DIGITAL ACQUISITION
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Digital Resources of Information

The resources of information which are available in the form of Digital or Electronic format are known as digital resources. Digital resource is the knowledge that becomes a dynamic resource for global sharing more easily than knowledge in any form and lends scope for automated delivery mechanisms. Information have been embedded in varieties of ways and forms in various kinds of digital resources. Following are some of the digital resources of information by which we can retrieve the required information within reasonable time with speed and accuracy:

1. OPAC (On-line Public Access Catalogue).
2. Electronic Texts and Journals.
3. CD-ROMS.
4. Computer Networks like LAN and WAN.
5. Multimedia.
6. Internet.
7. E-mail and Bulletin Board.
8. Audio-visual aids.
Technological and cultural changes

Collection Infrastructure
Acquire, Create, Convert and Access

Access Infrastructure
Search, Browse, ISR Portals

Computing & Network Infrastructure

Digital resource Organization
Standards, Protocols Access Control

Digital Resources

Modified web based Library Service
- OPAC to WebPAC
- CDROM to web database
- Manual to digital reference services
- Manual to real-time digital
- Reference Service
- Manual to Electronic
- Document Delivery Service

Net web based Library Service
- Virtual Library tours
- Library Web sites
- Library portals
- Web based user Education
- FAQ
- Library Calendar
- Web forms
- Bulletin Boards, Discussion Forum and Listservs
Advantages for Digital Resources of Information

- Information that is digitized can become available to anyone anywhere in the world at minimal cost and its source does not get exhausted with unlimited use.
- Digital information obtains full networking capability.
- Effective searching can be possible to retrieve a particular information.
- Downloading of the required information is very easy.
- Presentation of information through the digital resources can be done within a reasonable time with speed and easy.
- Multiple access to electronic resources is possible.
- Access to information is instant.
- It develops a distributed learning environment by which all the users can be benefited at a large volumes of data can be stored in the digital resources and made accessible to the users.
- Remote access to information also can be possible.
- Addition of information to the collection of digital resources is faster.
- Cataloguing, editing, referring, indexing etc. can be done with ease and speed.
- Education and Training can be provided through digital resources effectively.
- Information transfer can be provided with speed and accuracy.
- Career planning and related information can be accessible using the digital resources of information.
- Above all, the quality of information service can be improved and maintained through the digital resources.
How to Create and Manage Digital Resources In Libraries

To create and manage digital resources, first of all libraries must be automated by computer applications. The basic requirements for creating digital resources are:

- All the functions of the Library should be computerized.
- Networking facilities like LAN and WAN must be available in the Library,
- CD-ROM and Multimedia Workstations to be installed.
- Internet connection must be provided.
- Digital computer Scanner and CD-Writer facilities to be established.

Creation of Digital Resources of Information:-

Computerized Catalogues may be created and made accessible for the users by maintaining separate computer systems through LAN Efforts have to be made to produce all documents in digital form. This will reduce our expenditure in converting texts to digital form. Creating texts in digital form would facilitate in publishing of documents electronically either on the Web or in the form of CDs etc. Information using the Electronic texts & Journals should be created and provided through LAN or WAN or Intra/Internet facilities to the users.

Separate Web page may be created by the Library highlighting its services and collections on Internet which will support electronic publishing of reports announcements, new additions notices etc., and increase the use of its resources. Daily news, important Notices and Circulars, list of new arrival
of Books and Journals, Academic Advertisements, fellowships etc can be created and provided through E-mail and Bulletin Board Service.

CD-ROM search may be admissible to the uses by creating and managing separate CD-ROM workstations for which a good collection of CD-ROMs and Multimedia CDs should be purchased and kept at the libraries for accessing the relevant information after getting signature and data about the CD-ROMs searched by the users. For that a separate register should be kept to avoid mutilation or misplacement of CD-ROMs.

Using the Computer Scanners and CD-Writer, relevant and required images from text books and journals and other primary documents may be scanned and included in the required documents and they may be provided to the users on demand with reasonable charges.

Internet access may be provided to the user for retrieving the required information and fee may be collected for browsing the Internet and a separate data and account may be maintained for the same.

Electronic Information Resources:

The libraries with their traditional holdings in print format, are now being added with electronic information resources in various formats like CD-ROM and DVD-ROM databases, On-line databases, E-Journals and plenty of Internet or Web resources. The content of these sources varies from bibliographic or factual to full text.
1. CD-ROM Databases

CD-ROM databases are increasing day by day in almost all fields due to their many advantages in information storage and retrieval. Majority of publishers of books and journals, on-line vendors and various learned societies are bringing out new titles in CD format with powerful, user-friendly retrieval software. Electronic information resources in CD format include abstracting and indexing services, encyclopedias, dictionaries, directories, yearbooks, back volumes, patents, standards and many other reference works. The CD-ROM technology has given ample opportunities for information professionals to introduce more information services to end-users.

2. DVD-ROM Databases

The advent of DVD- Digital Video Disc or Digital Versatile Disc, with its 17 GB of high data storage capacity, has made it possible to include more multimedia elements like video and sound and to integrate many reference sources on a single disc. "The other features like higher quality of sound and video, higher rate of data transfer, data security etc., are making DVD more viable option than CD-ROM. But, at present due to some problems like lack of standards among the manufacturers of DVDs and drives, need for extra hardware on PCs and their higher prices are making the growth of DVD technology slow". Some DVD reference sources include Britannica DVD 99, Webster’s International DVD Encyclopedia-2000, Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, Eyewitness World Altras DVD-ROM Deluxe Edition, The Complete National Geographic on DVD-ROM etc.
3. Online Databases

The recent growth of Internet and the popularity and ease in use of Web are making libraries to subscribe to online information services. The online database services like Dialog (KR Information) and STN are now moving towards being webcentric. The usage of online databases against their CD-ROM counterparts has to be evaluated and decided on the basis of cost effectiveness and timeless. Few Online information services are KR ScienceBase and STN. The KR ScienceBase which includes information sources like BIOSIS, CA Search, Elsevier Science Publishers, Reuters, NTIS etc. The STN international provides a complete collection of in-depth databases in science and technology which gives quick, direct links to the literature, patents and chemical catalogues, chemical, Abstract Service, producer of the world’s largest and most comprehensive database of chemical information, offers several databases on STN like CAPIUS, INSPEC, MEDLINE, SCISEARCH, TOXLIT ETC

4. E-Journals

E-Journals or Electronic Journals are gaining more importance with the emergence of Internet. The Publishing world is undergoing a revolutionary change as more and more publications are becoming WEB centric. "Most of the publishers are choosing WEB as a an access medium using HTML to mark up the journal content so that it can be read using a web browser. These are also as networked E-Journals. Other publishers have chosen to use additional access software in conjunction with the WEB."
the most popular being Adobe Acrobat and its associated Portable Document Format (PDF) file type”

Internet as an Electronic Information Resource

The Internet and its World Wide Web (WWW) have given a paradigm shift to information management. The information available on net is increasing rapidly and the task of providing relevant information to patrons is gaining paramount importance in all types of libraries. Most of the reputed publishers, learned and commercial societies are hosting their products on net and also all libraries are sharing their internal and external information resources by means of web pages and Web-OPACs. The powerful search engines over net are aiding the information location quite efficiently. The Internet services like E-mail, Bulletin Boards, Newsgroups, Discussion Lists, etc are gaining importance in libraries and are becoming indispensable resources for the users. Due to impact of Internet, there is a swift migration from offline to online, as Web is becoming a popular user interface for providing access to remote and frequently updated resources.

Digital libraries for Virtual communities.

- Copyright: Libraries (individually and collectively) are creating digital collections on the Internet, often in collaboration with teaching staff and in support of academic programs that reach across institutions. Copyright is retained for the added value that has been created, and educational use is permitted, subsidised by library budgets or paid by subscription
Gift exchange: The World Wide Web allows authors to place their own intellectual property directly into a new, global public domain. The public portion of the Web is the equivalent in size of a library of a million volumes, ranging in content from government information to electronic journals to teaching and learning resources created by faculty and students around the world.

Contract: Publishers are creating an e-commerce library, online fee-for-service information on the private part of the Net, that which is protected by password and encryption technologies. In the next few years, it is estimated that 5000 peer-reviewed print journals in the sciences, technology, medicine and industry will be available online anywhere in the world, for a fee.

Discovering the relative value of each of these information resources for the design of digital libraries is one of our interesting challenges. However, it is important to remember that if the digital library is still a metaphor, so too is the idea of the Internet economy, and new options may yet emerge.

Online information, while necessary, is not a sufficient vision of a digital library. Libraries are more than information inventories and information management tools such as online catalogues: they are social institutions that support a sense of academic community within disciplines and professions.

Information Property and Digital Libraries

Today three kinds of digital libraries are evolving, reflecting three kinds of intellectual property management: the subsidised research library, based on copyright policy; the public domain information of the Web, based
on a gift exchange economy; and the market economy of commercial publishing, based on contract law.

The digital library as a community

A library is more than books and bricks. If it is successful, is supports a sense of community among its users, as an archive of its collective knowledge and as a resource for its future. Yet digital libraries thus far have tended to be digitised versions of card catalogs, books and journals, and as such do not evoke a sense of community. But digital libraries might well be designed to do so.

First of all, it seems that digital places can evoke emotional and intellectual engagement. In Life on the screen sherry Turkle has described the way that software and network communications are transforming psychology. As a sociologist and psychoanalyst she concludes that 'virtual life' is emotionally and intellectually part of 'real life', but simulations of virtual life with their anonymous role-playing are capable of supporting emotional experimentation and growth.

Community networks

Community networks are based upon geographical proximity, but participation in a sense of place and community is extended by network communication, such as electronic mail, Internet relay chat, bulletin boards and Web pages. Examples of community networks include municipal governments using the network to involve citizens in political deliberation, or corporations using electronic mail and teleconferencing. Clearly and
traditional sense of community is dependent upon frequent personal interaction, but community networks reinforce a sense of membership by making information or communication more accessible. Many libraries use Web pages, email and lists in precisely this way to extend a sense of access into their communities; thus digital libraries should be designed as an extension of a physical library, not their replacements.

Virtual Extensions

Virtual extensions sustain in a sense of community among a group of people separated by geographical distance but who have intermittent personal contact. Virtual extensions typically create a sense of place by collaborative work on a shared problem, requiring occasional face-to-face meetings, but sustained by a sense of shared culture and profession. Many classrooms use Web pages and electronic mail as virtual extensions, to encourage discussion outside classroom hours. Professions and academic disciplines use Web pages, email and lists in this manner, to reinforce professional values and trade information on skilled practice; librarians are exemplars of this.

Virtual Communities

Virtual communities in this strict sense, then, are groups of strangers separated by geographical distance, but sharing a common interest, expressed by participation in computer-mediated communication. Virtual communities in this specific sense may have relatively little stability over time, and relatively more listeners than speakers. And yet they are of great interest because they may be robust even if the members have never met
and are separated by great distances. They are, in essence, a sustained conversation on a (usually) narrow topic of mutual interest or shared problems rather than physical proximity. Thus many of the most successful sites provide scarce information and advice about very specialised topics.