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DIGITAL LIBRARY: TODAY'S NEED

ABSTRACT

We are living in digital age. Use of information technology has become the essential part of the life. The digital collections, services and infrastructure to support lifelong learning, research, scholarly communication as well as preservation and conservation of our recorded knowledge are comprised in the digital library. This paper also highlights on the impact of information technology on the traditional library. In this paper the authors are discussed the factors that will necessitate the traditional libraries to get digitalization, as well as the definition, need, resources of the digital library, requirements for digital library and characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of digital libraries.

Keywords: Digital library, required items, Information technology,

INTRODUCTION.

Digital age has brought a tremendous change in the way information is stored and accessed. It is marked by three distinct features: abundance, currency and easy access of information. This has brought about a change in the concept of libraries, their collection and services. Many new terms viz., 'digital libraries', libraries without walls', 'virtual libraries' are emerging to describe the libraries of present day age. This a holistic view of the global digital library scene covers: the nature and growth of digital libraries, the technological infrastructure, digital library collections, digitization and document management, organization of digital information, information retrieval, users, interfaces and user-centered digital libraries, issues summary, archiving and preservation, services and social issues, evaluation, and the impact of digital libraries on the information professions are discussed in detail. An invaluable text for both students and practitioners..

Definition.

There are many definitions of a "digital library." Terms such as "electronic library" and "virtual library" are often used synonymously. The elements that have been identified as common to these definitions are: Digital Library is a "Collection of digital object (text, video and audio) along with method for access and retrieval, [as far as users are concerned] and also for selection, organization, and maintenance. The digital library is not merely equivalent to a digitized collection with information management tools. It is also a series of

activities that brings together collections, services and people in support of the full life cycle of creation, dissemination, use and presentation of date, information and knowledge.

The Digital Library is:

1. Organized collection of multimedia and other types of resources.
2. Resources are available in computer process able form.
3. The function of acquisition, storage, preservation, retrieval is carried out through the use of digital technology.
4. Access to the entire collection is globally available directly or indirectly across a network.
5. Support o users in dealing with information objects
6. Helps in the organization and presentation of the above objects via electronic/digital means etc.

Five Laws Of Library Science With Digital Library

Ranganathan, (1999) uses his five law to drive the classification and management of printed information. He started the classic five laws of library science as a sprit behind architecting and managing the libraries.

- 1) Digital resources are for use
- 2) Every user seeks digital resource
- 3) Every digital resources needs it's user
- 4) Save the time of the user
- 5) Digital library is a growing organism worldwide.

NEED OF DIGITALIZATION Time is a major factor for each modern user of the library and digitalization is the only solution to the problem. Digital libraries are needed to provide quality-based service at the user

doorstep. In general digital libraries are needed for the following reason.

1. **Easy to understand:** The visual or graphical information system of digital libraries is more popular as compared to text based information system.
2. **Shifting of the environment:** The new generation user becomes only happy when they will be able to read from the computer screen.
3. **Information explosion:** Digital library is expected to be able to handle the problem of information explosion somehow. It will be able to handle and manage large amount of digital content by simply providing link, without actually procuring the document.
4. **Multiple function of same information:** In case of digital libraries by using hypertext it is possible to structure and organized the same digital information in a variety of ways, which serve multiple functions.
5. **Information retrieval:** By using digital library one will be able to retrieve the information specifically for a particular image, photo, and definition etc.
6. **Distance learning:** Learning from home, office or other places, which are convenient to user.
7. **To procure online publication:** More and more information are going to publish over internet, digital library is needed to procure the online publication and to provide link to important sources of information.

FUNCTIONS OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

The following are some of the function of digital library

1. To provide friendly interface to users.
2. To avail network facilities.
3. To support library functions.
4. To enhance advanced search, access and retrieval of information.
5. To improve the library operations.
6. To enable one to perform searches that is not practical manually
7. To protect owners of information
8. To preserve unique collection through digitization

RESOURCES

All the material either print or electronic/digital material which can be stored, organized, transmitted and displayed by the computer without any intervening conversion process, are the resources of a digital library. For a digital library there are two types of resources:

On line resources:

1. E-book, v-book, electronic tax, map, image, sound, video, and multimedia etc.
2. E-journal
3. Local database of traditional books in machine-readable form.
4. LAN, MAN, WAN for web browsing, e- mail etc.
5. Well trained manpower for online help

Off line resources:

1. CD-ROM etc.
2. Audio visual aid etc.

The digital material may be of multimedia types or any other i.e. only digital audio, video, full text information, photograph, drawing, digitized sound, e-book, v-book, electronic tax, map, image, 3D representation etc. including structured /unstructured text, scanned images, graphic audios, video recording etc.

CHARACTERISTICS OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES

Digitization has benefits beyond improved accessibility. Institutions can protect originals from excessive handling and repeated copying; digitization can be a preservation strategy for the institutes. The different characteristics of a digital library are as follows:

1. **Collections:** Digital library collections contain fixed, permanent documents. Not only those current libraries have more dynamic collections, but digital environment will enable of quick handling and/or ephemeral information.
2. **Technology:** Digital libraries are based on digital technologies. The underlying assumption is that the digital libraries will contain only digital materials, may be wrong. It is likely that both digital and non-digital information material will have to coexist.
3. **Work:** Digital libraries are to be used by individuals working alone. There is work oriented perspective focusing on group of information analysts, work being done and the documents and technologies that support it.
4. **Transbordering of information:** Breaking the physical boundaries of data transfers within and outside the countries. It is viewed that the support for communications and collaboration is as important as information seeking activities.

BASIC NEEDS FOR DIGITAL LIBRARIES

For the development and operation of a digital library, the technological environment is provided by the Internet and World Wide Web. The web provides tools and technique for publishing the information over Internet while the Internet provides the TCP/IP and or its associated protocol for accessing the information. Some of the basic requirements for a digital library are:

1. Computer: Server, P.C. with multimedia, U.PS. Etc
2. Software: Any suitable software, which is interconnected and suitable for LAN and WAN connection
3. Storage devices: Optical storage device, CD-ROM, Jukebox etc
4. Scanner: H.P. Scan jet, flatbed, Sheet feeder, Drum scanner, Slide scanner, Microfilming scanner, Digital camera, Barcode scanner etc
5. Network: LAN, MAN, WAN, Internet etc.
6. Audio visual: Color T.V., V.C.R., D.V.D., Sound box, Telephone etc
7. Printer: Laser printer, Dot matrix, Barcode printer, Digital graphic printer etc.

ADVANTAGE OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

The following are some of the major advantages of digital libraries (Chore and Salwe, 2010)

- Preserve the valuable documents, rare and special collections of libraries, archives and museums. Protected information source.
- Facility for the downloading and printing.
- Provide faster access to the holding of libraries world wide through automated better catalogues.
- Help to locate both physical and digitized versions of scholarly articles and books through single interface.
- Search optimization, simultaneous searches of the Internet make possible, preparing commercial databases and library collections.
- The user can peruse them instantly .
- Cross references to other documents.
- Making short the chain from author to user.
- Save preparation/ conservation cost, space and money.
- Digital technology affords multiple, simultaneous user from a single original which are not possible for materials stored in any other forms

DISADVANTAGE OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

New technology has brought many advantages but simultaneously it also has certain disadvantage Costly affair

Technology obsolescence (Hardware & Software)

Storage media relate

Dominance of data creators and publishers

Trained manpower

User education and training

Security against hacking & sabotage

NEED OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES

Some of the common factor which are influencing to change to digital mode are the limited buying power of libraries, complex nature of recent document, storage problem etc., some other factors are

1. Information explosion: There is a boom in the Information generation & publication.
2. Searching problem in traditional libraries: In Tradition Libraries, it is not possible to find out and provide the pin point information to the right user at right place.
3. Low cost of technology: When we consider the storage capacity of digital document and its maintained then it can be easily realize that the cost of technologies is much more less than that of traditional libraries.
4. Environmental factor: the use of digital libraries is the cleanest technologies to fulfill the slogan "Burn a CD-ROM save a tree"
5. New generation needs

CONCLUSION

Digital library is the best gift for human. It will help enhance the quality of work in library. Digital libraries are going to play vital role in this century and are an important component for disseminating the required information. The advent of computers IT, advancement in telecommunication and storage devices and disseminating techniques have given new dimensions to collecting, organizing and disseminating the vast amount of information. According to Dr. S.R.Ranganathan's Fourth law of, "Readers save the time" would follow through digital library in the fastest computer period. Therefore, it is really necessity of the digital library in the present time.

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