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Towards sustainable information environments with green libraries: A review

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Abstract: Green libraries represent a significant paradigm shift in how information institutions address environmental concerns through sustainable practices. By integrating eco-friendly strategies in architecture, management, and community outreach, libraries are increasingly seen as catalysts for ecological awareness and responsibility. This paper examines the conceptual foundations of green libraries, reviews contemporary research, and highlights sustainable architectural principles, energy-efficient operations, and educational roles. It also discusses the barriers libraries face in this transition and proposes future directions for embedding sustainability within library ecosystems.

Keywords: sustainable libraries, green infrastructure, ecological design, environmental responsibility, library sustainability, green library.

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1. Introduction

In the context of growing environmental crises, institutions across all sectors are re-evaluating their roles in promoting sustainability. Libraries, long revered for their intellectual and cultural contributions, are emerging as advocates for environmental stewardship. The modern library is not only a center of knowledge but also a model of responsible environmental practice. As part of the broader “green movement,” green libraries prioritize sustainability in design, service delivery, and community engagement. They reflect a commitment to reducing carbon footprints and fostering sustainable development in line with global goals such as the United Nations Sustainable