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E-Resources : A new Trend in Library

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Abstract

Over the last few decades, there have been significant efforts to provide digital library services. These efforts, however, largely focused on the building digital collection and technical infrastructure, including intuitive interfaces to support search and browsing, networks and telecommunication, computing infrastructure, digital rights management standards and protocols, metadata schema, etc. that enabled digital libraries to function effectively and efficiently. The digital resources and associated technical infrastructure is only a means to generate services keeping its potential users in mind. Like printed resources are used in traditional libraries to generate services by the library staff, the digital resources are used to generate services using software driven web-based interfaces.

The paper discusses the definition, characteristics, advantages and disadvantages, of e-resources in library.

Keywords - e-resources, Library, ejournal.

Introduction

An electronic resource is defined as a resource which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and so on. Over the past few years, a numbers of techniques and related standards have been developed which allow documents to be created and distributed in electronic form. Hence to cope with the present situation, librarians are shifting towards new media, namely electronic resources for their collection developments that the documents of users are better fulfilled. The e-resources on magnetic and optical media have a vast impact on the collections of University libraries. These are more useful due to inherent capabilities for manipulation and searching, providing information access is cheaper to acquiring information resources, savings in storage and maintenance etc. and sometimes the electronic form is the only alternative. The library research and development in digital libraries, in the beginning, was focused mainly towards providing search and browsing interface to its collection. However, providing access to its resources is only one of the several services offered by a traditional library to its users include reference services, services, acquisition, cataloguing and classification, circulation of physical documents, document delivery services, inter library loans, Current awareness services, Selective dissemination of information, bibliographic services and reprographic services.

We are living in the digital era; the digital or electronic resources (e-resources) have great importance in digital libraries and amongst the academic library users. Due to the information revolution, digital libraries

are developing all over world to collect, store and communicate the information through electronic media.

In digital library the electronic resources are becoming more and more important. The printed resources are now being digitized, which has given rise in increase of the availability of books and journals in electronic format. The electronic books are helpful because of their easy portability and its features of incorporation more than one book in a single hand held device. Amongst all academic electronic resources, the advent of electronic journal has been called the greatest revolution in the capture and dissemination of emerging academic knowledge. Today electronic resources are in abundance available individually or package deals from the various publishers.

It is the contribution of information and communication technology and impact of internet to information processing, storing, searching, dissemination and use has become expeditious, easy and user friendly. Today digital technology is available at our doorstep capable of effectively creating and capturing information in various formats, making these available to others.

Digital or Electronic resources are available with increase accessibility beyond time and space, restrict information users to visit physical libraries.

Definition of Digital or Electronic Resources

An electronic or digital resources is defined which requires access on any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journal, image collection, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD-ROM, on tape, via internet and so on.

Over the past few years, a numbers of techniques and related standard have been developed which allow

documents to be created and distributed in electric form. Hence to cope up with the present situation, libraries are shifting towards new media, namely electronic resources for their collection development that the demand is better fulfilled.

According to Sukula "A Digital resources are electronic information resources that can be accessed on the web, on or off campus. User can get the information what him or her want, when it is needed".

What are E Resources?

The Online Dictionary for Information and Library Science defines electronic resource as

- full-text journals,
- newspapers,
- company information,
- e-books,
- dictionaries, encyclopaedias, economic data,
- digital images,
- industry profiles,
- market research,
- Career information and more.

Types of Digital Resources

- **E- Books:** An electronic book is a book publication made available in digital form, consisting of text, images or both, readable on the flat panel display of computers or other electronic devices. It's an electron version of printed book.
- **E-Journal:** An electronic journal is a periodical publication which is published in electronic format, usually on internet.
- **E-Newspaper:** An E-newspaper is also known as online newspaper or web newspaper that exists on the World Wide Web or internet.
- **E-Magazines:** An online magazine is a magazine published on the Internet, through bulletin board systems and other forms of public computer networks.
- **Indexing and Abstracting Databases:** These are the reference sources which provide bibliographic information about journals including abstracts of the articles.
- **Full text database:** A full text database or complete-text database is a database that contains the complete text of books, dissertations, journals, magazines, newspaper, or other kind of textual document.
- **Reference Database:** These are many dictionaries, Almanacs, and encyclopaedias, which are available on internet in electronic form.

- **Statistical Database:** This database contains the numerical data useful for the mass community.
- **Image collection:** Due to adventure of e-image facility this type of databases is developed.
- **Multimedia products:** This type of database includes images, videos, audios and text etc.
- **E- Theses:** These database contained PhD thesis and dissertation published through e-format.
- **E- Clippings:** The main objectives of e-clipping are retrospective search and comprehensive analysis of new items.
- **E-Patents:** E-patents are the exclusive right granted by the government to make use of an invention for a specific period of time.
- **E- Standards:** Written definition, limit rules, approved and monitored for complains by authoritative agency.

Advantages of e-resources

- **Accessible** – can be accessed from any computer on campus and usually any computer off campus, any time of the day or night, so there is no need to make a trip to the library
- **Easily searchable** - each journal can be searched quick and easy often through the complete full text of articles and via online index
- **Speed** - Articles/issues appear online before printed version is available
- **Interactive** - Rapid turnaround time means articles can be read, commented by the readers, amended quickly and greater feedback thru the web
- **Links** - Hypertext format should be exploited and links to related articles, information on other web sites, stable URLs for individual articles and email alerts when latest issue loaded.
- **Added Value** - Advantages taken on the web is to add value by using animation, virtual reality and interactive mathematical charts.
- **Inexpensive** - savings can be made over printing costs, distribution costs and extra costs by new features.
- **Flexibility** - E-journals evolved quickly. They are not tied to a format, printer, and distribution network.

Disadvantages of e-resources

- Difficulty reading computer screens:
- limitations of computer monitor
- read information in the screen
- Often not included in indexing and abstracting services
- Search engines ignores PDF files
- Format that a large proportion of e-journal use

Archiving

- If archive is guaranteed, physical storage can be saved
- Perishable citation - once online, if websites change URLs citations disappear
- Authenticity - authors concerned about establishing the source, authority of material in general, convinced reader for their credibility

Characteristics of Digital resources

- Access to every document by any one from anywhere.
- Retrieval of digital resources is quicker than print resources.
- The users can be guided to the document by providing a link.
- Easy to search text.
- The collection available in digital format can be of any media.
- Ownership not that important.
- In digital environment the interaction between the users and librarians is frequent.
- No defined user group
- The software can help the users in retrieving the desired information, hardly intermediate can help users.

Conclusion

Electronic resources represent many challenges at every level of their selection, acquisition, preservation, maintenance and management. At the same time the e-resources have advantages giving solution to many professional problems like space, providing remote access, convenience in use, increased readership with improved services, leading to more opportunities for productive research output and academic excellence with in shortest possible time. Recent studies also proved that in researcher's opinion, improved access to e-journals has positively influenced their research activities by saving time. Technology has been behind the evolution and development of e-resources, and the same technology may be able to provide better solution and more opportunities to have complete bibliographical control over world literature which is impossible in case of printed resources.

It is being predicted by 2020 more than 90% of the material would be in digital form. In such situation and future trend, library professionals shall have to cope up with new emerging digital environment and devise best possible techniques and method of managing these resources efficiently and effectively for their improved availability and accessibility.

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