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Article · October 2014

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TYPES OF E-RESOURCES AND ITS UTILITIES IN LIBRARY

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Abstract

The paper focuses on the various aspects of E-Resources. Digital technology has made it more easy, speedy and comfortable to apply the stored intellect. This collected information through the ages has to be used for further research; betterment and overall development of the society. Electronic resources are easily accessible in remote areas. Electronic resources solve storage problems and control the flood of information. Print sources are being digitized. Electronic information sources are becoming more and more important for the academic community. The advent of technology has made the libraries to add new things to its collection. The more prominent among them is the e-resources. This paper presents an overview of these resources, describes a few advantages and disadvantages, and gives addresses of few web sites.

Keywords: E-Resources, E-Books, E-Journals E-Newspaper and E-Thesis

1. Introduction:

The digitization of information in print media has brought a new concept altogether in all the fields of human life and this has marked the beginning of 'information era'. An electronic resource is defined as a resource which requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it 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. 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. The developments in scientific publishing and the pricing policies of publishers posed new challenges and opportunities for academic libraries in purchasing and managing the serials within their restricted budget.

The library and information services of the 21st century are fast changing. With the rapid development of electronic publishing, libraries are not only acquiring reading materials such as printed books and journals but also arranging for providing access to various learning resources in electronic form. The web resources and the use of web as a tool is changing the way users live and learn. While in the early phase, the World Wide Web was mainly used for

push type applications to provide information and resources to users, the development of Web 2.0 and the spread of open sources and shared use concept have focused on user generated content and applications for sharing. This has led to the rapid development and popularity of electronic resources. E-Resources are occupying a significant portion of the global literature. They refer to information sources in electronic form. The different types of e-resources are, E-books, E-journals, Databases, CDs/DVDs, E-conference proceedings, E-Reports, E-Maps, E-Pictures/Photographs, E-Manuscripts, E-Theses, E-Newspaper, Internet/Websites - Listservs, Newsgroups, Subject Gateways, USENET, FAQs etc.

These may be delivered on CD-ROM / DVD, over the Internet and so on. Providing access to e-resources is a service to help library users to find e-Databases, e-Journals, e-Magazines, e-Books/ e-Audio/ e-Images, Data/ GIS, Digital Library Projects, Electronic Exhibitions, e-Subject Guide, e-newsletters, E-conferences proceedings and Web search tools on a range of topic. The electronic books are helpful because of their easy portability and its feature of incorporating more than one book in a single hand held device. The published materials are also available on open access platform. This helps the poorer also to get the information required free of cost and bridge the digital divide. They need not worry for licensing and usage of the information. According to Dr.S.R.Ranganathan, in his fifth law – Library is a growing organism. Library is not a store house of books, it is a knowledge centre. Every reader visits the library with the intention to get the solution for his problem. Library should fulfill the needs of user community.

2. Definition:

According to AACR2, 2005 Update, an electronic resource is: "Material (data and/or program(s)) encoded for manipulation by a computerized device. This material may require the use of a peripheral directly connected to a computerized device (e.g., CD-ROM drive) or a connection to a computer network (e.g., the Internet)." This definition does not include electronic resources that do not require the use of a computer, for example, music compact discs and videodiscs.

According to Library and Information Technology Glossary "Term used to describe all of the information products that a library provides through a computer network... .."

According to Wikipedia, Electronic Resources means "Information (usually a file) which can be stored in the form of electrical signals, usually on a computer; Information available on the Internet".

According to Gradman glossary, "A publication in digital format which must be stored and read on a computer device. There are two types: Direct access: these are physical objects such as CD-ROMs, diskettes, computer tapes, and computer cards, containing text, images, software, etc..."

3. Review of Literature

To set the scene for the study, a review of the literature was first undertaken. Walmiki and Ramakrishnegowda (2009) examined in their paper the results of a survey conducted to know the collection of e-resources in Karnataka state university libraries. Attempts have been made to know the Internet facilities, procurement of CD-ROM databases and online resources, participation in consortium activities and e-resources accessible through such consortium activities in the university libraries.

The paper traces the barriers in collection of e-resources in the university libraries. The university libraries under the study have insufficient number of Internet nodes, low bandwidth, poor collection of CDROM databases and online resources. The scholarly literature accessible under the UGC-Infonet E-Journal Consortium is the only strength of these university libraries, as far as collection of e-resources is concerned.

Jamali, Nicholas, and Huntington (2005) presented the conclusions of several studies that used log analysis to study the use and users of electronic journals. These papers focused the formats preferred by the end users where it was documented that the users prefer the PDF rather than HTML format.

Chisenga (2004) accepted out a review of the use of ICTs in ten African Public Library Services. The review found that, though most libraries had internet connectivity, very few were contributing web-based information services to their users. The study however, identifies four barriers to the useful facility of electronic resources in those libraries, namely: lack of considered planning; lack of sufficient or trustworthy financial support; lack of use of Internet to supply information services to users and a lack of constant preparation for users in new Information and Communication Technology services.

4. Need of E-Resources

E-Resources enable the librarian to provide better service to the user community. The few considerable points are mentioned below;

- a. To get access to an information source by the more than one users.
- b. E-Resources can be searched quickly.
- c. These can be found easily by the user.
- d. These resources can be stored in huge amount.
- e. Amount of time spent on the E-Resources use.
- f. Analyses the purpose of using e-resources by respondent
- g. Know different types of e-resources commonly used by respondents
- h. To collect, store, organize information in digital form.

- i. To promote efficient delivery of information economically to all the users.
- k. To encourage co-operative efforts to save and share the investments in research resources, computing and communication network.

5. Types of E-Resources

SI NO	Types of E-Resources	Description
1	E-Book	E-books is the many formats competing for prime time, including Adobe PDF, Microsoft Reader, eReader, Mobipocket Reader, EPUB, Kindle and iPad
2	E-Journal	An e-journal is very important part of every library collection. E-journals are one application of information technology.
3	E-Newspaper	An E- newspaper is also known as online newspaper or web newspaper that exists on the World Wide Web or internet.
4	E-Magazines	An E-Magazine is very important part of every library collection. E-Magazines are one application of information technology.
5	Indexing and Abstracting Databases	These are the reference sources which provide bibliographic information about journal including abstracts of the articles.
6	Full text database	Today's there are number of databases available on the network. They are either free or with charges. E-databases is an organized collection of information of a particular subject or multidisciplinary subject areas, information within e-databases can be searched and retrieved electronically.
7	Reference database	These are many Dictionaries, Almanacs, and Encyclopedias, which are available on internet in electronic format.
8	Statistical database	These databases contain the numerical data useful for the mass community.
9	Image collection	Due to adventure of e-images facility this type of databases is developed.
10	Multimedia products	These type of databases are included images, Video's, audios and text etc.
11	E-Thesis	These databases are contained with PhD thesis and Dissertation published through e-format.
12	E-Clipping	The main objective of e-clipping is retrospective search and comprehensive analysis of new items.
13	E-Patents	E-patents is the exclusive right granted by the government to make use of an invention for a specific period of time.
14	E-Standards	Written definition, limit rule, approved and monitored for complains by authoritative agency.

5. Utilities of E-Resources

Now a days the reading materials and information sources are changing from print to electronic. Some of such E-Information services are detailed and briefly discussed here:

SI NO	E-Information services	Abbreviations
1	Current Awareness Service	CAS
2	Selective dissemination of Information	SDI
3	E-Document Delivery Services	EDDS
4	Online Public Access Catalogue	OPAC
5	Current Awareness Service	CAS
6	Mobile Libraries	M-Libraries

6. Selections of E-Resources

The selection of E-Resources should be done according to the need and demand of users. As a librarian one should consider the following steps at the time of selection.

- a. To know the needs of users.
- b. To know content and scope of e-resources.
- c. To examine quality of the e-resources and search facility among them.
- d. To maintain cost effectiveness.
- e. To check either subscription based or web based at the time of purchasing.
- f. To check the license copy.
- g. To evaluate educational support and training.
- h. To check the compatibility and technical support.

7. Characteristics of E-Resources

- a. Access to every document by anyone; from any where
- b. Retrieval of e-resources is quicker than print resources
- c. The users can be guided to the document by providing a link.
- d. Easy to search the text
- e. The collection available in electronic format can be of any media.
- f. Ownership not that important
- g. In electronic environment the interaction between user and librarian is frequent.
- h. No defined user group
- i. The software can help the users in retrieving the desired information; hardly intermediate can help users

8. Impact of E-Resources on Library and Information Services

The Internet e-resources is transforming the library system and as well the way in which we view information sources. It has made simple and speedy purchase of information sources like books, journals and electronic publications. Many publishers catalogue tools like 'Books in Prints' as well as forms for ordering documents are available on the Internet. The librarians need quick access to books, journals and electronic publications. Internet access is the simple and efficient method for access and updating the documentation and interface of catalogue of all libraries. The request for Inter Library Loan (ILL) can be sent via e-mail and the photocopies may be sent by post fax, via e-mail after scanning the documents.

The development of information technology and the dissemination of Web environments have a dramatic effect on the user behaviors in information usage. The workflows from acquisitions to user services and the life cycle of electronic resources is quite different from that of print resources since it is characterized by access without holding the physical objects. As libraries build ever-larger collections of electronic resources, finding ways to manage them efficiently becomes a major challenge. The number of electronic journals, citation databases, and full-text aggregations held by most libraries has grown rapidly. Managing these electronic resources involves providing the library's user with convenient ways to find and access them and providing library staff with the tools to keep track of them.

Most of the Library resources in the recent past are being made available in electronic formats such as e-journals, e-books, databases, etc. Libraries are moving from print to e-resources either subscribing individually or through consortia because of its advantages over print resources. Recent studies show that users prefer e-journals than the print. As licensing electronic resources has greatly increased in recent years, libraries have struggled to control this information in paper files, integrated library systems, separate databases stored on local computers or network.

9. Utilities of E-Resources

- a. E-publishing may be less costly than paper.
- b. E- Resources are created in any file format like text, audio, video and images.
- c. E-resources are available for 24 hours of a day and save library space.
- d. The E-resources search is easy because of user friendly interface.
- e. They provide users faster, more convenient and anytime access from home, campus or library.
- f. E-resources can be accessed by the support of advanced search and retrieval system.
- g. The content can be reproduced, forwarded, modified and leading to problem with copyright protection and preserving authenticity.
- h. The electronic environment enables to library to integrate with other libraries and make use of their resources also.
- i. Those who have limited time to access to the libraries can effectively access to the libraries by dialing up process.
- j. The libraries provide access to very large amount of information resources.
- k. Libraries are focused on providing access to primary information.

10. Issues of E-Resources

- a. **Licensing:** E-Resources need the license from the publisher to the library for making use of it.
- b. **IPR:** E-Resources can be easily copied and forwarded to the another person so librarian should be alert about IPR(Intellectual Property Rights)
- c. **Standards of metadata:** There are standards for metadata description like MARC21 but the available e-resources in the market are not standardizing by MARC21.
- d. **Low budget:** Libraries are non-profit organization so they cannot purchase and afford the costly electronic resources.
- e. **Skill manpower:** to handle the electronic collection the proper skills are required among the staff but libraries are lacking of skill manpower.
- f. **Lack of infrastructure:** Electronic collection is supported by Information and communication Technology components.

11. Conclusion

The implementation of e-resources proves accurate to the age old standard that 'Every reader should get information at any time'. The use of e-resources is helpful to ensure exhaustive and pinpointed information. The e-resources provide themselves various search options to the user and library manages. Using of e-resources enable the library to save space of library and time of the users. . E-resources are useful for libraries as well as each and every users of the society who are starving to get a variety of information through the globe. The Developments in the information and Communication Technology services are available in the present made wonderful changes in the library operations. Its advantages are for technocrats, usage of the electronic products improve the knowledge of user. E-mails and RSS alerts carry the information for the individual to become aware of the user. Enhancement in Infrastructure like high speed network, wi-fi in the campus, LAN portals at various rights to use points in the campus and also in departments can be prepared to improve the practice effectively.

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