

E-Resources Management in the Digital Libraries.

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ABSTRACT

“E-resources are resources in which information is stored electronically and it can be accessible through electronic systems and network environment. E-resources are a very broad term that includes a variety of different file formats. Instant access is quite possible with E-resources within a fraction of second. Acquiring knowledge from E-Books, E-Journals, Online resources, CDROM, Internet with related Databases are the impact of E-Resources.”

Keywords: E-resources, Academic Libraries, Web-resources, E-books, E-journal

INTRODUCTION

Today libraries are providing electronic access to a wide variety of resources, including indexes, full-text articles, and complete journals with back files and Internet / Web resources. In fact, libraries have been moving towards an electronic environment, in which sufficient computers are necessary for patrons to access information. The array of electronic resources available in libraries today is an outgrowth of the changes in information delivery made possible through advances in both computer technologies, such as powerful personal desktop workstations, and information storage and delivery mechanisms, such as CD-ROMs and user-friendly graphical user interfaces (GUIs). These advances made the ongoing efforts to replace other traditional services and processes with electronic versions attractive and economically feasible for many libraries.

What is a Digital Library?

The term "digital library" is the most recent in a long series of names for a concept that has been written about nearly as long as the development of the first computer: a computerized "library" that would supplement, add functionality, and even replace traditional libraries.

The concept of a "digital library" is not merely equivalent to digitized collection with information management tools. It is rather an ENVIRONMENT to bring together collections, services and people in support of the full life cycle of creation, dissemination, use and preservation of data, information and knowledge. (Duguid Paul)

Digital library Infrastructure:

A digital library has certain technological requirement such as

1. Local developed database
2. Local library system with adequate personal computers having LAN and CD-ROM drives.
3. Electronic mail service
4. Network connection to have access to other data bases
5. Various functions to coordinate manage the entry and retrieve data
6. Multimedia Kit
7. Well trained manpower
8. Computer Hardware with Audio-Visuals, Video Conferencing Kit, Pentium Web Server, Laser Printer, Scanner, Barcode Scanner, Barcode Printer, Digital graphic Printer and UPS.
9. Software and its accessories

E-Resources:

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. 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 electric form. Hence to cope with the present situation, libraries are shifting towards new media, namely electronic resources for their collection developments that the demands of users are better fulfilled [1].

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.

Types of E-Resources:

1. **E-Books:** Electronic books are portable computerized devices that allow readers to download text and then read and mark it. E-books are also paperless book.
2. **E-journals:** Any journals existing in an electronic format embraces all periodical available electronically as well as in paper copy including the text periodicals.
3. **CD-ROM Database:** there are journals published CD-ROM, may be bibliographical or full text.
4. **E-Reference Sources:** Reference sources like dictionaries, almanacs, encyclopedias are now available online in full text.
5. **Image Database:** Users can assess images online.
6. **E-Database:** E-database is an organized collection of information within an E-database can be search and retrieved electronically
7. **Web-OPAC:** it is an online catalogue of any library. User can access it through web or internet.
8. **E-Reports:** Scientist, research scholars etc. now a say consider as an important electronic resources of library, which contains reports, publish E-report. These reports are scanned and converted to searchable PDF document.
9. **E-Clippings:** E-clippings are retrospectives search and comprehensive analysis of new items. It facilitates the users to retrieve the news clips by simple clicks.

Advantages of E-Resources:

The reasons for actually embarking on the purchasing of electronic resources are generally accepted because of the ease of usability, readability, affordability and accessibility. The following are the advantages of e-resources over the print media

1. **Multi-access:** A networked product can provide multiple points of access at multiple points in time (24 hours a day. 7 days a week) and to multiple simultaneous users.
2. **Speed:** An electronic resource is lot quicker to browse or search, to extract information from, and to integrate that information into other material and to cross-search or reference between different publications.
3. **Functionality:** E-resource will allow the user to approach the publications to analyze its content in new ways by click of the mouse on search mode.
4. **Content:** The e- resources can contain a vast amount of information, but more importantly the material can consist of mixed media i.e. images, video, audio animation which could not be replaced in print.

Apart from the above some other advantages of e-resources may include: international reach, unlimited capabilities, reduced cost, convenience, search ability and linking.

Electronic Resource Management (ERM)

Electronic resource management (ERM) is the practices and software systems used by libraries to keep track of important information about electronic information resources, especially internet-based resources such as electronic journals, databases, and electronic books. The development of ERM became necessary in the early 2000s as it became clear that traditional library catalogs and integrated library systems were not designed to handle metadata for resources as mutable as many online products[2]

Features of Some Electronic Resource Management Systems

- Supporting acquisition and management of licensed e-resources
- May be integrated into other library system modules or may be a standalone system

- May have a public interface, either separate or integrated into the OPAC
- Providing descriptions of resources at the package (database) level and relate package contents (e.g. e-journals) to the package record
- Encoding and perhaps publicly displaying licensed rights such as e-reserves, coursepacks, and interlibrary loan
- Tracking electronic resources from point of order through licensing and final access
- Providing information about the data providers, consortia [3] arrangements, access platform
- Providing contact information for all content providers
- Logging problems with resources and providers
- Providing customizable e-mail alerting systems (e.g. notices to managers when actions are expected or required)
- Linking license documents to resource records

E-Resources made available

- American Chemical Society (ACS)
http://pubs.acs.org/about_category.html
- American Institute of Physics (AIP)
<http://www.aip.org>
- American Physical Society (APS)
<http://www.aps.org>
- Annual Reviews
<http://arjournals.annualreviews.org>
- Biological Abstracts (BA)
<http://webspris3.silverplatttter.com/cgi-bin/erl.cgi>
- Cambridge University Press Journals
<http://journals.cambridge.org>
- Encyclopedia Britannica
<http://searcheb.com/>
- Institute of Physics (IOP)
<http://www.iop.org>
- JSTOR
<http://www.jstor.org>
- Nature
<http://www.aip.org>
- Project muse journals
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/>
- Royal Society of Chemistry

<http://www.rsc.org/is/journals/jl.htm>

- Science Online
<http://www.sciencemag.org/>
- SciFinder Scholar
<http://www.aip.org>

CONCLUSION

E-resources in collaboration with Internet have become a sign of modern age being an invaluable tool for teaching, learning, and research. The library and information landscape has transformed with the onset of the digital era and today traditional libraries have changed their roles to serve as 'Knowledge Centers' with priority on value added electronic information services. Academic and research institutions are focusing on how best they can facilitate research by canalizing specific information services which compliment as cutting-edge technology. With the advent of globalization in the realm of education, there has been an information explosion. Most of the science and technology, academic institutions as well as R & D Organizations have changed their contemporary outlooks towards the functions, operations and services.

Conflicts of interest: The authors stated that no conflicts of interest.

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