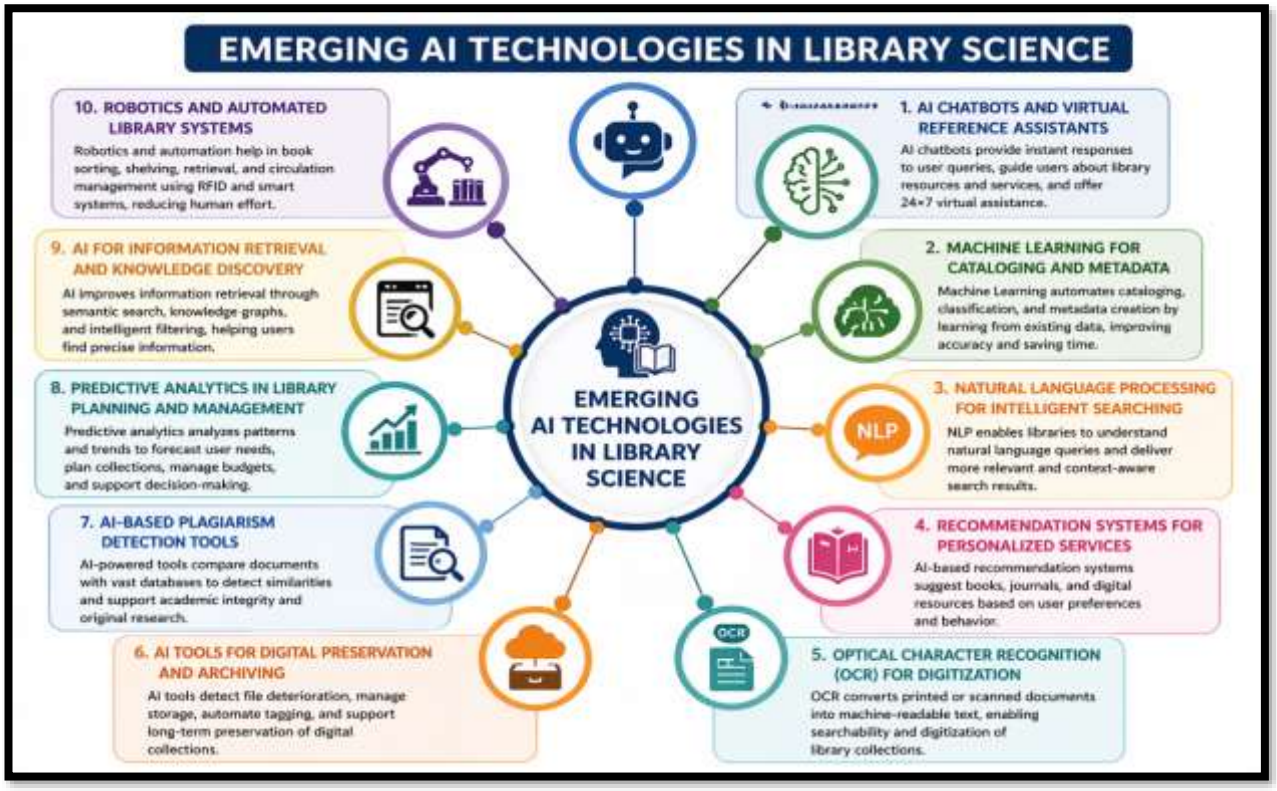

Figure. 3 Emerging Ai Technologies In Library Science

7. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF AI TECHNOLOGIES IN LIBRARIES

Table 1: Comparative Analysis of AI Technologies and Library Applications

AI Technology	Library Function	Major Advantage	Key Limitation
Chatbots	Virtual reference	24×7 user support	Cannot handle complex queries
Machine Learning	Cataloging & metadata	Faster processing	Needs verification
NLP	Semantic search	Better relevance	Multilingual issues
OCR	Digitization	Searchable archives	Errors in poor scans
Recommendation Systems	SDI/CAS	Personalized service	Risk of bias
Predictive Analytics	Collection planning	Better decisions	Privacy concerns
Robotics	Automation	Saves manpower	High cost

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Table 1: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF AI TECHNOLOGIES IN LIBRARIES

8. IMPACT OF AI ON LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS

The integration of AI has brought significant changes to the library profession. Traditionally, librarians were mainly involved in cataloging, circulation, and reference services. With AI adoption, librarians are expected to develop new skills related to digital technologies, data management, cyber security, and AI-based applications.

AI does not replace librarians but shifts their responsibilities toward higher-level tasks such as digital curation, research support, and evaluation of AI-generated results.

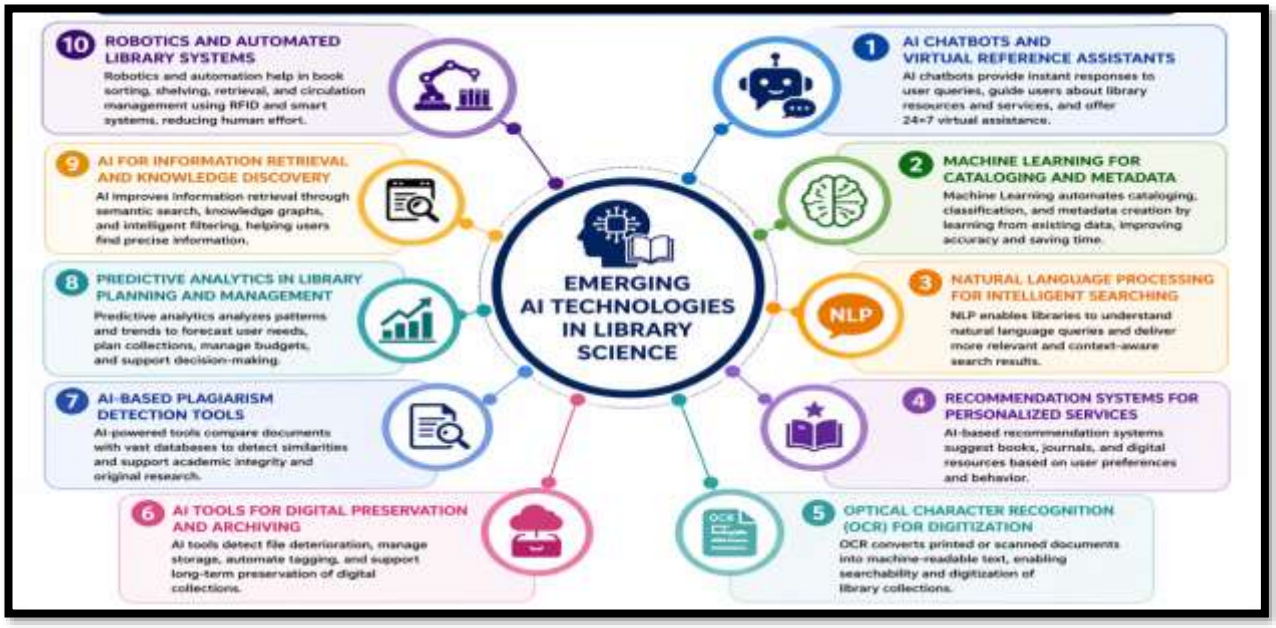

Figure. 4 IMPACT OF AI ON LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS

9. ETHICAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

9.1 Privacy and Confidentiality Concerns

AI systems require user data such as search history and borrowing patterns. If this data is not protected, user privacy may be compromised.

9.2 Algorithmic Bias and Fairness

AI tools may produce biased outcomes depending on the dataset used for training. Libraries must ensure transparency and fairness.

9.3 Copyright and Intellectual Property Issues

Digitization and AI-driven analysis may lead to copyright violations if proper licensing is not followed.

9.4 Lack of Skilled Human Resources

A major barrier in AI adoption is the shortage of trained library professionals.

9.5 Financial and Infrastructure Barriers

AI implementation requires advanced software, hardware, and technical experts, which may not be affordable for small libraries.

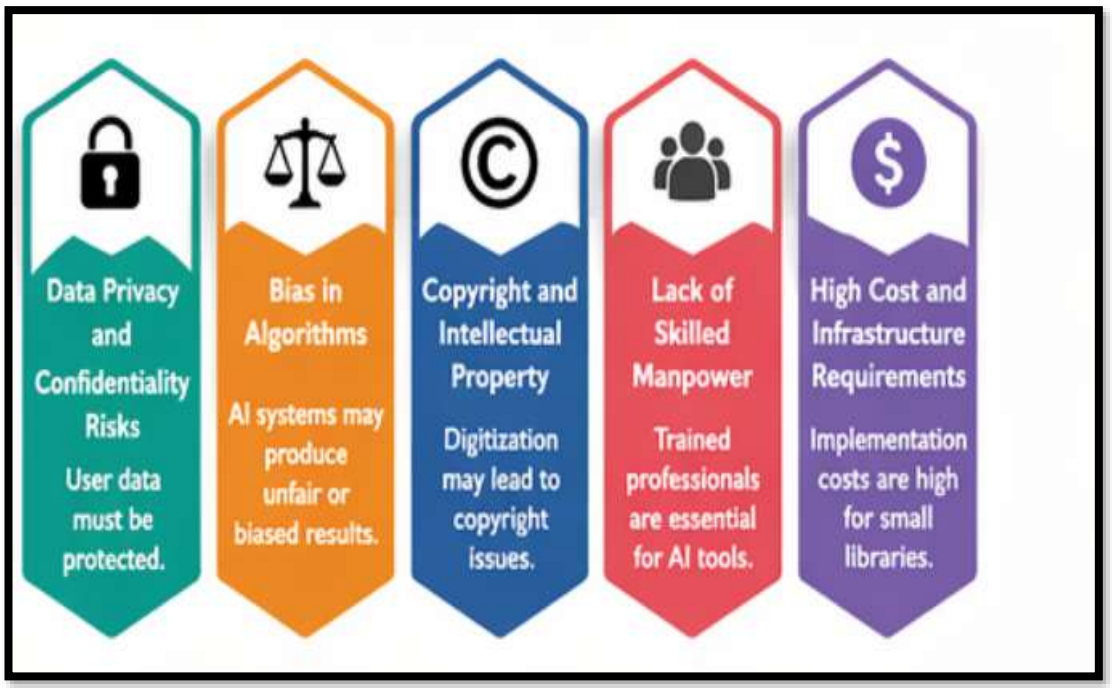

Figure.5 ETHICAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

10. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. AI improves efficiency by automating routine library activities.

2. ML improves cataloging speed and metadata accuracy.
3. NLP strengthens semantic search and retrieval quality.
4. Recommendation systems enhance personalized services.
5. OCR supports digitization and preservation.
6. Privacy and algorithmic bias are major ethical concerns.
7. Librarian training is essential for successful implementation.

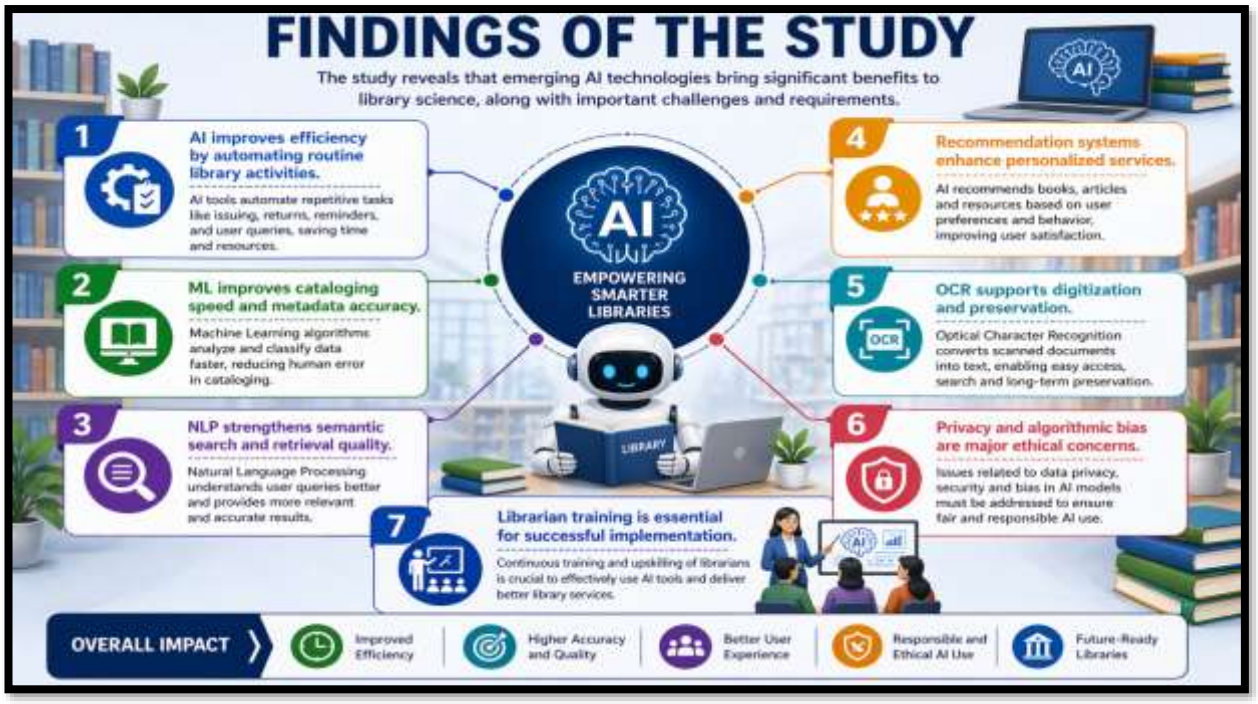

Figure.6 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct regular training programs for librarians.
2. Use open-source AI tools to minimize cost.
3. Develop clear ethical and privacy policies for AI.
4. Adopt hybrid models (AI + librarian supervision).
5. Provide institutional and government funding for smart libraries.
6. Establish monitoring committees for bias and ethical compliance.
7. Promote multilingual AI tools for Indian libraries.

12. SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE AI IMPLEMENTATION

8. 1. Provide training workshops for librarians.
2. Use open-source AI tools to reduce cost.
3. Develop AI-based library policies for privacy and ethics.
4. Adopt hybrid models (AI + Librarian) for cataloging and reference services.
5. Government and institutions should provide funding for smart libraries.
6. Establish AI ethics committee in universities.
7. Promote multilingual AI systems for Indian libraries.

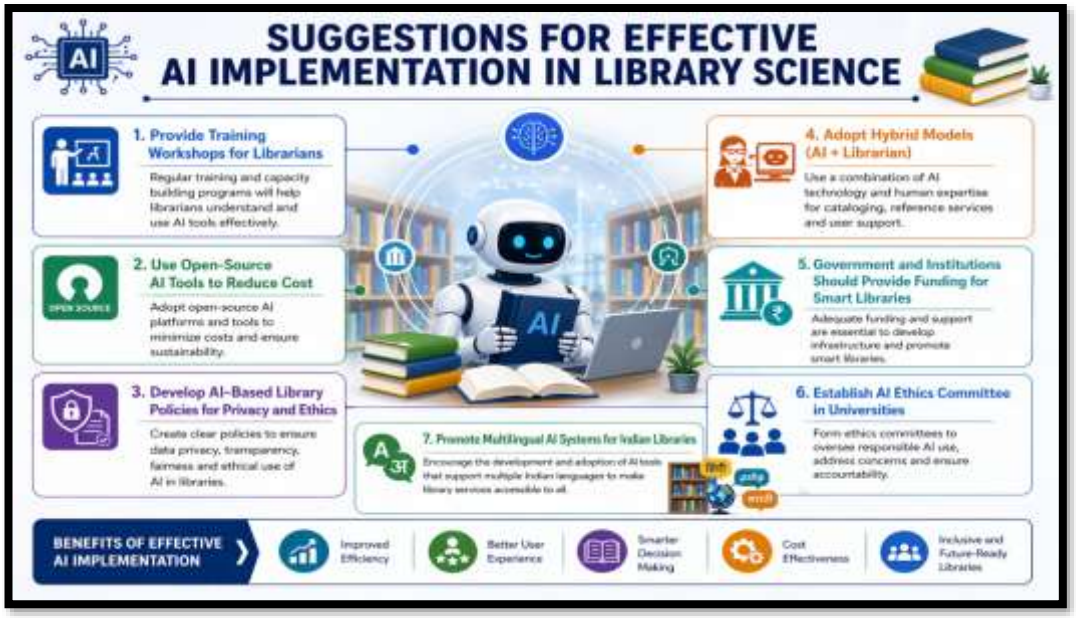

Figure.7 SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE AI IMPLEMENTATION

13. FUTURE SCOPE OF AI IN LIBRARY SCIENCE

AI has strong future potential in library development. Libraries may adopt virtual librarians, AI-based digital repositories, and IoT-enabled smart library buildings. AI will enhance research analytics, knowledge discovery, and user engagement. Integration with block chain, cloud computing, and big data technologies will further strengthen library services.

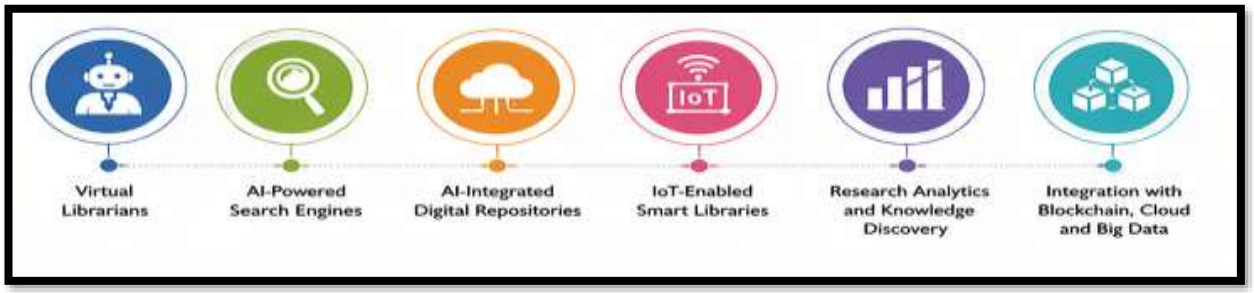

Figure.7 FUTURE SCOPE OF AI IN LIBRARY SCIENCE

13. CONCLUSION

Artificial Intelligence has become a major force in transforming Library and Information Science. AI-based technologies such as machine learning, NLP, chatbots, OCR, recommendation systems, predictive analytics, and robotics are improving library automation, retrieval services, digital preservation, and user engagement.

However, successful AI implementation requires careful planning to address ethical issues, privacy risks, lack of skilled manpower, and financial constraints. A balanced approach that combines AI technologies with librarian expertise will ensure future-ready libraries.

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