

E-Resource: Role in Academic Library

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ABSTRACT

In the Modern era's Libraries are considered as repository of resources. Adequate Electronic Resources facilities empower and enrich the higher education system in the best academic needs. E-Resources user is able to access the information either by local or remote location. E-Resources are attracting readers attention in today modern technology environment, this changing scenario in library environment has arisen need and use of E-Resource along with print version. The E-Resources bring new challenges before the Librarian and professionals to give full text access to scholarly publications both in print and electronic version to the users. The Present Paper describe about a brief account of concept of E-Resources and role in Academic Library. This paper is also highlight the need, Advantages, Problems and Suggestions of E-Resources.

INTRODUCTION

The Information Technology revolution and information explosion has led to the emergence of electronic information era. In the modern time, the Academic Libraries are sitting on the mines of Electronic Resources. E-Resource is the prime attraction of the users in today electronic environment. Increasing the use of electronic resources either through consortium or by the way of subscription & through open access is very helpful to the user and Researchers for achieving their goal. These electronic resources create new opportunities for students, scientists, researchers, faculty, and librarian. A good strategic and professionals approach is required to provide effective access to electronic resources. It include provide clear information to the user about the pricing, access control, the terms of use and linked on the library website to ensure access. The academic libraries are providing good environment and also have affordable choices regarding the selection and collection of e-resources. With the rapid development of electronic resources libraries are not only acquiring reading materials such as printed Books, Journal, Magazine, etc. but also arranging, providing access to various learning resources in electronic form. This is especially helpful to distant learners who have limited time to access the libraries from outside by dial-up access to commonly available electronic resources, mainly CD-ROMS, OPACs and internet, which are replacing the print media.

- Online journal database
- CD-ROM / DVD Materials
- Audio / video courses

II.WHAT ARE E-RESOURCES?

Electronic Resources refer to those materials that require computer access, whether through microcomputer, mainframe, or other types of computers, and that may either be locally mounted or accessed remotely via the internet. The concept and mode of presentation of information is rapidly changing from static text based from to graphic, hypertext, audio/video and now reached interactive multimedia form. Any kind of this digital form/database is called electronic form and electronic database. The information available in this form is called Electronic Resources. Any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text bases, electronic journals, images collection 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 CDROM, on tape, via the internet. According to Barker, there are three type of document used in e-resources.

1. static- static are the most basic, they contain fixed information and never change.
2. Dynamic-Dynamic documents also contain fixed information but also able to change their outward form, the way embedded material is presented to users (such as multimedia CD-ROMs)
3. Living –living documents are able to change both their form and this embedded information (such as information contain on the web.)

III.DEFINITION

According to oxford English dictionary Electronic Resource means:

- Information (usually a file) which can be stored in the form of electrical signals usually, but not necessarily, on a computer.
- Information available on the internet.

AACR 2 Ruled state “ Electronic Resources consist of data (information representing numbers text, graphics, images, maps, moving images, music, sound, etc.) ,Programs or combination of data and programs.”

IV.NEED AND USE OF E-RESOURCE IN ACADEMIC LIBRARY

In Academic Libraries, libraries faced with the challenges of providing better services with decreased budget. E-Resource can become an excellent way in the process of collection, digitizing and providing information to the user in easy way. The Electronic Resources provide them quick and up-to date information .The library should provide computers with internet facility to the users to access E-Resources. E-Resource technology creates unprecedented opportunities for the library in the way they organize and make easy to charge and discharge of library development activities. The inter library loan facilities via internet, makes the speedy and deliberate knowledge resources. The E-Resource is needed for also researchers to prefer easy access to complex information space, including easy access to full text and reference linking. Abstracting and indexing services have started to manage the impact of electronic publishing on their print oriented practices. We replace our academic library with CDs, DVDs, and digital resources or on line resources instead of books and magazines. Almost all the academic libraries are providing internet access to their users or readers.

E-Resources are needed for academic library with following reason.

1st International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research (ICMR-2018)



NIILM University, Kaithal, Haryana, (India)



4th-5th August 2018

www.conferenceworld.in

ISBN:978-93-87793-38-5

- Information explosion
- Diversity of user needs
- Financial crunch
- Impossibility of self sufficiency
- E-journal Facilities to build up digital libraries
- Multi-access 24x7 to many user
- Security
- Quick searching / browse
- Information content in mix media, like images, video, audio, animation etc.
- Borderless
- User friendly interface

V.E-RESOURCES ACCESS FACILITIES IN ACADEMIC LIBRARY

Academic libraries are changing dramatically by adopting new means of technology in all activities of print to E-Environment. In Academic library , various access facilities provided according to the needs and demand of users like Cyber library, faculty room , OFF –Campus access to E-Resources, Uses of OPAC, Access consortia database, access to institutional Repository, access to the electronic theses and dissertations etc. An Academic library has to function as a central gateway for library to users to access, locate, transform, and utilize information resources in a variety of printed and electronic formats via applications databases, networks platforms and systems.

VI.TYPES OF E-RESOURCE

- E-Journals
- E-data archives
- E-manuscripts
- E-maps
- E-books
- E-magazines
- E-thesis
- E-newspaper
- E-mail
- E-research reports
- E-bibliographic database
- E-News
- CD-ROM
- E-Images

- E-music and Sound Recording

VII.ADVANTAGES OF E-RESOURCES

- The user can specify his or her needs dynamically.
- The information is obtained when it is wanted, so becomes “just in time” rather than “just in case”.
- The user selects only the information needed to answer the specific question and, finally, the information is only stored should the user wish.
- Any information generates or gets published and reaches the subscribers much before their print counterpart.
- Any articles can be downloaded and printed simultaneously by more than one reader.
- Multiple and remote access makes it available at one’s desk.
- E-resource is a boon for a huge campus where there are hundreds of readers with many departments.
- There are good numbers of e-journals, e-magazines and books available free of cost.so that E-Resources are very important for all users and researcher.
- One main advantage, especially to distance learners or those with limited time to access the library, is their availability from outside the library by dial-up access.
- Speed of access to the latest information.
- Easy and effective retrieval search.
- Vast statistical data.
- Users indicated the specificity, quality and reliability of certain electronic resources, such as govt. sites and e- journal.
- Many users cited the usability features of electronic information resources. They enjoy the convenience of saving and printing, the frequency of updating.
- Disciplinary and Research topic specificity.

VIII.PROBLEMS IN ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

To phase the new information explosion, academic libraries will have to meet more challenges and opportunities to serve students, and users. And also face many problems like.

- Technology changes.
- Information explosion on the internet.
- Political & social constraints.
- Preservation.
- Lack of manpower training.
- Legal issues.
- Lack of professional skills key skill for digital librarians

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- Lack of resources.
- Lack of co-operation amongst librarians.
- Limited access.
- Lack of expertise.
- Lack of awareness.
- Inadequate number of system
- Inadequate library fund.
- Lack of cooperation of staff members.

IX.SUGGESTIONS

In order to improve the facilities and services for effective use of Electronic Resources in the library a number of suggestions can be made.

- User training is essential for the better use of electronic resources in the library.
- E-resource users should be taught about advanced search strategies and the use of controlled vocabulary to make electronic search process much easier.
- An electronic document delivery should also be introduced in to the library at the earliest opportunity.
- The library should also identify the non-user of electronic resources and proper steps should be taken to convert them into potential users of the resources.
- The library management therefore needs to conduct user study programs to know about electronic resource needs of users.

X.CONCLUSION

Academic libraries in India are facing challenges due to budget cut, reduced staff, and devaluation of rupees. The Electronic Resources are very helpful for the researchers and academic community in present time. However, in order to meet the increasing demand of user community in a digital environment, libraries have to develop ways to manage access to materials available in electronic format. The growth of E-Resources and the complexity in managing these resources has new challenges for LIS Professionals. Uses of E-Resources or digital Resources should be promoted in higher education or Research level. At last we say that E-Resources plays very important role in developing academic library and providing user satisfaction according to their needs.

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