

ACADEMIC DIGITAL LIBRARIES IN INDIA FOR HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA*

BY

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Abstract:

In today's scenario, digital libraries are facing many challenges. The main challenge today is physical contact with the students and faculties. The application of information technology has provided wider opportunities in archiving and accessing data in digitized form besides conservation and preservation of traditional data. This Digitization of materials helps students and researchers to access the contents irrespective of time and space boundaries. The researcher has tried to highlight the need of today and explain the difficulties and opportunities available for the researchers. The article is written with the aim to describe the importance of digital libraries in colleges, as well as the challenges that will be faced in the implementation of digital libraries as learning resources to support education. This paper also discusses various reasons for Digitalization, processes, and selection criteria for digitalization.

Keywords: Digital Library, Opportunities, Challenges.

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1. Introduction:

Digitization of materials is the process of converting analogue information to a digital format. With the emergence of information and communication Technology and the internet facilities the traditional function of the library has changed dramatically. It refers to the process of translating a piece of information such as books, sound recording, picture or video into bits. Modern libraries are increasingly being redefined as places to get unlimited access to information in many formats and from many sources. The trend to procure and maintain e-resources has increases exponentially among the libraries. This is due to the change in the information seeking behavior of students, researchers, and faculty members. This paper explains about digital library, its importance, what are the opportunities and what are the challenges in the current scenario for developing the digital libraries.

2. Definition of Digital Library:

“Digital library may be a library that maintains all, or a considerable half, of its assortment in computer-processible type as an alternate, supplement, or complement to the traditional written and microfilm materials that presently dominate library collections” (William Saffady)

“Digital libraries area unit organizations that give the resources, together with the specialised employees, to select, structure, supply intellectual access to, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and make sure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so they're pronto and economically on the market to be used by an outlined community or set of communities” (Don Waters).

3. Evolution of Digital Libraries:

The history of digital libraries that is currently or so twenty years long, is that the history of a spread of various kinds of info systems that have be referred to as “Digital Libraries”. the primary system delivering information artifacts in digital kind will basically be seen as archives of digital texts accessible through a pursuit service and enforced by a centralized data catalogue. a very important example of a system formed to reply to concrete wants went on-line beginning in Aug 1991. this technique, originally named e-print archive and currently worldwide called arXiv.

Besides aeXiv, important samples of such early systems were archives of assorted sorts like Electronic Thesis & Dissertations repositories. (ETD’s), whose pilot program started in 1996; and archives of psychological feature sciences papers. Cogprints, (n.d.) each launched in 1997. In 2000, it had been created compliant with the protocol outlined by the open archives initiatives and so its computer code was regenerate into the e-prints digital repository computer code E-prints, a versatile platform supporting straightforward and quick originated of repositories of open access analysis outputs. owing to its simplicity, e-prints is presently wide used, over 250 repositories declared to admit it.

4. Benefits of digitization of Library Resources:

Digitization improves access to library resources. Through digitisation of library collections, data are accessible to all or any rather than a bunch of researchers. Digital comes enable users to look for collections quickly and comprehensively from anyplace at any time. digitisation makes the invisible to be visible. Following are some edges of Digitization:

4.1 No physical boundary: The consumer of a processed library need to not attend the library physically; people from everyplace throughout the planet will access the same knowledge, as long as an online association is accessible.

4.2 Round the clock accessibility: a stimulating most popular position of advanced libraries is that people will get entrance day in and trip to the information.

4.3 Digital Library will offer wider access: We are able to produce multiple copies of requested document by library users. By this manner library will meet data want of the many folks simply.

4.4 Preservation of rare assortment of library: Through digitisation library will preserve resources that are rare in assortment. digitisation improves the potency of data search mechanisms and enhances access to library resources.

4.5 Space: Though' standard libraries are restricted by room, processed libraries will presumably store considerably additional knowledge, primarily on the grounds that advanced knowledge needs nearly no physical house to contain them and media storage innovations are additional moderate than any time in recent memory.

4.6 Improved data sharing: Through the suitable information and knowledge exchange protocols, the digital libraries will simply share data with different similar digital libraries and supply increased access to users.

5. Digital Library Opportunities and challenges:

5.1 Advantages of Digital Library:

The advantages of digital libraries as a method of simply and chop-chop accessing books, archives and pictures of varied varieties square measure currently widely known by industrial interests and public bodies alike.

5.1.1 No physical boundary: The user of a digital library needn't to travel to the library physically; folks from everywhere the globe may gain access to identical info, as long as an online affiliation is offered.

5.1.2 Around the clock availability: A digital library is accessed at any time, twenty four hours on a daily basis and one year of the year

5.1.3 Multiple accesses: An identical resource is used at identical time by variety of users.

5.1.4 Structured approach: Digital library provides access to abundant richer content in an exceedingly additional structured manner i.e. we are able to simply move from the catalog to the actual book then to a specific chapter then on.

5.1.5 Retrieval: The user is in a position to use any search term call to the word or phrase of the whole assortment. Digital library can offer terribly user friendly interfaces, giving click ready access to its resources.

5.1.6 Preservation and conservation: a definite copy of the initial is created any range of times with none degradation in quality.

5.1.7 Space: Whereas ancient libraries square measure restricted by cupboard space, digital libraries have the potential to store rather more info, just because digital info needs little physical area to contain them. once the library had no area for extension digitisation is that the solely resolution.

5.1.8 Networking: a specific digital library will offer the link to alternative the other} resources of other digital library terribly simply so a seamlessly integrated resource sharing is achieved.

5.1.9 Cost: The value of maintaining a digital library is way below that of a standard library. a standard library should pay massive sums of cash paying for workers, book maintains, rent, and extra books. Digital libraries do away with these fees.

6. Challenges of Digital Library:

6.1 info Accuracy: "Most of the digital library comes implement Optical Character Recognition (O C R), that is merely ninety fifth accurate"-5 and it's true that close to regarding five and mistake might stay, raising the matter of data accuracy. Repeating while not distorting or losing info is troublesome.

6.2. Compatibility of Hardware/Software: Use of digital assortment for accessing and retrieving info can create compatibility drawback. Breath-taking innovations within the field of element and software's, creates the matter of compatibility within the implementation of contemporary technology

with the ICT infrastructure accessible within the library, though backward compatibility is ensured by producing firm.

6.3. Authenticity of Information: It is ascertained that several times the data uploaded on varied internet sites, and social medias like blogs, twits, wikis, face book etc isn't authentic , that is additionally accessible in digital formats.

6.4. IPR Issues: Protection of holding rights isn't totally possible in digital media. Difficulties area unit still uninterrupted concerning the copyright protection of the authors and publishers etc. of e-resources.

6.5. Data Security: Data security is regarding keeping information safe .There are a unit key threats to information hold on in digital media, like system crash, faulty disks, equipment failure, accidently deleting or over writing the files, worm, hacking, natural disasters, cash creating, revenge etc.

6.6. Fair Use: The extent of 'fair use' concerning digital resources isn't enclosed in any law. it's troublesome to see what quantity one will copy beneath enjoyment.

6.7. Convenience of usage: Reading the data hold on within the digital type isn't as comfy, quick and effective as reading a written book, periodicals etc. It additionally puts a lot of strain on the eyes.

6.8. Demand Technology: In order to retrieve the data hold on in digital media, use of the devices like Computers, CD players, compact disk players, Disk drives etc become the half and parcel of the data retrieval systems.

6.9. Costly: To retrieve and browse the data hold on in digital type, would like bound devices, that area unit expensive and one ought to knowledge to work these devices.

6.10. Storage life/Shelf life: The storage lifetime of the electronic media is way a lot of but the medium. Storage lifetime of the laborious disks, floppy disks, pc tapes, CDs, compact disk etc is of few years.

6.11. Digital reading and storage devices ought to be ubiquitous: - A large variety of users visit the library often to satisfy their info wants, therefore, so as to avoid wasting the time of the users, the devices helpful for reading and storage of digital info, ought to be ubiquitous.

6.12. Conversion of standard written material into digital type is tedious and really expensive: In several libraries, substantial a part of their assortment is in the standard print type and thence, it's difficult, tedious, time overwhelming still as terribly high-ticket, to convert these print resources into the digital type.

6.13. Need of Hardware and Software: Software in consistence with the accessible hardware is required for the conversion of the print resources.

Conclusion:

Libraries round the world are performing on this intimidating set of challenges for many years currently. The library/information center must overcome the inhibitions and appearance ahead for the betterment of data services to the user community by with success adopting the digital technology-the want of the hour and keep up with world. It appears that the times might not so much once the entire world would have digital libraries interconnecting all libraries to satisfy the tutorial and analysis desires among the short time. However, before digital libraries took over the library and knowledge

network, the country's archives laws must be modified to satisfy this challenge within the areas of copyright protection of information and interference of corruption of information.

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