



Digital Library Services in Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

Digital library resources and services are the prestigious issue of modern library concepts. Access to digital resources and services has become an important tool for researchers and teachers. This paper deals with the services provided by digital library, Digital library are quite new about 20 years of age. At the same time, they have been growing at a fast pace. Digital libraries have the following characteristics they store, preserve distribute and protect content in different format and at the same time, they allow interaction between the user and the contents they are always present, both geographical and over time, they can make works internationally known, enhancing referencing and citation; they can make public the products of the educational process and let them be used as inputs for further learning.

I. INTRODUCTION

Computer based communication have not only widened the access to information and helped establish linkages with the professional colleagues and friends elsewhere, it has extensively facilities message transmission transfer and exchange of files and text, uploading / downloading database access interactive services, provision of bulletin boards and news slitters, job submission and execution, teleconferencing,- tale- ordering, inter-library loans, creating user profiles, consolidation and repackaging of information for specific needs, dissemination of information, and so on.

Hundreds of thousands of monographic materials, journals, learning resources, databases, etc. are now available in electronic formats, and these materials can be accessed from the remote corner of a country, thereby increasing the use of Information and literature and the efficiency of information services. Users are now more independent than before; they can access to these electronic formats from their have computers and search database according to their needs.

Definition Digital Library

Digital library could be referred to as computerized network system where all the information is stored in electronic format, which can be accessed and transmitted through networks enabling retrieval of desired information by a large number of users.

Library as an Information Resources Centre

Library identifies, acquires, organizes, preserves, and disseminates information resources either at the initiatives of the library staff or at the request of library patrons.

Digital Resources

There has been substantial progress in the use of digital resources in libraries. Academic university and special libraries are co-ordinating and delivering the services globally. These emerging digital library services might be delivered in a distributed manner or shared centrally. The care aim of these approaches is to achieve interoperability, ease of access management and use as well as ways in which to manage digital resources into the future.

Digital Library Services and Focused on Four Major Service Areas. These were;

- Persistent identifiers
- Access management
- Collection and service registries, and
- Digital preservation

The new environment for digital libraries and the fact that we are now seeing new practices where users are engaging in the creation of information not just the, use of in and that there is the added new dimension of "social software" This new context digital libraries need to work on making themselves available and relevant to users.

Digital Library – Goals

- ❖ To increase the access i. e. all types of information availability to users both offline and online.
- ❖ To preserve the original document and manuscript Qualitative and quantitative resources sharing
- ❖ To improve the library services Ensuring the effective usage of information storage in digital format.
- ❖ Effective utilization of funds invested on digital library,
- ❖ User acceptability from their desktops. To satisfy the five laws of library science.

Need of Digital Library

The trend of globalization and free marketing increases global competition in all fields and also if increases fast development in the knowledge industry and human resource development. With the next decade, most of the information output created in our society will be made and communication only.

Feature of Digital Library

- ❖ Access to very large information collection
- ❖ Network accessibility
- ❖ Provide user friendly user interfaces
- ❖ unique referencing of digital objects
- ❖ Supported advance search and retrieval
- ❖ Available for a long time

- ❖ Support traditional library missions of collection development, organization, access and preservation
- ❖ Support publishing annotation and integration on new information
- ❖ Support graphical diagrammatic, multimedia interpretation.
- ❖ Enable link representation to local / external objects.

Digital Library Services

Following user service.

- 1) E-Books
- 2) Online public access catalogues (opac)/ web opacs service
- 3) E Journals
- 4) E mail service
- 5) Scanning and downloading.
- 6) Newspaper
- 7) Manuscripts
- 8) Full text database bibliographic database and in house database
- 9) Reference service":

a) Web forms: web forms are created for digital reference service in order to help the patron be more productive in asking their question. This document helps the librarian locate exactly what the patron is asking consideration. Because web forms substitute for the reference interview receiving as much information as possible from the patron is a key function. Aspects commonly found with web forms -:

- A return email address to send the answer to the question.
- The question being asked
- What sources have been consulted the patron
- How the patron is planning to use the information.

b) Chat using commercial application :-

Several applications exist for providing chat - based reference. Some of these applications are: Question point. Tutor.com, Aspiring kids, Com. Viennese. Com and VRL pies. These applications bear a resemblance to commercial help desk application. These applications possess functionality such as: chat. Co-browsing of web pages and document pushing, customization of pre-scripted messages, storage of chat transcripts, and statistical reporting.

c) Chat using instant messaging: -

Instant messaging services are used by some libraries as a low cost means of offering chat based reference, since most services are free, utilizing for reference services allows a patron to contact the library from any location via the internet. This service is like the traditional reference interior because it is a like interaction between the patron and the librarian.

- 10) Inter library loan service
- 11) Current Awareness Service. (CAS)
- 12) Indexing and abstracting services.
- 13) Translation Service.

Impact of Digital library on education and learning.-:

- The digital libraries will allow teachers and student to use information sources and tools that have traditionally been physically and conceptually inaccessible. In this area, digital libraries can,
- Play key roles in formal learning settings
 - Offer more information than the traditional resource,
 - Be accessible in class rooms as well as at homes or central library.
 - Enable remote access to rare and unique materials
- Offer great opportunities for users to deposit as well as use information will support communities of interest and more specialized courses to be offered

E Learning and Digital Libraries with respect distance Education :-

Digital libraries are set of electronic resources and associated technical capabilities of creating, storing searching and dissemination of information. Digital libraries are playing a vital role in online learning education system most of the digital libraries are dedicated to supporting higher education and research and they justify their investment in digital development as a powerful means of realizing the larger institutional goals of the academic community they serve.

One reason for using digital libraries in E- Learning is that it can store and manager large amount of digital content such as full text, course material, bibliographic database library catalogues, image and audio clips etc. ^Thus, it provides on environment to bring together collection, services and people in support of the full life cycle of creation dissemination and preservation of date, information, and knowledge. Another reason to use digital libraries is that using various electronic tools. Learners can search text materials and images easily and quickly, which can be applied broadly across all kinds of institution. Advance inter communication technology, sophisticated search engines are the other reasons to implement a digital library in modern education. Other advantages of digital libraries. Services of digital libraries in E-learning environment:-

- 1) Content Management
- 2) Digital library / institutional repository
- 3) Courseware
- 4) Digital/virtual reference service
- 5) Federated search
- 6) Social networking and web 2.0
- 7) Education and training

Digital Libraries and Higher Education :-

Over the century's libraries have been the keepers and distributors of books. Journals, Maps and other materials that are used by students in the learning process. They have also been the legal deposit of part of the products of scholarly publication - theses and dissertation, articles, technical reports, etc. In general, student's has been patrons of the libraries of their institution. In order to make more contents available and thus benefit students and faculty, pools of institutions have engaged in commuting items and /or their copies.

There is no reason for digital libraries not to have the same function of traditional libraries, except that they can add functions and value due to their digital and networked nature.

Let the different function of a digital library in the higher education content be examined

Digital libraries and courseware

- Digital libraries and references
- Digital libraries and scholarly publication
- Digital libraries and open access

Reference

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