

Need of Digital Libraries in Education.

¹Mrs. Kanchan Kishor Shegokar , ²Dr. Vandana Sengar

¹Research Scholar, Dept of Library & Information Science, Pacific University, Udaipur

²Librarian, Bahupal Nobles College of Pharmacy, Udaipur.

ABSTRACT : A digital is an organized collection of electronic resources. Digital library is a very complex and dynamic entity. It has brought phenomenal change in information collection, preservation and dissemination scene of the world. It is complex entity because it completely based on ICT systems. A distinction is often made between content that was created in a digital format, known as born-digital, and information that has been converted from a physical medium, e.g. paper, by digitizing. It should also be noted that not all electronic content is in digital data format. The term hybrid library is sometimes used for libraries that have both physical collections and electronic collections for example: American Memory is a digital library within the Library of Congress.

KEYWORDS: Digital Library, Education, Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

I. INTRODUCTION:

Digital libraries are gaining importance in the environment of computer and communication technologies. This is truth that they are providing us the desired information in very shortest time, but on the other hand it is now need in education field. Digital Resources have come to be regarded as an increasingly important resource type. This is a direct result of the web being used extensively for scholarly publishing as well as for publishing resources of value in commerce and government. Digital libraries serve as portal for huge reservoir of information. The objects in a traditional library have certain properties as well. First, they are fixed – they do not normally change, or if they do, various editions are identified and considered to be different from one another. Objects are also permanent – they do not normally disappear from a collection. In case of digital libraries, objects change as and when new information is uploaded; earlier one is replaced. That is why the information in digital environment keeps changing all the times.

WHAT IS DIGITAL LIBRARY? : Digital libraries are the collection of digital documents or objects. These libraries are the one which really helps the users to get access to the digital resources directly on the screen of their computer itself. Digital libraries are reforming the dissemination with respect to the availability speed and access. Digital libraries have the following characteristics- they store, preserve, distribute and protect contents in different formats and, at the same time, they allow interaction between the user and the contents; they are always present, both geographically and over time; they can make works internationally known, enhancing referencing and citations; they can make public the products of educational process and let them be used as inputs for future learning.

SOME DEFINATIONS OF DIGITAL LIBRARY: The term “Digital Library” is variously defined by different scientists in their own way; some of them are as follows:

Wellman, et al (1996) see a digital library of the future in which software agents use principles of artificial intelligence (AI) to perform “monitoring, management, and allocation of services and resources”. Indeed, they define a digital library as a “community of information agents” that would retain most of the properties of traditional library. Miksa and Doty (1994) take a traditional perspective in defining a digital library, ‘as a collection of information sources in a place (if not a physical place, then at least a logical one).’ They argue that a broader definition would lead to something different than what is normally understood to be a library.

SOME REVIEWS OF LITERATURE RELATED TO DIGITAL LIBRARY: Van de Sompel and Lagoze[22]-[23] mentioned that the fast pace of research results in the sciences has required alternative forms of publication to overcome the latency times of traditional peer-reviewed journals. At the same time, the rising costs of journal subscription have also yielded the need for alternative ways of publishing. In 2000, Hagen and McMillan [18] presented some interesting points related to ETD (Electronic Theses and Dissertations); two are worth being mentioned. The first is that much of the research developed during graduate work ends up by not being published in journals for this reason is not known. Digital libraries make this knowledge easily and widely accessible; the whole process is much faster than traditional publication.

FUNCTIONS OF DIGITAL LIBRARY:

The main functions of Digital Library are as below:

- Providing resource discovery mechanisms that allow users to identify relevant or required resources and their locations.
- Making available various types of knowledge resource.
- Providing mechanisms for delivery of specific resource to the user, delivery includes both obtaining a resource where it is not already available in the library and passing it to the users in a suitable way.
- Provide access to a very large information collection.
- Support multimedia content.
- Provide user-friendly interface.

ROLE OF DIGITAL LIBRARY IN EDUCATION: Students go to libraries to look for materials that go beyond course contents. They Seek additional books, journals, theses & dissertations, technical reports and other items that enhance the learning process. This is extremely important in the undergraduate years and in the graduate level. Research is based on a lot of searching, retrieving and reading. So, libraries must carry and make available collections to fulfill this need. Some examples in the traditional world are the subscriptions of scientific journals and conference proceedings. Digital libraries, like their traditional counterparts, can hold reference materials. In addition they have all the advantages mentioned in the context of courseware. At the same time, the characteristics of being available all the time from anywhere and of cross-institutional cooperation are the strongest points.

MERITS OF DIGITAL LIBRARY:

- It saves the library manpower and funds.
- It helps in Resource sharing facilities.
- Helps the libraries to get recent publications from the publishers.
- Helps in inter-library loan (ILL).
- Helps to reach information of their users at faster rate through on-time communication.
- On-line library catalogue through internet gives access to bibliographic records of millions of books and details of holdings of academic and research libraries, e-journals and newsletters.
- Researchers and Information Scientists will get information within minimum time.

DEMERITS OF DIGITAL LIBRARY:

- Locating the information on the internet requires good skills.
- There is the problem of health hazards associated with the use of computers. e. g. eye and back problems as well as the exposure of radiation from monitors.
- Compatibility and standardization problems are likely to be faced due to the use of a variety of hardware, software, information collection, and storage and retrieval methods.
- Problems of intellectual property rights of the author and publisher, etc.
- Some documents are used only when it is seen.
- The unrelenting invasion of the viruses will pose another ethical risk.

II. CONCLUSION:

This is just an attempt to explain how a media archive especially in the academic sector is shaping up. The digital archives deal with various types of information, in various formats and with different contents. Each digital archive is setup according to its organizational structure, types of users and their varied information needs. When a digital library is created, all the functions that have been performed by the traditional library will have parallel in the digital and networked environment. Digitization has opened up new audience and services for libraries, and it needs to be integrated into the plans and policies of any institution to maximize its effectiveness. Digital libraries are playing a vital role in providing the expanded access to the variety of information in digital format for all level of users

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