

Role, Challenge and Opportunity of Online Resources in Libraries and Information Centers in Present Scenario

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ABSTRACT

The current evolution in Information technology brings major changes in the way of Information communication. ICT developments opened up new avenues to e-resources publishing in a big way. E- resources is distribution of information in any electronic form such as CD- ROM, Floppy Disk or Magnetic tape or across a computer network like e-journals, E-Books, database etc. accessible dial-up bulletin board or on-line services. The Information technology has become very fast, information can be access easily just in a single click through various searching, linking and facility. Users' preference towards electronic resources is rising and their demand for providing electronic information services in the library is increasing. Therefore, academic libraries in particular are concerned in building and purchasing e-resources. But the various problem that libraries are facing like skilled manpower, copyright issues, space problem, preservations and dissemination. This article explores issues surrounding the usage of electronic resources.

Keywords : E-resource, Technology Challenges, ICT, New technologies, e-learning environment, Copyright.

1. INTRODUCTION- In the present era of information technology the information is publishing very fast and various forms. Traditionally academic libraries have acquired printed materials including journals newspapers, maps, pamphlets, illustration, magazines and many other items as well as books. One of the major developments in library and information systems in the past two decades is the advent and spread of Electronic Information Sources (EIS), services and networks mainly as a result of developments in information and communication technologies. The commonly available electronic information sources mainly, CD-ROMs, online databases, online public access catalogue (OPAC) and the Internet and other networked information sources are competing and in some instances replacing the print based information sources. The EIS provides access to information that might be restricted to the user because of geographical location or finances. They also provide access to current information as these are often updated frequently. Access to information is important to individual scientists, groups of scientists or the academic community and research institution for accomplishment of their programs and research projects.

2. NEED AND PURPOSE OF E- RESOURCES

There are various purpose of e recourses such as,

- a. Main purpose of electronic resources is providing current information.
- b. Update information is necessary for research work.
- c. Through electronic resources users are able to access latest information.
- d. Save the time of user and staff

- e. Solve the space problem in library
- f. Easy to use and disseminate

Electronic Resources is one of the emerging environment in libraries & Information communication in the competitive service. E-Resources usually consist of e-books, e-Journals, articles, newspaper, thesis, dissertation, databases and CD-ROMs, which are likely to be the alternative to the print media. Emerald, Ebsco, Scopus are some of the examples of online databases. All updated information is published in these e-resources. The familiarity and use of electronic information resources in the libraries for rapid development is necessary and important.

An electronic resource is defined as a resource which requires 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.

E-Resources are those electronic products that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text basis, e-journals, 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 CDROM, on tap via internet and so on.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study are as follows:

- To study, organize, store, manage and dissemination of e-resources
- To analyze and explore the changing vision and the role of future academic libraries according to meet the changes and challenges in the E-resources environment.
- To define and explain the concepts of E-resource and digital learning environment in academic libraries.
- To define the benefit and opportunities using the ICT in Education.

4. FORMS OF E- RESOURCES- There are various types of e-resources like Full-text databases, Indexing and abstracting databases, Reference databases like dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, etc., Numeric and statistical databases, E-audio/visual resources.

Electronic database consists of organized pieces of information placed in to records. Within an electronic database computer programme assists the user in selecting desired pieces of data. E-Database includes products such as periodical indexes & abstracts, directories, encyclopedias, dictionaries, other reference work. E-database provides search facility to users by subject, type and title or key word with the Boolean logic feature.

An e-book is an electronic version of book that can be read by using a personal computer or by using e-book reader. User can purchase an e-book on diskette or CD. An e-book is available fully electronically via a web site on the Internet. E-books are preferred by the users for their features like portability, upgradability, note making, citation, changeable font size, references links to other relevant sites, searching etc.

CD-ROM is a non volatile optical data storage medium using the same physical format such as audio, compact discs, readable by a computer with a CD-ROM drive. Various dictionaries, directories, year books are available on CD/DVD ROM

E-Journals are available in the electronic form and can be accessed using computer and communication technology. It could be available free or as part of a paid service. E Journals have now become a major source of

information delivery for scholars and researchers. Their timely production, delivery, incorporation of multimedia, hyper linking and searching facility has attracted the interest of people.

E-Zine means electronic magazine and it is also called **web-Zine**. The articles that are stored on a file server may be distributed or accessed via a computer network.

Full-text electronic resources contain complete articles along with their bibliographic details.

5. E-LEARNING ENVIRONMENT ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The advent of e-resources and their increased use have changed the library scenario from physical to virtual. User's preferences are more for e-resources and virtual libraries with little attraction for physical libraries. In spite of innumerable advantages of e-resources, there are certain problems also relating to their acquisition, maintenance, management, etc. which need collaborative efforts of professionals and all other bodies associated with creation, distribution and use of these resources to establish the sound practices and the models.

There are various trends and challenges before the future library in the E-Learning Environment like library professionals should know the future needs of the library user, nature of resources, preservation techniques etc. There is a need to create a new physical library premises with computer network facilities, abandoning the old concept of library as a storehouse. This is the challenge for academic libraries professionals is to develop new standards and skills for the academic libraries profession to meet the user needs in a proactive way.

In this e-learning and e-publishing environment, electronic reference services and other support services with various expertise and digital repositories are becoming a must. The most pressing and pervasive issues and challenges that the academic libraries information science professionals face in the present digital era for providing digital information service to the knowledge society are:

- Copyright issues
- Privacy/Confidentiality
- Online/Virtual crimes and Security
- Manpower issues
- Lack of clarity in vision
- Impact of web based e-Learning Systems

5.1 COPYRIGHT - An important issue that the present day library professionals are facing in providing electronic/digital information service is the large scale of piracy of software and plagiarism. The cost and timeliness in retrieving the information are also considered. When negotiating access with a publisher, the librarian must agree to certain restrictions on photocopying or distribution of electronic materials. Despite copyright notices and efforts to educate employees and users about intellectual property rights, electronic publications can be easily forwarded to people outside the licensed user group. The library is responsible for maintaining the awareness of all users about copyright issues. Libraries need flexible licenses that enable them to create legally archival collections and to transfer content to newer storage technologies for preservation, licensing arrangements become complex as libraries purchase and share access to both print and electronic versions of documents.

5.2 INTEROPERABILITY- It is an ability to store and retrieve material across diverse content collections administrated independently. It brings an inter-relationship between information service related disciplines like Library management, archives management, document management and resource management.

5.3 PRIVACY AND SECURITY - A related set of challenges for electronic resources is the ability or in some cases the requirement to protect electronic and digital contents from unauthorized access or uncontrolled use of that content such as replicating and transmitting it to others. "Privacy and security are two sides of the same coin," said Kurtz. "If we can improve Web security, we will be able to have a positive impact on privacy as well." Presently, Web/cyber crimes have become a common threat on internet. To overcome this issue, compulsory Virus Proof procedures should be adopted while downloading e-information from any other system. To secure the system from viruses, the databases can be modified by hacker proof procedures. Separate login and password systems are to be compulsorily adapted to the Network systems. In the LAN environment, the real danger is the gradual erosion of individual liberties through the automation, integration, and interconnection of many small, separate recordkeeping systems, each of which alone may seem innocuous, and wholly justifiable. To overcome the above database security problems and issues, it is essential to install a database security software or firewall technology like Norton Anti-virus software and IBM e-network Firewall technology to protect the databases.

5.4 HUMAN RESOURCE

Due to lack of skilled manpower to maintain the e-resources and to provide proper e-information service to the knowledge society is very big issue. Core competencies of library staff are expanding to include technology skills, personal skills, learning and teaching capacity, team skills, commitment to ethics, leadership skills, communication skills, creativity skills, designing and implementing skills etc. Hence library education must be redesigned to meet the new challenges and issues evolving in the knowledge society. Adequately skilled staff should be recruited to meet the increased demands of the knowledge society. With a rapidly changing environment both within and outside the library, staff development programs are crucial to the continued success of the organization.

5.5 MANAGEMENT ISSUES - E-resources are not visible to the users as in traditional libraries where resources are physically available for browsing and use. Libraries subscribe to the different packages of different publishers and vendors, as such information sources remain scattered which is not convenient to the users for browsing and searching. All such resources need to be integrated for access with a single stroke of key. Users neither have time nor patience for visiting number of locations of websites or platforms. Present library software hardly has adequate provisions to handle e-resources except a few. Libraries are finding existing software incapable of handling e-resources. Some libraries have developed their own local system to fill up the gap.

6. HOW TO ACCESS E-RESOURCES- There are various methods to access e-resources. Some of the important methods are as follows:

- a. Single point of access** - Where the e-resource is available at dedicated terminals in one of the Library and Information center.
- b. Local networked access** - Where the e-resource may be accessed from networked terminals throughout the institute, including those in the Libraries and Open Access Computing Centers
- c. Internet-based access** - Where the e-resources may be accessed from networked terminals throughout the University, with an increasing number being also available off-campus
- d. Control Access** - Access to some e-resources is controlled by username and password. This facilitates usage analysis, minimizes unauthorized access and ensures compliance with license agreements. All e-resources that are available off-campus are controlled in this way.

7. MANAGEMENT OF E- RESOURCES IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES- Managing the e-resources without adequate skilled manpower is a challenging task for the librarians. In our country most of the college libraries do not have more skilled staff. The accessibility and management of e-resource is different for each type of e-resources. Moreover, the library staff needs different types of training as and when the new e-resources are acquired. Since the kinds of e-resources available in the market are different and the technology is changing rapidly, the training of the staff is an ongoing process. If the library staff is not well versed with the available e-resources, they may not be in a position to assist the users in using the e-resources properly. Having a good collection of e-resources without enough skilled staff is wastage of money and space. Therefore the training of the library staff is necessary that cannot be ignored. It is found that the majority of the college libraries are imparting in house training to the staff to enhance their skills in handling technology.

The future look of the academic library will be very different from what it is now. Clearly, consortia will become even more important forces in the electronic information world. As long as they can prove that they are providing a cost-efficient product that is used, they will continue to receive the support of funding agencies.

The electronic resources empower and enrich the university system. The increase in information generation has made the task of collection, organization and retrieval of information very difficult although the university libraries often, prefer electronic resources to print collections for maximum use. Many reasons have forced the university libraries to opt for electronic resources in meeting the needs of the large community of users.

8. CONCLUSION- At present, electronic resources, such as bibliographic and index and abstract database, collections of full-text journal articles and other electronic materials are standard in the libraries and information centers. Users can access these resources in the library, or remotely. Basic electronic resources are available for all academic institutions through a national license. Access to specialized, licensed bibliographic, abstract and full-text databases can be gained through library consortia, or on the basis of individual license agreements between libraries and publishers.

One potential drawback of the increasing popularity of e-sources and the opportunity for remote access to them is that levels of contact between users and the library may diminish. In order not to lose their significance within their academic communities, libraries ought to be aware of ongoing developments and should modernize their services appropriately.

The usage of electronic sources is gradually increasing. However, users encounter problems selecting appropriate sources and using them effectively. Therefore, training also needs to be provided to a larger number of users and training programs should be customised to meet users' specific needs. This may involve training in small groups, one-to-one classes or tailor-made training sessions.

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