

Working and Advantages of Digital Library: An Analysis

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Abstract:

A digital library is a library that contains materials in digitized form or access to internal or external digital resources that can be manipulated and delivered in many ways that a conventional version of the materials cannot be given. The collection of resources available in the digital format has become a necessity to satisfy the ever-increasing information needs of the users. Also digital libraries offer different types of services, the procedure of which is varied but typically serves the same purpose as traditional library services. It is important to ensure that information in digital records remains accessible and is not inadvertently destroyed; and hence strategies and skills needs to be developed for ensuring the long-term retention of digital information.

Keywords: Digital library, Traditional library, Resources.

1. Introduction

We have been able to see rapid advances in information technologies that 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. Objectives:

The main objectives of the presents study is to highlight on different aspects of digitization of library resources and the formation of digital libraries along with its role, functions and significance.

3. Methodology:

The study is an analytical one mainly based on secondary sources of data like books, journals, e-journals, magazines, published and unpublished research works in their discipline.

4. Characteristics of Digital Libraries

Recent developments in library technology and practices have helped bring some of Lancaster's paperless society to reality. The effects that digital technology has brought include: Digital library collections contain permanent documents. The digital environment will enable quick handling and/or

ephemeral information. Digital libraries are based on digital technologies. The assumption that digital libraries will contain only digital materials may be wrong. Digital libraries are often used by individuals working alone. The physical boundaries of data have been eliminated. Support for communications and collaboration is as important as information-seeking. Compression of data storage is enabling publication and storage of digital information. Telecommunications is facilitating the storage, retrieval, use, and exchange of digital resources.

5. Functions of Digital Library

- Provides access to a very large information collection.
- Support multimedia content
- Provided user- friendly interface
- Network accessibility on Intranet and Internet
- Unique referencing of digital objects
- Enable link representation to local/external object (hypertext)
- Client-server architecture
- Advanced search and retrieval.

6. 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

7. Components

The components of a digital library are:

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

8. 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

9. 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

10. 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

11. 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.

12. Conclusion

Digital Library is a very modern useful technique to access the information in instantly and in a cost effective way simultaneously multiple access of information are possible. In a very small space huge amount of data can be stored. An **electronic library** is a library in which collections are stored in electronic media formats and accessible via computers. The electronic content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely via computer networks. An electronic library is a type of information retrieval system. Traditional libraries are limited by storage space; digital libraries have the potential to store much more information, simply because digital information requires very little physical space to contain it. As such, the cost of maintaining a digital library can be much lower than that of a traditional library. A physical library must spend large sums of money paying for staff, book maintenance, rent, and additional books. The user of a digital library need not to go to the library physically; people from all over the world can gain access to the same information, as long as an Internet connection is available. A major advantage of digital libraries is that people can gain access 24/7 to the information. Thus, the use of information from digital library is a becoming essential component for modern research in all fields.

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