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Digital Library at B G S Institute of Technology Library and Information Center: A Case Study

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Abstract *- This paper discusses the usage of digital library in B G S Institute of Technology Library and Information Center, new activities, methods and technology used in digitization and formation of digital libraries. It set out some key points involved and the detailed plans required in the process, offers pieces of advice and guidance for the practicing Librarians and Information scientists. Digital Libraries are being created today for diverse communities and in different fields e.g. education, science, culture, development, health, governance and so on. With the availability of several free digital Library software packages in recent times, the creation and sharing of information through the digital library collections has become an attractive and feasible proposition for library and information professionals around the world. The paper ends with a call to integrate digitization into the plans and policies of any institution to maximize its effectiveness.*

Keywords: Digital Library, Springer (e-Journals), NewGenLib, Knimbus Digital library, ProQuest Engg (e-Journals), Taylor & Francis (e-Journals), ASCE (e-Journals)

1. Introduction

Rapid advances in information technologies have revolutionized the role of libraries. As a result, libraries face new challenges, competitors, demands, and expectations. Libraries are redesigning

services and information products to add value to their services and to satisfy the changing information needs of the user community. Traditional libraries are still handling largely printed materials that are expensive and bulky. Information seekers are no longer satisfied with only printed materials. They want to supplement the printed information with more dynamic electronic resources. Demands for digital information are increasing. Digital libraries will start gaining ground in India in the present century. We are heading toward an environment in which digital information may substitute for much print-based information. A library's existence does not depend on the physical form of documents. Its mission is to link the past and the present, and help shape the future by preserving the records of human culture, as well as integrating emerging information technologies. This mission is unlikely to change in the near future. Digital libraries come in many forms. They attempt to provide instant access to digitized information and consist of a variety of information, including multimedia.

2. BGSIT Library and Information Center

B G S Institute of Technology Library and Information Center is computerized and good stocked on the subject. The intake of books in to the stack is a regular feature of the library and no important title related to the courses of study is missed. In addition to the course books library houses all important reference sources like encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks and Manuals, Statistics, and Yearbooks. The collection ranges from general to subject specific sources. The library subscribes to national and international subject journals, magazines of current interest along with national and regional dailies to keep the students abreast with the day to day happenings in the world and their fields of study. The library is tastefully furnished and it can seat 200 students at a time in its spacious reading halls. The peaceful atmosphere in the library with rows of neatly stacked books plays a major role in attracting the students to the library for serious study and supplementing their class notes.

3. Definition

Digital Libraries basically store materials in electronic format and manipulate large collections of those materials effectively. Research into digital libraries is research into network information systems, concentrating on how to develop the necessary infrastructure to effectively mass-manipulate the information on the Net (NSF, 1999).

Digital technology enables the full range of holdings in our museums, libraries, and archives – audio, video, print, photographs, artworks, artifacts, and other resources – to be cataloged, organized, combined in new ways, and made accessible to audiences in new ways. ... Digital technology connects more people to the resources and services that only museums and libraries can provide (IMLS, 2005).

Digital libraries are not replacements for traditional libraries. They are rather the future of traditional libraries, much as medieval manuscript libraries simply became a specialized and much revered part of the larger print-based libraries that we have today (Seadle, 2006).

The digital library is not a single entity; The digital library requires technology to link the resources of many services that are transparent to the end users; Universal access to digital libraries and information services is a goal; Digital library collections are not limited to document surrogates: they extend to digital artifacts that cannot be represented or distributed in printed formats (ARL, 1995).

The digital library is the collection of services and the collection of information objects that support users in dealing with information objects available directly or indirectly via electronic/digital means (Leiner, 1998). A managed collection of information, with associated services, where the information is stored in digital formats and accessible over a network (Arms, 2000).

4. Function of Digital Library

- Access to large amounts of information to users wherever they are and whenever they need it.
- Access to primary information sources.
- Support multimedia content along with text.
- Network accessibility on Intranet and Internet.
- User-friendly interface.
- Hypertext links for navigation.
- Client-server architecture.
- Advanced search and retrieval.
- Integration with other digital libraries.

5. Purpose of Digital Library

- Expedite the systematic development of procedures to collect, store, and organize, information in digital form.
- Promote efficient delivery of information economically to all users.
- Encourage co-operative efforts in research resource, computing, and communication networks.
- Strengthen communication and collaboration between and among educational institutions.
- Take leadership role in the generation and dissemination of knowledge

6. Components

The components of a digital library are:

- Infrastructure
- Digital Collection
- Systems function
- Telecommunication facility
- Human resources

7. Planning for Digital Library

A digital library committee should be formed to plan for its creation and maintenance. The members must be from various library departments, and, if necessary, consultants can be hired. There are at least two ways of developing a digital library: converting a traditional library into a digital library, and direct development of a digital library.
Planning includes:

- IT Infrastructure
- Digitization
- Access
- Staffing
- Furniture, equipment, and space
- Services
- Funding

8. Creation of Digital Resources

- Database of digital material that is open to all users over the campus-wide LAN.
- High bandwidth Internet connectivity
- Focus selectively on acquiring digital resources
- Electronic journals, and gradual elimination of print subscriptions
- Licensed databases
- Creation of local digital content available within the university

9. Digital Library at B G S I T Library and Information Center

- BGSIT Library & Information Center (LIC) situated in B G Nagara, Karnataka.
- It was established in the year 2005.
- The college offers Under Graduate and Post Graduate Programmes.
- BGSIT Library & Information Center has 1350 registered users with collection of 25000 volumes of books,
- Subscribed 79 journals/magazines print version, 1250 CD-ROM's including books, journals, students projects, e-learning etc.
- Library is automated with open source software NewGenLib.
- Implemented all the modules. We provide online access to catalogue.
- Successfully Completed Digital Library (Uploading Questions Papers, Faculty Publication and Important notes and Others) Work.

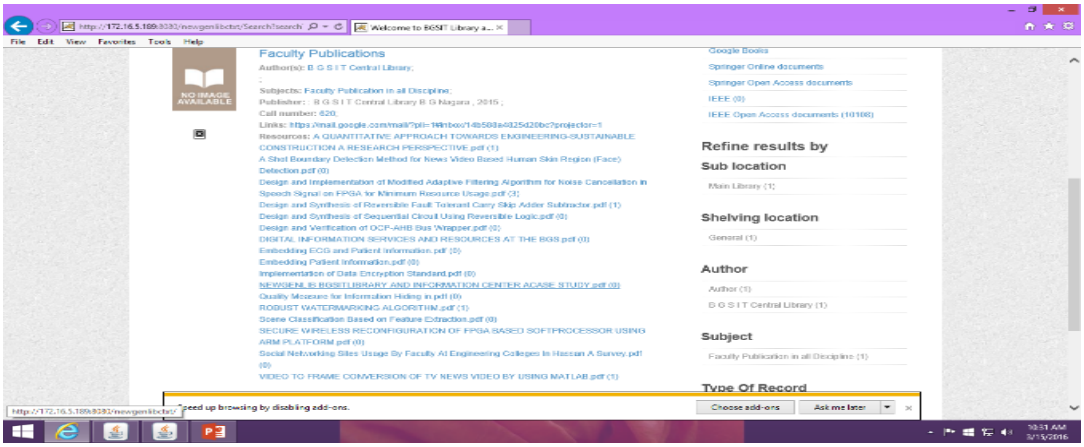

Fig: 1. Faculty Publication

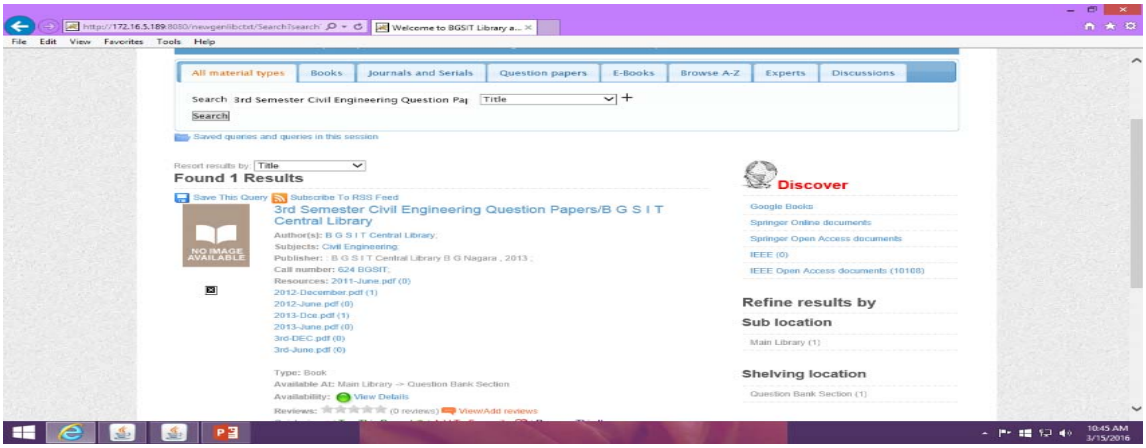

Fig: 2. Question Papers

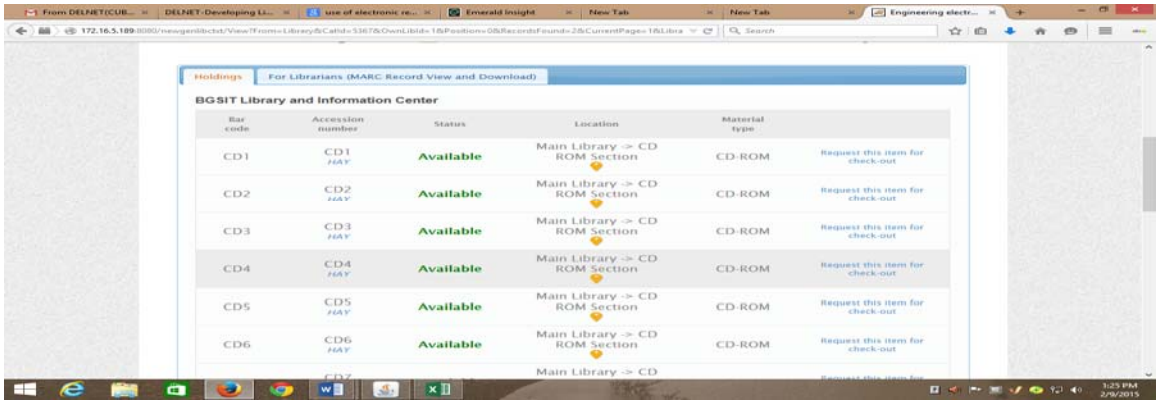

Fig: 3. CD/DVD ROMS

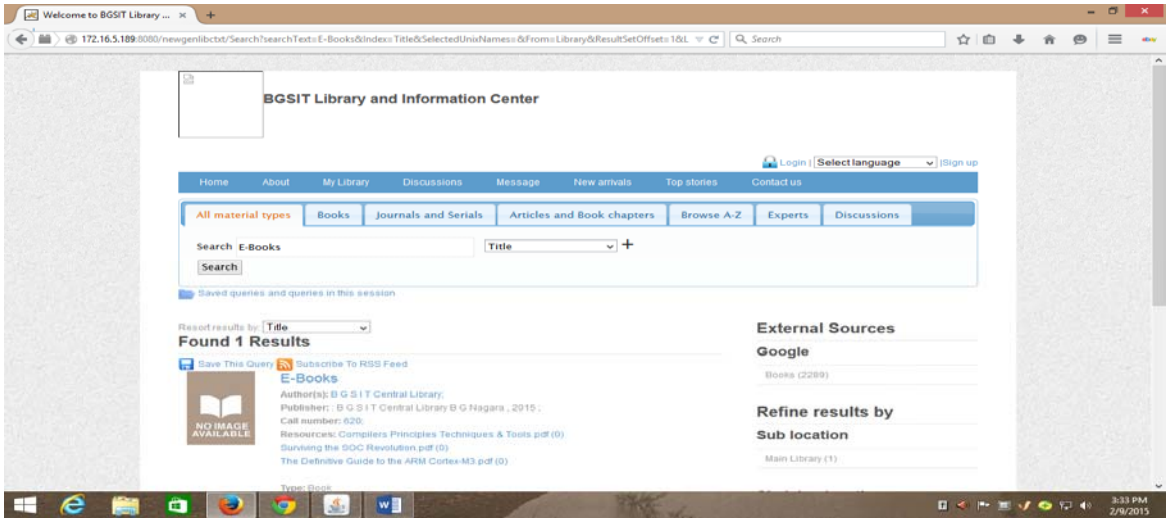

Fig: 3. E-Books

10. VTU CONSORTIUM: E- RESOURCES

We have subscribed 8 databases are as follows

- Springer (e-Journals)
- Elsevier Science Direct
- Taylor & Francis (e-Journals)
- ASCE (e-Journals)
- ProQuest Engg (e-Journals)
- Pro-quest Management (e-Journals)
- Knimbus Digital library
- Knimbus Remote Access Solution

11. Advantages of a Digital Library

The advantages of digital libraries include

- Nearly unlimited storage space at a much lower cost
- Re-allocate funds from some staff, collection maintenance, and additional books.
- No physical boundary
- Round the clock availability
- Multiple access
- Enhanced information retrieval.
- Preservation for some print material
- Added value
- Universal accessibility

12. Limitations

- Lack of screening or validation
- Lack of preservation of a fixed copy (for the record and for duplicating scientific research)
- Lack of preservation of "best in class"
- Difficulty in knowing and locating everything that is available, and differentiating valuable from useless information.
- Job loss for traditional publishers and librarians
- Costs are spread and many become hidden.

13. Conclusion

Digital libraries are in fact probably too young to define in any permanent way, but how we think about them will have a great deal to do with how future generations of librarians conceptualize their mission in the digital world. A digital library build in the image of the NSF definition for the Digital Library Initiative projects may turn out to be a technological marvel, but if it fails to organize meaningful collections or to provide access to information intelligible to end-users, it fails to meet key tests in the student definitions. More importantly, if digital libraries fail to carry out that vital mission to preserve information resources for future generations, they fail in an historically well-recognized task for all major research libraries. Student definitions are not, of course, quite the same as the carefully-weighed utterances of active scholars and professionals. But these students see the problems with fresh eyes and live in the digital world. We who have spent years building up digital library resources may be too close to our own modest works to put them in perspective or even to know what we have (or have not) created.

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