

Digital Libraries creating new revolution in the history of Indian Higher Education System

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Abstract - During the past recent years, there has been tremendous development regarding the concept of digital libraries, the biggest online platform of knowledge that can be stored and retrieved through online networks. Digital libraries are considered as the most complex form of data systems that associate with the digital document preservation, distributed database management, hypertext, filtering, information retrieval, and selective dissemination of information. Digital Libraries has really overcome geographical barrier offering a wide range of academic, research and cultural resources with multimedia effects which can be accessed around the world over the distributed networks. The study also highlighted the information on the digital library projects undertaken in countries. This article provides information to the audience on the subject matter in terms of what has been already discovered and explored on the importance of Digital Library and what all can be further explored. The literature pertaining to the studies relating to how digital libraries emerged discussed in this article. The idea is to brief the readers about the concept of library resources shifted into digital libraries with the help of technology and its growth sourced from already existing literature. The modern-day trends reflecting the current state of the library and how it has progressed over time also discussed here.

Index Terms - Digital documents, Electronics, Storage, Communication.

INTRODUCTION

The digital library does not mean a solo entity. Digital library composing do not stand restricted to document replacements such as bibliographic records but they also contain real digital entities such as pictures, transcripts and many more. The difference between a digital library and the traditional one can be sensed in various ways. Digital age has fetched remarkable transformation in the methods to store the information and its accessibility. This transformation has brought

variation in the conceptual set-up of the library, the collecting and the related services. Novel words such as digital libraries, libraries without walls, virtual libraries emerged to define the libraries of the present era. Concept of digital libraries has existed from the 20th century. It is yet to follow many years of the 21st Century in building these digital libraries as strong and complete collections of records that have been visualized regarding them from a long time in the past (Okerson ,2009). They have now the potential of managing communication as well as collaboration between diverse, universally spread user groups and communities (Tramboo et al. 2012). The services of digital libraries are very much the same as that of traditional libraries. The only fundamental distinction is the digital format followed by digital libraries for maintaining the collection, these services are technologically oriented, requiring less space for storage with easy accessibility to users. The resources of digital libraries are accessible from any location across the world with core needs of electricity and network availability for the Internet. Computers have become the mode of delivering digital services to its consumers in comparison to conventional physical libraries in which human intervention is mandatory for normal operations (Shem, 2015). The online learning environment gives a distinctive stage in delivering and accessing the academic information compiled for educational teaching to everyone, all time, and any location. Due to the advancement of the Internet and the emerging capability for online communiqués, institutes of higher education are witnessing an increasing thrust in the progress from traditional in person education to online and distance education (Sasso, 2016). The present generation of users who are in need of data for studying and seeking knowledge always demand that traditional libraries need to be created and well-equipped with interconnectivity as

digital libraries. Accessibility to services provided by academic libraries in distance education within traditional educational background are insufficient and not favorable to address the information requirements of distance learners. This study is pursued to add value to the body of educational research within the background of distance learning environments by explicitly focusing on the way academic libraries and librarians are providing distance learning library services to the students and teachers.

MEANING OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

National Research Initiatives. This word was primarily made famous by the NASA Digital Libraries Initiative in 1994. Bush (1945) created a vision based on experience.

A digital library is observed as the electronic adaptation of a library that has the storage digitally with provision of direct communication.

Digital libraries sustain conservation in addition to information recovery and deliverance for further comfort (Kanjilal, 2017).

What is PDF format?

PDF format is generally utilized for storing content on the Web, when the size of the file is comparatively undersized and is effortlessly available for download and transfer.

DEFINITION OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

According to Lesk, Fox and McGill 1993, "The futuristic library imagined will be on the basis of the electronic data include text as well as graphics and be broadly accessible by means of electronic networks. It is expected to be distributed".

Borgman 1993, defines, "Digital Libraries a service, an architecture, an array of informational sources, databases of content, figures, graphics, sound, video, and much more.; an array of tools and abilities with users as well as providers."

FEATURES OF THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

Librarian Vasupongayya et al. (2011) explains the features of digital library as:

1. A collection of digital computation, storage space and communications machines collectively

through the information and software required to replicate, follow and expand the services offered by traditional libraries

2. It comprises a browser interface along with a virtual room and society
3. It needs a smaller amount space and the information could be made accessible by means of communication networks to everyone at every location, at the same time as making simple searches with pace.
4. It is not a solo unit and is usually connected with multiple resources of various further groups.
5. A digital library which supply a definite group of people or set of groups of people.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON DIGITAL LIBRARIES

1. Indiramma & Sugunavathi (2019) mentioned that the society is advancing ahead to a phase where digital information can be replaced with a huge amount of information which is available on the basis of printed and published resources.
2. Rane (2015) explains that digitization of the documents consumes a great amount of time, efforts and funds.

OBJECTIVE OR THE GOALS OF THE STUDY

1. The purpose of the present study is to explain the role played by a digital library in the life of student's education.
2. The study will explain the concept of digital library, generations, background, definitions, need, objectives and functions of digital library.

Background, Evolution and Progress of the Digital Libraries

The conceptual thought of a digital library was stated in 1737 by Wells. Wells (1737) encouraged the proposal of 'world brain'. It was observed by him that presently gathering and sharing of the knowledge within the globe is very futile. With the same idea of digital library, Bush (1945) insisted the researchers to think of a futuristic set-up within which has the individual compilation of his entire collection of books, records and communication and that is automatic for consulting with beyond speed and flexibility.

Importance of Digital Library in Education

Ideas of the working of Digital Libraries have transferred from static storage and recovery of data to enabling communication, association, and further types dynamic interfaces and the competencies of Digital Libraries are developed from managing frequently centrally positioned text to synchronizing distributed multimedia record compilations, sensor information, mobile information, and pervasive computing functionalities.

WHY WE NEED DIGITAL LIBRARY

It is being observed that the libraries and the information hubs are transforming from buildings, which have the storage of lots of books and further printed materials to an electronic access to an increasing universal compilation of digital information.

There is a constant need for accessing huge amounts of information to the learners irrespective of location and time

1. For archiving those materials which are properly sorted, are authentic and systematically arranged for easy access and with proper specifications and rights to use. For accessing latest and current information .
2. To have a credible information to refer.
3. For reliable information for further evaluation for research work.
4. For access to hypertext links for navigation to correct sources for easy access.
5. For connecting with extended experts of social network.
6. For promoting their research work produced and to exchange the knowledge.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES IN INDIA

As mentioned by Patra & Nahak (2014), the major functions of digital libraries are:

1. Digital Libraries provide accessibility to huge quantities of content to its users independent of location and as per convenience.
2. At the same time, it provides accessibility to main information resources. Digital Libraries 1

supports the multimedia information besides the text.

3. Digital libraries offer access to network over Intranet as well as Internet. Digital Libraries affords user-friendly interface.
4. Digital Libraries offers hypertext links for better navigation to sources is the special function of the digital libraries.
5. Digital libraries store resources for giving an competent right to use relevant data.
6. In Digital libraries high-quality optimistic images are shown thereby helping the research students to perform in a better way.
7. Finally, digital libraries protect the user information in a systematic manner, thus it make the library operations better.

LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES

- a. Data Size - Much of the media stored that has been applauded by the people across the globe can be not as valuable once they are unreadable. Hence, the material or records that are converted to digital format and storage is done.
- b. Documents Type - In this present era where information is being exploded everywhere and creating a crowd, librarians are confused regarding the kind of records that need to be in digital form and those documents that should not be in digital form. Hence digitalization of documents is very much necessary.
- c. Multilingual Text Support - It is expected that the digital library system will provide support to multilingual information within the diverse functions of the library. This is required to assist the activities such as acquisition, storage, organization, and access to the digital collection.
- d. Technology Obsolescence - The technological advancements that are facilitating the digitization have undergone radical variations constantly. The computer-system hardware, software, storage media and data formats are constantly undergoing huge revolution.

TYPES OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

Kumar Mishra (2016) explained that the digital library is classified on the basis of the digital collection it

possesses, the related technology used for the library, and the specific work or services it provides to its users. There are majorly three types of digital libraries that exist namely:

1. Stand-alone Digital Library: Standalone is a regular library that has self-contained resources and is localized on a local area network with single or diverse collections.

1. Federated Digital Library: Federated library has various autonomous libraries having heterogeneous repositories and forming a virtual library with transparent user interface.

2. Harvested Digital Library: Harvested Digital Library is one that harvests digital entities into metadata and is not a complete digital library but has regular digital library features.

BENEFITS OF THE DIGITAL LIBRARIES

The benefits of digital library as per Chore & Salwe (2010) are as:

- a. Preservation of the precious records, exceptional and extraordinary compilations of libraries, archives and museums.
- b. Guarded informational sources
- c. Provision of downloading as well as printing
- d. Provision of fast accessibility to the assets of libraries which are universally located by means of automated enhanced catalogues
- e. Helping in locating physical as well as digitized accounts of scholarly articles and books by means of solo interface.

ENCOUNTERS FOR DIGITAL LIBRARIES

Harilal (2018) highlighted that the problems faced by the digital library are:

1. Shortage of funds
2. Incapability to take in frequent costs
3. Shortage of skilled staff
4. Shortage of technical knowledge
5. Non interest among library staff for commencing digital initiatives

CONCLUSION

The primary function of any academic library is to provide quality information service in order to satisfy their users with the right information at the right time. The achievement of digital library is really helpful in

order to fulfill the requirement of users. Digital library offers many options to the library users to do the task as quickly as possible. Use of the digital library enables the library to save space of the library and save time of the users. Although there are some challenges that users are facing while using the digital library. To meet these challenges librarians should play an important role. The library should possess to have well trained library staff who can guide the users and can teach them how to use the digital resources. Most important thing librarian should do efforts to create more awareness among users about digital resources.

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