

ROLE OF INTERNET AS RESOURCE OF ONLINE INFORMATION FOR LIBRARY USERS

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ABSTRACT:

The introduction of the Internet has fundamentally altered how libraries and people operate. The way libraries operate and provide services to their users, has undergone a significant transformation. A lot of books, journals, newspapers, theses and dissertations are currently acquired, organized, displayed and distributed in electronic form by libraries. This is also a result of changes in users' information-seeking habits because they demand all information at their fingertips. The younger generation of users favours internet resources.

Keywords: E-Learning, digital, educational, Internet, electronic, digital library

1. LEARNING AND E-LEARNING:

Learning is a permanent change in the behaviour as a result of designed experiences. E-Learning is the use of electronic media for learning. It results from the communication between what we have known, new information and what we do as we learn. Education is altering from Socratic methods to E-Learning, which offers new learning tools like multimedia and virtual learning environments. E-Learning is the application of electronic media for learning.

E-Learning or Electronic learning, is the delivery of learning and training through digital resources. E-Learning will extend new educational methods and increases educational efficiency of library users.

Remarkable changes are observed in the recent period with the beginning of computers. This is the era of cyberspace. Printed communication in the form of correspondence, memo, newsletters, commercial brochures, advertising material, manuals, reports, monographs, textbooks, reference books, etc. was paperbound. At present these are online. The whole thing has moved out of the electronic way.

2. INFORMATION:

Information is required for everything. There are numerous sources where we can find this information. Libraries act as a hub for providing the correct information to the right people. The library and information centers now offer Internet-based services instead of more traditional ones. As a result, users' information seeking behavior has also changed.

The revolution in communication is happening right now. The library has several electronic materials available. Information-seeking behavior has been impacted by the expansion of information that is available online.

In present era, Internet has become one of the most significant technological advancements in the history of civilization. Everybody wants to get online by experiencing a wealth of information about the Internet.

The library has a wide selection of electronic resources. The proliferation of information on the web has an impact on users' information-seeking habits as well.

There are countless types of information available in web, all in different formats. In today's culture, there is a wide variety of knowledge available to both men and women, thanks to the media that broadcast it.

Online Information Seeking Behaviour surrounded by the Faculty-members, Research Scholars and Students are wide-ranging in nature. It varies according to their age, departments, type of research, type of needs etc.

In the present environment librarians have adopted variety of techniques for satisfying their users.

Books and other reading materials are available in traditional libraries for research. However, librarians also learn how to provide information to researchers online. Consequently, they must arm themselves with crucial information available on the Internet and acquire skills to select that information. Therefore, it is the ideal moment to understand how users use the Internet to find information so that

librarians can help users to find the appropriate material at the appropriate time.

Libraries are transitioning from being traditional document-oriented to information-oriented now. Faculty, Research Scholars and Students are all approaching information seeking differently. Nowadays, academics prefer to receive information instantly, whenever they want, from wherever in the world. The use of online or digital material by researchers for further research is very essential. Frequently Scholars are collecting information by using a variety of sources such as Textbooks, reference Books, Journals, Newspapers, online sources, etc.

3. OVERVIEW OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES:

The term "electronic resources" also refers to digital data collections, full-text search engines, electronic reference books, and bibliographic databases that are available online. They both contain "born digital" content that was created exclusively online, for instance, digitised print resources, databases, and electronic journals. The libraries do not "own" the electronic resources, e-journals, or online databases the way they do the printed books. Electronic resource providers are the true owners of those materials. Internet access to the electronic materials may be complimentary or chargeable.

The resources available on the internet that provide data and information on a variety of issues and topics are known as "e-Resources" or "electronic resources." Libraries have e-Resource available for users (faculty members/doctors/students/research scholars etc.) to utilise for teaching, studying, surgery, research-related needs, data collection etc.

Information is represented electronically through electronic resources. They come in a variety of formats include electronic books, virtual libraries, online journals publications, online assessments etc. These online resources are source of information on account of efficient presentation using multimedia (text, graphics, images, sound/audio, animation and/or video). Electronic resources provide access to information in the form of full-text databases, electronic journals, image collections, multimedia on DVD etc. E-resources can also include things like electronic conversations, electronic news, data archives, electronic mail, online chat, and many more.

3.1 Types of Electronic Resources:

E-Book:

E-books are available in a variety of formats like the Kindle, iPad, Adobe PDF, Microsoft Reader, and e-Readers.

E-Journal:

A vital component of every library's collection is an electronic journal. One use of information technology is e-journal.

E-Newspaper:

A web newspaper or online newspaper that is accessible via the World Wide Web is referred to as an e-newspaper.

E-Magazines:

A vital component of every library's collection is an e-magazine. One use of information technology is e-magazines.

4. ROLE OF INTERNET AS RESOURCE OF ONLINE INFORMATION:

The internet has been regarded as a significant informational resource that can aid library users in their pursuance of knowledge, learning, research and improving their social communication skills. Through the dissemination of numerous types of knowledge, in the form of text, multimedia, graphics, photographs, music, video, sound, animation, etc., the internet also support research and creativity. In this situation, it is true to mention that the sun can only illuminate half of the world at once, whereas online education provide knowledge to everyone, everywhere, at all times.

Today's Internet users have access to an overwhelming amount of information, data and electronic information services. There are personal 'homepages' created by people all over the world at one extreme of the variety.

The Internet is a virtually boundless source of information about both professional and individual interests.

4.1 Utilize of Internet for Library and Information Science:

The role of modern libraries has evolved from traditional document-oriented to information-oriented, serving as information providers. The library and information centers must now rely on online material as the internet has grown to be a significant source of knowledge. Because of this, the internet has evolved into a crucial component of library and information services. Professionals in library and information science are now required to do extensive research on Internet user studies in order to promote greater use of the Internet as a source of information. The most reliable library resource there has ever been is now the Internet. Traditional library and dissemination approaches are becoming less significant as a result of electronic information storage mechanisms, new access, and dissemination systems and the Internet. The majority of libraries in academic and research institutions are now online. Systems exist, that link users to all websites or digital libraries which provide information on the topic of interest. Document retrieval services from libraries around the world are sped up by internet facilities. Any library user can access information in any format located anywhere in the world. The internet and libraries are now interwoven thanks to the development of digital libraries and E-journals.

4.2 Digital Library:

The American Digital Library Federation has defined the digital library as “Digital libraries are organizations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer intellectual access, to interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collection of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities.”

Nature of Digital Library:

- Compilation of services
- Compilation of information objects
- Support Library users with information objects
- Organised and Presenting information objects
- Digital availability

Libraries on the Internet offers a wide range of services to all of its users. The information objects that supply content in the form of digital resources form the foundation of the digital library. The purpose of the digital library is to meet user needs for information management, access, storage, and manipulation in the collection of content that represents the library's holdings. The information objects may be digital or physical objects that are represented in the library through digital means (e.g. metadata). They may be accessible directly or indirectly via the network. Although the object may not even be electronic, and the objects themselves may not be immediately accessible over the network, they must be electronically represented in some way.

As a result, a digital library can be defined as a new way of carrying out the function of a library, encompassing new types of information resources, new approaches to acquisition, new methods of storing and preserving, new approaches to classify and catalog, intensive use of electronic systems & networks and dramatic shifts in intellectual, organizational & electronic practices. A digital library is an integrated set of services for information capture, classifying, storing, searching, safeguarding and retrieving that provides coherent organization and accessible to vast amounts of digital information.

Services rendered by Digital Library:

Traditional library work and service are being transformed by information technology. Most reference books such as handbooks, encyclopaedias, directories, dictionaries and so on are now produced in electronic form. Some secondary resources such as abstracting and indexing services are also available electronically (Index Medicus, Engineering Index, and Chemical Abstracts). The primary focus of digital libraries has been on giving access to a wide range of digital information resources. In today's changing environment, reference works in modern libraries are influenced by a number of technological and economic variables particularly the increasing use of technology and procedures. The rapid development of Internet and Web technologies has resulted in substantial modifications in the notions of traditional reference services and a variety of web-based 'expert services'. Users are provided with CAS and SDI services to keep them up-to-date on the latest advancements in their field of interest via online search services in a digital information environment.

Personalized Services:

Almost all research on digital library development has focused on access to and retrieval of digital content, but it has ignored the personalized service components which are the fundamental purpose of library and information services. Priority services in a digital library setting would assist users in locating information resources available in a digitally chaotic world. There is a requirement for end-user teaching on how to utilize digital libraries, and subject-matter experts in digital libraries should assist users in developing disciplinary search methods and supplying digital information resources.

Reference and Information Services based on Web:

Libraries now provide real-time reference services through the application of specialized software, bulletin board services, interactive communication tools and call center management software. According to Chowdhury and Chowdhury, there are three types of online reference and information services: i) those provided by libraries and/or experts via the internet, ii) those from publishers, database search services, and specialized organizations/institutions and iii) those where users need to conduct a search and find information via the web.

Digital Reference Services for Library Users:

A network of public libraries provides web-based reference services. Library users get solutions to their questions through e-mail messages. The British Library in London offers business, scientific, technical, medical, patent, and reference services. The British Library offers STM (Science, Technology, and Medicine) search services for a fee (www.bl.uk). Similarly, digital reference services are provided by American Library of Congress, Alexandria Digital Library, Berkeley Digital Library, New York Public Library (digital Library), Bibliotheque Nationale de France, Victoria State Library, Vatican Library, and others.

Digital Reference Services for Institution Libraries:

Institution libraries also offer online reference services. Seventy academic libraries in the United States offer digital reference services. E-mail, appointment, and real-time virtual reference are all methods used by university libraries to provide reference services. CRM (Customer Relationship Management) software packages are used by these libraries to provide web-based reference services.

Cooperative Model of Digital Reference Services:

Due to the high cost of digital reference materials, lack of competent human resources and infrastructure costs, libraries have adopted a cooperative model of digital reference services. Some collaborative projects have been developed to provide digital and web-based reference services to users. The Library of Congress in the United States has developed collaborative digital reference services with the purpose of giving users with access to information from anywhere, at any time, via an interactive digital library network. This network has three major components: i) member profiles, ii) request management software for entering, routing, and replying to reference requests and iii) a knowledge-based searchable database of question-and-answer sets. The Library of Congress and OCLC collaborated in June 2002 to develop a 'Question Point,' the advanced generation of collaborative digital reference services (CDTS) that connects local and global electronic reference networks.

Mobile Environment:

Mobile devices have recently changed the way information is provided and accessed. The mobile environment allows users to access and contact the digital library. A growing number of library patrons rely on their smartphones to get critical information.

Preservation of Resources in Digital form:

As the digital collection grows and matures, there is a need for basic long-term preservation strategy. Only the digital library environment can define the architecture, policies, and standards for creating, accessing, and protecting digital content for library users

Data Curation:

It is the process by which digital research groups arrange for data description, effective storage, management and reuse. Several disciplinary data repositories already exist and the digital library collaborates with them. Librarians in the digital environment work with their research community to make this process easier.

Now-a-days, most of the university libraries have taken initiative for providing web-based reference and information services in digital environment. These services are:

- Retrieving to library catalogue and union catalogue
- Retrieving to bibliographic databases

- Retrieving to subject gate ways in specific discipline
- Providing link to websites
- Retrieving and procuring e-reference sources
- Subscriptions of e-journals
- Reference services on the web
- Remote information services
- Newsletters, report, and journals in digital form
- E-mail Services
- Bulletin board service
- Netnews system
- Reference services
- Group Discussions and Forum
- E-publishing of Journal and Conference Proceedings
- Special collection services
- Delivery services of Document in Electronic form
- E-thesis and dissertation

5. CONCLUSION:

Development of new learning strategies for library users through online information entails the creation of student-centered rather than teacher-centered learning activities that aim to develop not only student understanding of content but also develop their broader interpersonal, communication and intellectual skills. Higher education institutions have recognized the value of virtual space in meeting the information requirements of digital natives. They have now expanded their physical boundaries to include the creation of virtual space with the help of Internet to aid in teaching and learning. As the world becomes more computerized, e-libraries are emerging as a more intelligent and cost-effective alternative for global library users. Digital libraries do not totally replace the existence of physical documents but improve their accessibility and preservation for the library users. It is significant to mention that digitisation of resources has added new flavour to the library users and improved the learning experience for the library users while also increasing their abilities and confidence in the face of challenges in their respective fields. Hence it is concluded that role of Internet as resource of online information for library users can not be ignored in present era.

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