Taking E-Resources to The Learner: Modes and Management

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ABSTRACT

An imagination of existence of paperless society is not the recent one. One can go green by reducing the consumption of physical papers. Present world requires every library to function using less number of prints and adapt to the need of fast changing go green of publishing. In this context, the library should see that right information is given to the right section of the receiver at the right time and right place. This paper highlights the role of college libraries in the selection of information, management of information selected, storing and retrieval of stored information and also the dissemination of information. To study this, an insight in to the need of E resources in college library is undertaken. The paper will discuss the different types of e-resources, their advantages and disadvantages. An effort is made to find an answer to the questions such as: How to create a digital library? How to meet the demands of institutional repositories? How to come out from the clutches of the monopolistic attitudes of some of the publishers? It concludes with the saying that the drastic change in the seeking of information by the end user has made it increasingly vital to introduce e-library, the success of which requires a change in the learning attitude of LIS professionals.

Key Words : E-resource, Database, E-book

INTRODUCTION

In order to keep in touch with essential information, electronic resource management system is used. From the early 2000 it has become increasingly necessary to install and develop electronic resource management which will handle the increasing demand of readers. Higher education system can reach its goals only when the proper information and knowledge infrastructure is available. Today the traditional and integrated library system cannot meet the information seeking apatite of the readers. The impact of Information Communication Technology (ICT) has made the library users to increase their demand for information resource in electronic format. As a part of improvement the colleges are developing institutional repositories where the information generated by its members is archived by the use of appropriate software and made freely available to its user. Several reasons have made it necessary to introduce e-resources in college libraries. The reason may be: the print is costing more to the reader and this increase in the cost is a continue one; the print is not taking place in a moment or two. It takes time to print and make it enter the market for circulation. This has made the reader to find some alternative source for the accumulation of resources and they found as an alternative source in the form of e-libraries. The e-libraries are meeting the growing demand for knowledge accumulation at a relatively cheaper cost. The readers are on a position to gather ample information very quickly.

E-libraries and its inclusion:

The e-resources in college libraries may take several forms such as, CDROMS. E-journals, Online and offline databases, E-books, etc. The acquisition of these forms by the library will depend on the needs of the library, the availability of infrastructure facility, financial budget etc. An insight in to these forms is done below:

E-books:

According to Cox Mohammed, as quoted by Lee (2002), an "eBook is a term used to describe a text analogs to a book that is in digital form to be displayed on computers. A large number of e-books on variety of areas of subjects are available online which are either free to access or accessible on a payment of fees. Some of the e-books can be browsed online fully and in certain cases titles are downloaded from the internet. The full text online access to reference, literature and verse book supplied by Bartelby.com, they are one of the online e-book suppliers. The e-books for free as well as for a price on all subject is available on books-on-line-com. By browsing certain plug in free access to e-books online as made possible by e-library.

E-journal:

Electronic journals or e-journals are scholarly journal or intellectual magazine that can be accessed via electronic transmission. Today most of the journals are available online. The publishers provide a free online access to their publications. It is well acceepted that journal that are printed, costs more to the ultimate subscriber. The probable risk to publisher in new electronic age will be shifted in small and medium size libraries which operate on a limited budget. Hence e-journal needs to be accessed taking several forms such as:

– The library will act as a source of information on what is available online. The user with the internet access has to see that he/she has accessed this information.

– The institution will have an access to the journals and they will store the journals accessed in e-forms. The reader will have the access to these stored journals. The access by the readers will be controlled by the institution.

– In addition to the above there are some commercial providers, who provide access to e-journals.

E-reports:

E-report is a communitarian project' aiming at the constitution of a repertory of reference materials with regard to the development of innovative methods in the field of e-learning system for educational projects. There are reports that are that are available in the E forms. These reports are used by the research scholars, scientists etc. These reports are available on each subject.

Database:

A database is an organized collection of data. Databases are created to operate large quantities of information by inputting, storing, retrieving and managing that information. Many e-databases in bibliographic as well as in full text sources are available. Some of the databases are web based and some of them are networked solutions. Web based databases are accessed through the web browser and the networked solutions are accessed by the special installation at the client side.

Abstracting and Indexing:

While collecting and acquiring the Abstracting and Indexing of databases one has to consider the need of the users. It becomes the responsibility of the library to select the required data from the large bunch of different databases available in a market. Some of the databases provide for Abstracting and Indexing are:

– Dialog
– CAS-Cambridge Scientific Abstract
– OCLC First Search
– Ovid

CDROMS/Hard discs/Pen drives:

Most of the libraries are find CDROM as an important source of e-resources. A large size if data can be stored in CDROM/Hard disc/Pen drive, which can be accessed by the users. It can be networked also.

E-resource management in College Libraries:

The Information Communication Technology has made it relatively easy for the college library to manage its e-resources. The colleges can effectively manage their e-resources by assuming one or more methods of e-resources management. The different e-resource managements are as follows:

Establishing a Digital Library:

The advanced computer system and networking systems have revolutionized the expansion, ability to generate and spread information online and offline format. The advance technology has introduced the concept of digital library. This is also due to growing emphasis on the use of ICT in libraries. A digital library consists of:

– Digital Object: They are the materials in the digital format such as e-book, e-journals, e-reports etc.

– Hardware: To digitalize the library, it is essential for the libraries to have sufficient numbers of computers

with LAN and WAN. There should be sufficient availability of input devices such as scanners, digital cameras, photo CD systems etc. There should also be some output devices and communication devices.

– Software: The communication with the computer system is made possible by the use of appropriate software's. Well developed software will always make smooth and effective functioning of e-libraries. E-libraries can use latest version of windows, image editor software's, search engine software, FTP software, OCR software etc.

– Human Resources: A computer cannot work on its own. A well experienced computer specialist is a pre-requirement in the successful implementation of digital libraries.

– Budget: A digital library requires both fixed capital and working capital that too on a large quantity. Systems and software can be acquired only when there is no financial problem. The institution has to take care of the financial part before implementing e-concept in college library.

Institutional Repository and its creation:

A set of services offered by an institution to its members for the management and spread of rich materials like thesis, dissertation, reports, in digital format is called institutional repository. To do this libraries are using open source software such as Dspace. Dspace has made it easy to use and has given a dependable service that could manage, host, preserve and distribute the materials in digital format. Dspace was developed as per the guidelines of Open Source Initiative which will enable customization and collaborative development among the members. In brief institutional repositories create the global visibility for an institution's scholarly research, provide open access to institutional research output through self-archiving and store and preserve other institutional digital assets including unpublished or grey literature.

Advantages of E-resource:
 – It access to many users can used simultaneously.
 – It allows remote access.
 – It provides timely access to documents.
 – It eliminates printing and postage cost.

– It does not require physical processing.
– It solves the problems of missing issue of journals.
 – It can update easily.
 – It reduces storage space.
 – It can easily merge with altering services.

Disadvantages of E-resources:
 – It needs special equipment to access.
 – Lack of compatibility among different publishers.
 – Initial high infrastructure and installation cost.
 – Difficulty in inherent in relating to large amount of data on a screen.
 – Efficient man power is required.

Conclusion:

It is indeed essentials for the college libraries to adapt itself to the changing need of the readers. The readers prefer to have the information at their finger tip. Therefore it has become increasingly important to digitalize the library. The LIS professionals should have a constructive approach so that the e-libraries are introduced. Some steps such as building and managing digital libraries, institutional repositories, open access initiatives etc have been taken by many libraries to manage their electronic resources.

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