Access to Electronic Information Resources in Academic Libraries in India

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Abstract - *This paper deals with availability of Electronic Information Resources in academic libraries, types of Electronic Information Resources, source of Electronic Information Resources , how reader can access the resource from the library what are requirement are require for the institution also explained in this paper. And also how E-Books, E-Journals, E-databases, ETD's Electronic Theses and Dissertations. E-Newspapers, E-patents open access, Open Educational Resource (OER's) in Higher Educational Institutions are accessing EIR for their Teaching, Learning and Research also focused in this paper.*

Keywords: Electronic Information Resources, E-Books, E-Journals, E-databases,

Introduction

There are very few professions which can be strongly associated with any field of study and human activities, as Lawyers and Library and Information science professional. The reason is the shifting paradigm of the society towards knowledge arena and the objective to attain higher value of life, abiding by the law and order which govern us, by creating and reconstructing them from time to time for the benefit and requirement of human life. Hence it's conformity that library and information science has helped sustain the values of higher education in Universities', as academician in teaching subjects or by practicing librarian.

Higher education is vividly touched by library and information science professionals as libraries play an important part in research activates. Libraries are the central hub for knowledge dissemination. Such has been the existing role of librarian in the present scenario. But as considering the future of Higher education in producing more researchers, scholars and professional for future, the philosophy of library and information sciences may be used utmost to map and interconnect the desired results of Higher education. The results are more research publication. The library and information science need to be more active in forming communities.

All higher education system has Librarian as the chief administrator of Library succeeded by deputy librarian, Assistant Librarian, Professional Assistant, Semi Professional Assistants etc in a hierarchical order. The Librarian is also amongst the university head along with the Registrar, Finance Officer, and Controller of Examination. These are executive position which run the various important departments and guide and be directed by the University head the Vice-Chancellor. The success of University or University like institution is the capacity of knowledge production in form of research, patients, and its graduate scholars. The Library and Information Science or the library should have well structure capacity to enhance the teaching and learning activities by various activities.

Electronic Resources: The library professionals too accepted and recognized the importance of potential use of these resources for which computers and computer technology is

mandatory. The beginnings of electronic resources can be traced back to 1960's with the development of Machine Readable Catalogue format. Almost, at the same time the bibliographic databases became available. The development of computers also encouraged the use of electronic resources in libraries. In 1990, the World Wide Web was created by Tin Berners Lee; this facility encouraged the use of electronic resources in libraries. To satisfy the five laws, as enunciated by Ranganathan, the use of electronic resources through which a variety of information services should be offered. The developments of technology during 20th century are convenient, economical and user friendly. As a result the libraries are coming forward to move towards electronic resources.

Electronic information resources have dynamic features with which the resources can be accessed remotely. There can be multiple access simultaneously of one resource by several users. They are available in more than one format as per the preference and demand of the scholarly community. In the Internet era, the resources are instantaneously accessible globally. The emerging trend is that all types of information resources are being available in different electronic forms which mean that most of the primary, secondary and tertiary documentary sources of information are presently available on Internet in electronic form.

E-Book: The word 'e-book' includes the hardware, a suitable device to read electronic media, perhaps better called 'e-book reader'. The hardware is important as it provides what readers may need to exploit with the software available and link this to specific requirements. E-Books could be viewed and listened to, synchronously and asynchronously after storage and retrieved from anywhere.

Electronic Database: Electronic databases are the most important and highly used electronic media among the Library & Information Science (LIS) Professionals for information retrieval purposes. They are two types: off-line systems and online systems. In offline systems, the information stored in mainly CD-ROM where as in online systems the information is stored in the frame to be distributed and made available at the local computers through networks like the internet.

Need For E-Resources In Libraries

At present it is need of the hour to provide and build electronic information resources collection for users for updating their knowledge with e resources.
Ever increasing the price rate of the print journals

- Gaps in serial publications of a journal and its availability in the market
- Problems related to conversion rate of foreign currencies
- Technological development
- Very Easy to access, search and retrieving electronic information.
- Lower price per user or free

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E-Learning Technologies

For e-learning to take place, all that is required is essentially a computer with an internet connection and browser for accessing web courseware. However, e-learning may involve the use of some, or all, of the following technologies.

- Computers – desktop, laptop etc.
- Networks – internet, intranet, extranet

- Interactive whiteboards
- Digital cameras and videos
- Audio-video tape
- Interactive TV and satellite broadcasts
- CDs, DVDs etc.
- Electronic communication tools, including email, discussion forums, chat facilities, virtual classroom, video conferencing etc.
- Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) Managed Learning Environments (MLEs)
- Wireless and mobile technology including mobile phones and PDAs

Use of variety and combination of e-resources : Some of the online resources that enhance e-learning and are used frequently by motivated learners are Encyclopedia,Wikis, Directories, Dictionaries, Glossaries, Thesaurus, Audio-Video clips, Journals, Articles, Reports, Blogs, Games, Tutorials, Virtual Learning Centers (VLC), Virtual Communities, Discussion boards, Listservs/Infoservs (eg, India-LIS, NPDG-L, Univers, SLA etc.),Organizations' websites, Online social networks, Current Awareness sites (eg. informed librarian, info librarian etc.), Portals etc.

Develop e-course/s

Development of an e-course is even more difficult as it requires thorough understanding and expertise in e-learning concepts, strategies and technologies. This task can be outsourced too, however, one needs to first analyze the availability of resources like infrastructure, finance, human and intellectual resources. There are many software available – open source as well as commercial - which help in development of an e-course if one takes appropriate training and builds her/his capacity to use them effectively and efficiently. Some of the open source software is - Atutor, Moodle, Claroline, Dokeos, eFront, ILIAS, KEWL, Lecture share, LON-CAPA, OLAT etc.

Use of mobile or wireless technologies

Learning using mobile technologies such as mobile phones, PDAs, digital pen etc. is a boon especially for two kinds of people, firstly, for those without or with inadequate infrastructure facilities, and secondly, for those whose jobs require them to continuously move.

Characteristics of Electronic Information Resources:
The following are the characteristics of Electronic Information:

1. Potentially E-Resources are huge
2. Encompassing every thing
3. Organized arbitrarily
4. Occupying no physical space
5. Full content searchable
6. Elimination of time, space, cost constraints
7. Public domain of information (Internet)
8. Hyperlinks to related information
9. Preservation & Dissemination of knowledge
(a) Faster and wider (b) Backup preservation
10. Archiving the content like Back issues of Journals.

Types of Electronic Information Resources:

- Electronic Databases.
- OPAC
- Digital Libraries.
- DVDs/ CD-ROMs.
- Electronic Books.
- Electronic Journals
- Institutional Repositories
- ETD's (Electronic Theses and Dissertations)
- Internet Resources
- E-learning Resources

Advantages of Electronic Information Resources

Multi-access: A networked product can provide multiple points of access (in the campus) at multiple points in time (24X7X365) and to multiple simultaneous users.

Weblinks/Hypertext: Format can be used and links to related articles, or other web sites, & URLs for individual articles and email alerts when latest issue/edition is Uploaded can be got.

Virtual reality: Advantages taken on the web is to add value by using animation, virtual reality and interactive physical & mathematical charts.

1. At a time any number of users can use theses Electronic Resources
2. Instantly access to documents any format.
3. It accommodates unique features i.e file and bibliographic formats
4. It reduces printing and postage cost.
5. It can easily merge with Current awareness Service.
6. It provides improved access through full text searching.
7. In this electronic environment can solve the problems of missing issues of journals current issues and archive /past issues.

Disadvantages of E Information Resources: Although there are many advantages of e-resources in libraries, there are many disadvantages also. Some are:

- Initial cost is high in setting up of digital library with Electronic resources.
- Hardware and software compatibility issues between publishers and users.

Selection And Sources Of E-Resources

- Online Public access catalogue.
- Web-Based catalogue.
- Bibliographic databases.
- CD-Rom databases.
- Web based databases.
- On-line databases. Electronic serials/Journals. Electronic books/thesis.
- Video lectures ,MOOCs/NPTEL/MANATV

Limitations: The following are the limitations of Electronic Information:

1. Requirement of Hardware/Software
2. Infrastructure required for access
3. Non-Availability of campus wide LAN

4. Bandwidth issues
5. User Education/orientation issues
6. Content Selection & identification for access
7. Collection enhancement and development
8. Interlibrary loan/Resource sharing
9. Evolving new access dissemination and retrieval models
10. Archiving and preserving the digital collection

Problems in Management of E-Resources in Indian Libraries

- Selection of E-Resources
- Budget
- Hardware and Software
- Training to Library Staff
- Orientation Programs
- Usage Statistics
- User Feedback
- Audit Objections

Latest forms of Electronic Information Services

- E-Journals
- Palmtops
- Bulletin Board Service
- Mobiles/TAB's/SMS
- OPAC
- WWW
- Online query answering
- E-Articles
- Various Social Network websites

Some of the Open Educational Resources (OER) in Higher Education

Open educational resources (OER) are freely accessible, openly licensed documents and media that are useful for teaching, learning, and assessing as well as for research purposes. It is the leading trend in distance education/open and distance learning domain as a consequence of the openness movement.

- NCERT
- E-PG PATASHALA **Pathshala:** http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in**.** An MHRD, (NME-ICT), 77 subjects at postgraduate level
- SWAYAM
- NARAM
- SHODGANGA etc.

Conclusion:

Electronic information Resources are very effective for learning individuals as well as learning organisations.It can be a disaster also if not managed appropriately. One should understand that it is not a panacea, but, it is a means to an end. Electronic information

Resources, to be successful, has to have the right fit with the identified learning needs. It does not substitute the traditional way of teaching, neither it is to be used for lessons with the same possibilities but via the electronic technology. Ian Fyfe of Learn direct, Scotland has rightly said that "On the road to Electronic information Resources, make sure that Learning is in the driving seat, and Technology is in the passenger seat with the map. Learning decides the destination, Technology helps you get there."

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