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Use of E-resources in academic libraries in changing environment

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Abstract

In academic institution, teaching and learning is an integral part of education system. Besides the printed version of resources in the library, electronic resources play a significant role in teaching and learning. So libraries are shifting their role from traditional printed resources to provider of digital information resources. Rapid use of computers and awareness of information literacy, libraries are now developing their collection of electronic resources. Electronic resources provide up-to-date information which is very helpful to the users and it saves library space and human resources. Librarian plays significant role providing right information to the right users to the right time, which helps the user in teaching and learning in higher education system.

Keywords: Electronic resources, E-resources, teaching and learning, higher education system, ICT, library, E-books, E-journals, digital Library

1. Introduction

Before the development of computer and internet technology, printed version of resources like books, journals, dictionaries, yearbooks, etc. played a significant role in teaching and learning process. But these printed versions are not easily accessible to all and are also expensive in nature. For example, if two teachers want to refer to a particular book simultaneously, two separate copies of the same book must be needed in the library. Instead of having the printed version of the book, if we have electronic or e-version of the book, the same book can be easily accessed simultaneously by many and also can be accessed from their drawing room with the help of a personal computer. With the help of information and communication technology (ICT), electronic resources have a significant role in teaching and learning at present era.

2. Objectives

- Use of ICT in teaching and learning.
- Provide actual sources of electronic resources to the users.
- Provide up to date information.
- To save the time to the users.

3. Literature review

Review of literature is an essential part of any study. Different people and group of people have studied on works relating to e-resources. Some of the work on electronic resources have been done are reviewed and given below.

In the study conducted by Sharma (2009) ^[1], advances in computer application during the past few decades have brought radical changes in the way information is gathered, stored, organised, accessed, retrieved and consumed.

Bhatia (2011) stated that the interest has attracted the attention of the users as an easy source for accessing information and e-resources. Most of the users access e-resources for updating their knowledge on their respective subjects and academic assignments.

According to the study done by Hajara Yakubu and Olufunke Omotoke Olatoye (2015), the birth of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has drastically affected library services and resources. It has transformed the quest for knowledge in different dimensions, not necessarily through the conventional formats.....Electronic resources are information on

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devices such as net, hard disc, flash drive and CD ROMS. According to LendinaIm song and Ibajanasishisha M Kharbudon (2015), at present most of the libraries spending larger and larger shares of their budgets to adopt or gain access to electronic resources from publishers to vendors. This is due to the fact that e-resources have enabled libraries to improve services in a variety of ways. Most e-resources come equipped with powerful search-and-retrieval tools that allow users to perform literature search more effectively and efficiently.

4. What are e-resources?

Electronic resources (or e-resources) are materials in digital format accessible electronically in different devices like mobile, computer, tab and so on. E-resources are electronic journals (e-journal), electronic books (e-book) online databases in varied digital formats, Adobe Acrobat documents (.pdf), Web Pages (.htm, html, asp) and more.

It is defined as a resource which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM, via internet and so on. Hence to cope with the present situation, librarians are shifting towards new media, namely electronic resources for their collection developments that the documents of users are better fulfilled. The e-resources on magnetic and optical media have a vast impact on the collections of academic libraries.

5. Why Important?

E-resources have an important role in higher education teaching and learning. It has many advantages, like:

- Provide Up-to-date information.
- Easy to access.
- Save time.
- E-resources can be viewed form most electronic devices.
- Numerous value-added features like search facilities, audio, video, graphics, dictionary, link to other databases, etc.
- Saves space in library.
- Save human resources/ staff time in some area.
- No more missing books.

6. Types of e-resources

The e-resources are basically divided in two major types are:

6.1. Online e-resources, which may include

- E-journal
- E-books
- E-newspaper
- E-thesis
- Online databases
- Web sites

6.2. Other electronic resources may include

- CD ROM
- Other portable computer databases.

7. Higher Education E-learning resources

7.1 Digital Content Access

7.1.1 DOAJ (doaj.org)

The Directory of Open Access journals (DOAJ) is a website that lists open access journals and is maintained by infrastructure services for open access. . It provides high quality peer-reviewed journals. DOAJ is independent. All DOAJ services are free of charge including being indexed. All data is freely available. Now it offers more than 13,500 journals and more than 41,56,000 articles. Number of articles is day to day increasing. These high quality freely accessible journal-articles are very helpful in academic libraries.

7.1.2 NLIST (<http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in/>)

National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for scholarly Content (N-LIST) project provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through server(s) installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. All colleges covered under sections 12(B) and 2(f) of the UGC act and Non-aided colleges (except for college imparting education in Agriculture, Engineering, Management, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing) are eligible to access e-resources. It is subscription based e-resources repository.

Only authorized user can access NLIST and download articles directly from publisher's website. They can access more than 6,000 e-journals and more than 31,35,000 e-books.

Access e-resources: once logged in successfully, the list of resources under N-LIST are displayed. Users can click on the desired e-resources. For further help in search browser or navigation article/book chapters through publisher's website visit the "User Guide/Help" link from navigation bar and download user manual and tutorials.

7.1.3 BOOKFI (<http://en.bookfi.net/>)

Bookfi is one of the most popular Multi-lingual online libraries in the world. It has more than 2230000 books. The aim of Bookfi is to increase the number of books and quality of services. It is a non-profit project and exists due your support. Thereby this project is completely free with uninterrupted access to literature. This sites is very helpful in higher education teaching and learning.

7.1.4 Shodhganga (Concortium) (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>)

Shodhganga is a digital repository of theses and dissertations submitted to Indian universities. It is maintained by INFLIBNET Centre. This is freely accessible.

The INFLIBNET Centre is also maintaining another repository known by the name Shodhgangotri which is a repository of the synopses and research proposals of the Ph.D. programmes in Indian universities. It has been described as a repository of the details of Indian Research in Progresses.

7.1.5 Shodhsindhu (<https://www.inflibnet.ac.in/ess/>)

ShodhSindhu is a consortia for Higher Education E-Resources. It is to provide access to qualitative electronic resources including full-text, bibliographic and factual databases to academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription.

7.2 Course ware

7.2.1 e-pgpathshala (<https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/>)

High quality, curriculum-based, interactive content in different subjects across all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts & humanities, natural & mathematical sciences, linguistics and languages is being developed under this initiative named e-pgpathshala.

It develops of e-content in 77 subjects at postgraduate level. The content and its quality is the key component of education system.

7.2.2 E-gyankosh (<http://egyankosh.ac.in/>)

E-gyanKosh is a National Digital Repository. It store, index, preserve, distribute and share the digital learning resources developed by the Open and Distance Learning Institutions in the country. Items in E-gyanKosh are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved by IGNOU.

7.3 E-Learning Platform (MOOCs)

7.3.1 NPTEL

The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) provides free online courseware in the form of web courses and video lectures. It is basically on engineering discipline. Five core discipline were identified, namely, civil engineering, computer science and engineering, electrical engineering, electronic and communication engineering and mechanical engineering and 235 courses in web/video format were developed. These lectures utilize a multitude of facilities of the video medium such as chalk-and-talk, tablet writing, power point, two and three dimensional animations, interactive codes, etc. Each course comprises approximately 40 video lectures of about 1 hour duration.

An online discussion forum is incorporated wherein students can post and review questions. Wherever applicable, course assignments, handouts, self-evaluation tasks, etc. have been integrated. NPTEL began the initiative of offering certification to students for course in March 2014.

7.3.2 SWAYAM (<https://swayam.gov.in/>)

SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality. The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all. SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.

It is an instrument for self-actualisation providing opportunities for a life-long learning. Here learner can choose from hundreds of courses, virtually every course that is taught at the university / college / school level and these shall be offered by best of the teachers in India and elsewhere.

7.4 Digital Library

7.4.1 NDL (<https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/>)

The National Digital library of India (NDL) is a project under Ministry of Human Resource Development, India. The objective is to integrate several national and international digital libraries in one single web-portal. The NDL provides free access to many books in English and the Indian languages. Educational materials are available for users ranging from primary to post-graduate level. NDL has

been designed to benefit all kinds of users like students, teachers, researchers, librarians, library users, professionals, differently abled users and all other lifelong learners.

Repository hosts contents from multilingual subject domains like Technology, Science, Humanities, Agriculture and others. It includes books, articles, manuscripts, video lectures, thesis etc.

Every user can access the documents after registration of NDL.

8. Academic Libraries and E-resources

A library is fundamentally an organized set of resources, which include human services as well as the entire spectrum of media (e.g., text, audio, video, hypermedia and so on). The environment of academic libraries is gradually changing because of reading habit of the users. Now academic libraries provide electronic resources besides printed documents because electronic resources play a significant role in teaching and learning.

Information literacy is increasing the electronic environment. With the coming up of e-resources in the libraries, users are likely to build up the information literacy skills. Therefore libraries should organise orientation programme in the beginning of each session where user can be taught how they better they can access e-resources and be familiarised to the electronic environment.

Libraries provide sources of resources. Users come to know the traditional sources and electronic sources. Libraries guide to users for access of digital contents like e-journals, e-books, e-thesis and so on for their academic purpose. They also know how to access the digital library.

Library is a repository of electronic resources. Besides e-books, e-journals it provide e-syllabus, e-question paper and so on. These are very helpful for students and teachers.

Libraries may create web portal or library sites for providing e-resources and update the information which is very useful for users.

Libraries are facilitating the e-learning and establishing a positive relationship between the academic achievement and use of open shelf library books.

The librarians should play a dedicated role in supporting instructors and administrators to realize the potential of e-learning through the provision of service models unique to libraries. Librarians somewhere have found to develop web based modules to support course integrated instruction session, encourage students to actively follow the librarians' presentation using their own topics for selected searches.

9. Conclusion

The library or Information centre is considered to be the backbone of any academic institution. It provides its user the literature and information through electronic sources and services in order to carry out their academic activity through the development of new mechanisms such as portals, digital library, courseware, etc. Most of the libraries are going to integrated fully online digital gateway. It is very effective in modern teaching and learning environment. For effective value of resources, most of the libraries subscribe e-journals and e-books for effective value added services. In Indian scenario the digitization programmes are in their initial stages and much needs to be done to prepare a long term strategy to sustain these efforts and preserve the digital resources for future use.

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