

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES: A NEW TOOL FOR INFORMATION SEEKERS

Mr. Amol S. Chawande

Librarian, GES College of Education, Sangamner. E-mail Id.: amolchawande@rediffmail.com

Abstract:

In the age of information libraries are connected to a vast ocean of Internet based services through various network. Electronic resources relevant to subjects are increasing at high speed, for supporting teaching, research and other academic activities every library need to connected with these resources. For providing effective service to the users of library all library professionals need to create, disseminate, store, manage information with the help of technology like, computers, software, and internet.

An online resources access by libraries through Internet to locate information stored in other computers around the world. With online searching facility users can access databases to retrieve information stored in different location using web-pages. In the advancement of information and communication technology users can access these databases from home, office or even in travelling with the help of computer connected to internet. Most of the electronic databases are emerged after 1990's.

Keywords: *Electronic Resources, Electronic Databases*

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Introduction:

From the ancient time academic libraries are always considered to be the brain of academic institutions and suppose to guide teaching, research, and other academic programs. As libraries are the repositories of knowledge so it becomes an important part of education. In the 21st century libraries are connected to each other with the help of network which is vast ocean of internet-based services and it becomes an important asset for any academic library. From last two-decade information in the form of electronic resources relevant to the subjects are developing at an unprecedented pace. Online technologies are a multiple set of technological tools and resources used in it, that used to communicate, create, disseminate, store, manage information, various telecommunications technologies, such as telephone, cable, satellite, TV and radio, computer-mediated, conferencing and videoconferencing, as well as digital technologies, such as computers, information networks and software applications are used in electronic resources.

Users can access his/her desired information from any part of world in online resource and it helps to locate, store and retrieve the information. With online search facilities, information stored at different locations could be easily retrieved by using web pages, e-mail, and CD-ROM in the libraries. Proper staff and equipment's are needed to cop up with these resources, so that digital information can easily be accessible to the users. Information and Communication Technologies have transformed most of the libraries that moved from early stage of automating, the library operations are in the stage of almost all spheres of library services and routines. Digitization of library resources, which converts print resources into electronic form, means that such information can be accessed from home, office or any

workstation connected to the internet.

With the advent of these resources the challenge for the libraries to provide authentic information to a right user at a right time. In the last few decades libraries have undergone a great transformation in their infrastructure, collection, operations as well as services. The digital medium has become most preferred choice for most of the present-day users, as it has become quite easy to form, obtain, access, process, systematize, accumulate, retrieve, allocate, spread and communicate. These resources have now become a need of the hour for users as well as essential part of academic libraries.

Definitions:

According to AACR2, 2005 Update, an electronic resource is: "Material (data and/or program(s)) encoded for manipulation by a computerized device. This material may require the use of a peripheral directly connected to a computerized device (e.g., CD-ROM drive) or a connection to a computer network (e.g., the Internet)." This definition does not include electronic resources that do not require the use of a computer, for example, music compact discs and videodiscs.

"The term E-Resources used to describe all of the information products that a library provides through a computer network. This includes electronic books, Journals, bibliographic database and library websites pages."

According to Library and Information Technology Glossary "Term used to describe all of the information products that a library provides through a computer network... .."

According to Gradman glossary, "A publication in digital format which must be stored and read on a computer device. There are two types: Direct access: these are physical objects such as CD-ROMs, diskettes, computer tapes, and computer cards, containing text, images, software etc".

Types of Electronic Resources:

1. E-Book E-books is the many formats competing for prime time, including Adobe PDF, Microsoft Reader, eReader, Mobipocket Reader, EPUB, Kindle and iPad
2. E-Journal An e-journal is very important part of every library collection. E-journals are one application of information technology.
3. E-Newspaper An E- newspaper is also known as online newspaper or web newspaper that exists on the World Wide Web or internet.
4. E-Magazines An E-Magazine is very important part of every library collection. EMagazines are one application of information technology.
5. Indexing and Abstracting Databases These are the reference sources which provide bibliographic information about journal including abstracts of the articles.
6. Full text database Today are either free or with charges. E-databases is an organized collection of information of a particular subject or multidisciplinary subject areas, information within e-databases can be searched and retrieved electronically.
7. Reference database These are many Dictionaries, Almanacs, and Encyclopedias, which are available on internet in electronic format.
8. Statistical database These databases contain the numerical data useful for the mass community.
9. Image collection Due to adventure of e-images facility this type of databases is developed.
10. Multimedia products : These types of databases are included images, video's, audio, text etc.

11. E-Thesis These databases are contained with PhD thesis and Dissertation published through e-format.
12. E-Clipping The main objective of e-clipping is retrospective search and comprehensive analysis of new items.
13. E-Patents E-patents is the exclusive right granted by the government to make use of an invention for a specific period of time.
14. E-Standards Written definition, limit rule, approved and monitored for complains by authoritative agency

Need of electronic Resources:

- ❖ E-Resources are helpful for library users also it will help to library staff for providing effective and efficient services to their users some of important points are given bellow;
- ❖ Easily accessible to users.
- ❖ More than one user can access at a time same information.
- ❖ Searching of information in e-resources are quicker than traditional resources.
- ❖ Know different types of e-resources commonly used by respondents
- ❖ These resources can be stored in huge amount.
- ❖ Analyses the purpose of using electronic resources by users
- ❖ To collect, store, organize information in digital format
- ❖ To promote efficient delivery of information economically to all the users.
- ❖ To encourage co-operative efforts to save and share the investments in research resources, computing and communication network.

Selections of Electronic Resources:

According to the need and demands from the users the selection of electronic resources should be done by library professionals. As a librarian one should consider the following steps at the time of selection.

- ❖ To know the need of users is important for select proper electronic resource by librarian.
- ❖ To know scope and content of electronic resources.
- ❖ Searching facility provided by electronic resources is important factor for selecting it.
- ❖ To maintain cost effectiveness.
- ❖ To check either subscription based or web based at the time of purchasing.
- ❖ To check the license copy.
- ❖ To evaluate educational support and training.
- ❖ To check the compatibility and technical support.

Characteristics of Electronic Resources:

- a. Interaction between user and library staff is frequent.
- b. Any user can access required information from any part of world 24 by 7
- c. Retrieval of required information from e-resources is faster than traditional print material
- d. Searching is easy
- e. By using link users can access their required information provided by electronic resources.
- f. No defined user groups
- g. The information available in electronic format is available in any media format like video, audio, pdf etc.
- h. Ownership not that important
- i. The software can help the users in retrieving the desired information; hardly intermediate can help users

Advantages of Electronic Resources

- ❖ Cost effectiveness is easily achieved in electronic resources.
- ❖ It saves space of library
- ❖ E- Resources are created in any file format like text, audio, video and images.
- ❖ E-resources are available 24 by 7 and throughout 365 days .
- ❖ Due to user friendly interface, it will easy to search information for users.
- ❖ From any location user can access their desired information.
- ❖ Using advance search and retrieval techniques electronic resources can be easily access.
- ❖ The content can be reproduced, forwarded, modified and leading to problem with copyright protection and preserving authenticity.
- ❖ With the help of network more than one library can share their resources for their users
- ❖ The libraries provide access to very large amount of information resources.
- ❖ As we all know regular print resources need to published time which is not required in e-resources so current information can be access by users using it.
- ❖ Subject can be searched across the title.

Disadvantages of Electronic Resources:

- ❖ Cost of electronic resources is main hurdle for many libraries as library is a non-profit organization so they cannot purchase and afford the costly electronic resources.
- ❖ Many users are not familiar with ICT component and all electronic resources are working on this platform.
- ❖ For accessing e-resources license agreement is needed between supplier or publisher of e-resources and library which is tedious and legal issue.
- ❖ If a library cancels or stops subscription to an e- journal, it is not certain that the library will get access to back issues of that journal. On the other hand, when library stops subscription for the printed Journals, the library of e- books too, if a library stops subscription to e- books, it is denied access to the e- book, whereas the physical copy once bought always remains in the possession of the library.
- ❖ Providing IPR information to library users is most important task before library personnel because violation of IPR in electronic resources is easily possible.
- ❖ There are standards for metadata description like MARC21 but the available e-resources in the market are not standardizing by MARC21.
- ❖ Skill manpower is the basic requirement for providing electronic based services and libraries are facing skill manpower.

Impact of electronic resources on library and information services:

Due to electronic resources library services and its functions are transforming also electronic resources upgrade the format of information sources. As electronic resources are published electronic format it is easy to purchase and can be share through internet very fast. All publishers provide publishers catalogue as well as form for ordering documents are available on the internet. Most of the library need fast and secure access of electronic resources for their users. Internet access is the simple and efficient method for access and updating the documentation and interface of catalogue of all libraries. In electronic resources Inter Library Loan facility can be provide effectively as demand from other

library received on e-mail required information can be send in the form of pdf thought e-mail or if needed scan document also can be share through e-mail.

With the help of electronic resources behaviour of the users changes dramatically and it happens due to change in the discrimination of information in the form of digital format and web environment. As libraries build ever-larger collections of electronic resources, finding ways to manage them efficiently becomes a major challenge. The workflows from acquisitions to user services and the life cycle of electronic resources is quite different from that of print resources since it is characterized by access without holding the physical objects. Now a days near about all libraries acquired electronic journals, full-text databases and other digital resources for their users and also users are very well acquainted with these resources. Electronic resources provide very effective management system with the help of these system library can manage their electronic resources very well and keep track on the usage of electronic resources by their users. Most of the Library resources in the recent past are being made available in electronic formats such as e-journals, e-books, databases, etc. Libraries are moving from print to electronic resources either subscribing individually or through consortia because of its advantages over print resources. As users are familiar with the electronic environment now a days uses prefer electronic resources for the studies and research. As licensing electronic resources has greatly increased in recent years, libraries have struggled to control this information in paper files, integrated library systems, separate databases stored on local computers or network.

Conclusion:

Library services are shifted from manual to digital services in today's digital environment. Electronic databases are playing very important role in digital services and it will become popular and users friendly due to their structure. While maintaining electronic resources library staff needs to be upgrade their self in basic computer technology and learn new things related to basic computer usage. Electronic resources are very effective in respect of searching information and retrieving related information. Most important thing related to electronic resources is, we can retrieve current information related to search which is very useful in science and technology field. Though there are some disadvantages of electronic resources still it is very effective tool for library services in large perspective.

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