TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

My research at present concerns development of tools to assess elementary school libraries. This assessment would enable their evaluation, which would provide the necessary design information to architects to improve their design and construction. Libraries are no longer just repositories of books and physical media but active social spaces, which foster learning and development of mental faculties. This transformation from a warehouse of books to a learning hub requires it to be inclusive of its spectrum of users, regardless of social constructs. Being a social space, it is necessary that it acknowledges the diversity of their users based on their ability or disability, socio-economic status, ethnicity and culture. This requires an understanding of the activities occurring at the space and the spatial relations to them. This is the information my project attempts to uncover. Any differences owing to these factors are to be highlighted as a purpose of this study. A pilot study is being conducted at elementary schools in the College Station Independent School District to test the efficacy of the assessment tool. College Station is chosen because of the diversity of the student population unlike any other school districts of Texas.

For this reason, I have been involved with Hackathon in 2017 and 2018 organized by the Diversity Council to understand the emerging concepts in celebrating diversity. I was a participant in Hackathon 2017 and was a volunteer for Hackathon 2018. My primary task was video recording of the presentation events in coordination with John Peters of the College of Architecture. This required the handling and storage of the video recording equipment both the days. Along with this, I was involved in other miscellaneous activities such as registration of the participants, volunteer support and wrap-up of the event. This is my project which aims to advance inclusiveness in an elementary school library. I thank the committee for the consideration bestowed upon me.

Figure 1 Volunteer for Hackathon 18
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