

Current Challenges and Opportunities in Digital Libraries

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Abstract: *Since now a days online information sources like e-books, e-journal, e-database have increased considerably. The term “Digital Library” corresponds to a very complex notion with several diverse aspects and cannot be captured by a simple definition. The introduction of digital information sources on internet has revolution the academic world. This paper depicts that some of the issues and current challenges and opportunities relating to digital libraries.*

Keywords: Digital Library, opportunities, challenges and Advantages

I. INTRODUCTION

Digital libraries represent the meeting point of many disciplines and fields, including data management, information systems, information retrieval, human-computer interaction and digital curation. A digital library is a library in which collections are stored in digital formats. There all challenges but results into the evolution of libraries of into digital libraries.

Definition analysis

Digital library concludes many definitions are there, William Saffaddy defines that “Digital library is a library that maintain all or a substantial part, of its collection in computer-processible forms as an alternative supplement, or complement to the conventional pointed and microfilm materials that currently dominate library collection”.

Characteristics of digital Library

Digital library has its own characteristics and functions that are the direction of the traditional library. It can be generalized one. Some of the digital library characteristics are followed

- Electronic digital formats
- Organization apparent (a library not a pile)
- Networked (sharable information)
- Fair use
- Persistent
- Guidance and referral

Advantages of Digital Libraries

Traditional libraries are limited by storage space; digital libraries have the potential to store much more information. Because digital information requires very little space to contain it. Such, the maintenance cost a digital library is much lower than compared to traditional library.

- It helps in resource sharing facilities
- It serves the library man power and funds
- It helps on inter Library Loan (ILL)
- The same resources can be used simultaneously by a number of institutions and patrons.
- The same information can gain access in all over the world.

- A major advantages of digital libraries is that people can gain access 24x7x365.
- It helps libraries to get recent publication from the publishers.
- It helps researchers and information scientist will get information with minimum time.
- It can provide very user – friendly interfaces, giving clickable access to its resources.
- It minimizes the duplication of new invention.

Traditional libraries are limited by storage space, but digital libraries have the potential to store much more information, simply because digital information requires very little space.

The E- Publications data can be maintained up-to-date so that the buyer will able to purchase latest version of the publications.

Objectives of digital Library

Objectives of digital Libraries are

- To collect, store, organize and access information in digital from via communication channels.
- To meet the requirements of patrons by providing better services
- To provide coherent view of all information with in a library in any format.
- To provide personalized and retrospective services in effective way.
- To saving time for library staff by repetitive work.

Functions of Digital Library

- The fundamental functions of the digital libraries were considered
- It making available various types of knowledge resources.
- Providing resource discovery mechanism which allows users to identify relevant or required resources and their locations

Digital library services

- Audio and video communication
- CD rom data bases
- Catalogue data bases
- Current awareness bulletins
- Electronic thesis and dissertation(ETD)
- Electronic delivery document services (EDDs)
- Remote information services

Current challenges in digital libraries

Digitizing of information does not help a great deal. However there are challenges for handling are using these large volumes of information. The major Obstacles is digitization. Digitization is very cost intensive.

1) Copy right and licensing: A problem frequently encountered and difficult to overcome will be the one of copyright and intellectual property issues.

2) Changing habits of learning and teaching: Changing habits in the area of learning and teaching is also another problem browsing on the digitized form is difficult when compared to printed form remote access to documents are uncomfortable when compared to spot accesses a disappearance of nascent information in internet.

3) Administration: Management of technical infrastructure for digital library services will be significant obstacle for most libraries, especially as budgets as continue to sharing and the cost of developing and maintaining collections increases. Administration of the digital collection locally, is harder and more expensive than managing a comparable print collection.

4) Uncontrollable: It is also difficult for the users to locate and access the information, because information is not usually structured and no rules or codes are followed and the besides no one controls the information's or data may be different types.

Opportunities

- Learning and improvement of ICT skills
- Marketing strategies
- Improve the image of library Promote collections
- Awareness & use of e-resources
- Knowledge management
- E-governance
- Design of library web page
- Better reference service
- Generate revenue
- Scholarly communication
- Backup sources

II. CONCLUSION

Digital resources have become a necessity, as more and more resources are now being available in digital formats. The digital library has improved the library services like, Electronic Journal support service, Electronic Document delivery services (EDDS), Electronic publishing, Resource services, Inter Library Loan (ILL), Full text searching, Cross searching specialist abstract and indexing databases etc., for learning and teaching. Variety of information is stored on the computer that will be connected to a personal computer through a network making this provide of time as memorable time in the history of libraries. Digital libraries are redefining the role of libraries in society & the role of librarians & information specialists. Digital technology can make the works of man permanently accessible to the billions of people all over the world.

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