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e-Resources in Higher Education

Issues, Developments, Opportunities and Challenges

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DIGITAL LIBRARY IN THE PRESENT SCENARIO

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ABSTRACT

In present situation knowledge requires immediate access to information by users at any time. So the concept of library is gradually changing to digital environment. The digital library has many advantages when compared to the traditional library. This paper consists of present scenario of digital library to the users in present day-to-day environment.

Introduction

The concept of traditional library has been changed from information centers and digital libraries. Digital library services help in continuous learning, research and development activities have more advantages to the traditional library like preservation, conservation of the recorded knowledge. Digital libraries are user friendly, cost and time effective.

Objectives of the study
1. To know the Concept of Digital Library
2. To discuss the functions of Digital Library
3. To identify the benefits of Digital Library
4. To disclose the role of Digital Librarian

Methodology

The present data were collected from secondary sources like Newspaper, Websites, Books, and Journals etc.

What is Digital Library?

A digital library is a library in which collections are stored in digital formats (as opposed to print, microform or other than media) and accessible by computers. The digital contents are stored locally and accessed remotely via computer networks.

Need of digital Library

Digital libraries may reduce or, in some instances, do away with these fees. Both types of library require cataloguing input to allow users to locate and retrieve material. Digital libraries may be more willing to adopt innovations in technology providing users with improvements in electronic and audio book technology as well as presenting new forms of communication such as wikis and blogs; conventional libraries may consider that providing online access to their OPAC catalogue is sufficient. An important advantage to digital conversion is increased accessibility to users. They also increase availability to individuals who may not be traditional patrons of a library, due to geographic location or organizational affiliation.

Examples of Digital Library
1. www.alexandria.uscb.edu
2. www.new.dli.ernet.in

Objectives of Digital Library
1. To Support library functions like circulation, serial control, stock maintenance and other routine works.
2. To access national and International journals which are being published only in machine-readable form.
3. To have large number of databases in CD’s
4. To introduce and produce new services through online in our library
5. Resource sharing and networking
6. Save the library staff by avoiding routine jobs
7. Promotion of efficient delivery of information economically to all the users

Services in Digital Library
1. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC): The Machine readable catalogue of the library and information center can be made available through internet web.
2. Online Journals & Books

Electronic Journals

Electronic journals, also known as ejournals, e-journals, and electronic serials, are scholarly journals or intellectual magazines that can be accessed via electronic transmission. In practice, this means that they are usually published on the Web. They are a specialized form of electronic document: Some electronic journals are online-only journals; some are online versions of printed journals, and some consist of the online equivalent of a printed journal, but with additional online-only (sometimes video and interactive media material. Most commercial journals are subscription-based, or allow pay-per-view access. Many universities subscribe in bulk to packages of electronic journals, so as to provide access to them to their students and faculty. It is generally also possible for individuals to purchase an annual subscription to a journal, via the original publisher. An increasing number of journals are now available as online open access journals, requiring no subscription and offering free full-text articles and reviews to all. Libraries can subscribe to e-journals from publishers or through consortia.

Example


Electronic Books

An eBook is an electronic version of a traditional print book that can be read by using a personal computer or by using an eBook reader. (An eBook reader can be a software application for use on a computer, such as Microsoft's Reader application, or a book-sized computer that is used solely as a reading device, such as NuvoMedia's Rocket eBook.) Users can purchase an eBook on diskette or CD, but the most popular method of getting an eBook is to purchase a downloadable file of the eBook (or other reading material) from a Web site (such as Barnes and Noble) to be read from the user's computer or reading device. Generally, an eBook can be downloaded in five minutes or less. Example: elibrary, engnetbase, Springer, Verlag, Knovel

E-Books Readers: Adobe Reader, MS Reader, MobiPocket, and Palm Reader

3. Multimedia Packages like CD/DVD/Floppy/VCD etc.
4. Internet Access

5. Document Delivery Service: It will enable library to request to another library for a copy of document to be transmitted via email

6. Current Awareness Service: List of latest addition to the library namely books, periodicals, audio visuals web for user attention.

7. E-Mail: E-Mail was originally described for communication between pairs of individual. As a result of the most widely used services on the internet.

8. Dissertations / Thesis
9. Technical Reports (Consultancy, Sponsored etc.)
11. Videos
12. Graphics
13. Publication of the Institutions
14. Annual Reports
15. Project Reports
16. R & D Works
17. Regular Course Materials

Benefits of Digital Library
1. It can be stored digitally
2. Provide timely access
3. Resources can be used simultaneously by more than one user
4. Save physical storage
5. Contains multimedia information
6. Resource sharing among libraries
7. Support searching facilities
8. Immediate access to high demand and frequently used items
9. Rapidly access to materials held in remotely

Barriers of Digital Library
1. Lack of Expertise Lack of adequate Infrastructure
2. Technical Support (Man Power)
3. Preservation and Content Refreshing
4. Technological obsolescence (Hardware & Software)
5. IPR issues
6. Scanning the original documents of the entire collection

Components in Digital Library
1. Web Server, File Server, E-Mail Server
2. Computer, Labtop, Palmtop
3. Printers
4. Digital Camera, Video camera, Audio Recording Machine Software
5. System Software (Vista, WXP, Linux, Unix)
6. Application Software (MS Office, Browser, Adobe Reader, Real Player)
7. File Format Converter
8. Web Server Software (Apache, PWS, SQL)
9. Database Software (Mysql, Oracle)
10. Antivirus (Norton)
11. Digital Library Software (Greenstone, space)
12. LAN, UPS, Internet, Air-Condition

Role of Digital Librarian
1. Continuous Updating
2. Developing strong professional teams in their respective libraries
3. Accept the challenges being imposed due to advancement technology
4. Arrange lectures / training programmes from time to time
5. Electronic presentation skills
6. Website design skills
7. Computer Network Knowledge
8. Downloading software from the web
9. Knowledge of electronic books
10. Soft skills
11. Internet Resources
12. Organize digital knowledge and information
13. Provide digital reference service and electronic information service
14. Catalogue and Classify digital documents and digital knowledge
15. Guardian for global digital library
16. Digital librarian act as a symbotic Human – Machine Guru
17. Provide universal access and retrieve of digital knowledge ultimately access to all.

Conclusion
Digital libraries basically store materials in digital format and manipulate long collection of digital documents effectively. It helps in development, management and accessibility of digital content and services of digital library as well as traditional library system. Thus it is left to the digital librarians to take a lead in digitizing resources in the best interest of the user community.

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