THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES IN INDIA: IN PRESENT ERA

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ABSTRACT

In the present Era Digital Libraries are increasing day by day in India. The developed and developing countries are digitizing their collections in whatever way their resources allow. The Digital Library provides ready access to high demand materials.   User can be retrieved information easily. The information stored in libraries has taken a major shift from volume- limiting paper to limitless multimedia Digital form. At present time the cost of digitization is decreasing therefore many libraries will start to be digitized to take the great challenges of information technology.

Keywords: *Digital Library, IT, ICT, Digitization.*

INTRODUCTION

The digital revolution has altered the way societies function at the global, national,local level. In this revolution we have seen certain changes information field especially in relation to collection, storing, processing and transmitting of information.The Digital Library development movement is probably the most perplexing and promising development for libraries since the beginning of automation. It is great challenge specially for the developing countries which face problems of shrinking budgets, high initial and recurring expenditure and social and economic problems of illiterate population growth, insufficient resources for development and poor infrastructure. However, it is the wave of the future and the libraries in both developed and developing countries are digitizing their collections in whatever way their resources allow.

In India, on September 8, 2004, the President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam officially launched the portal of the Digital Library of India. On September 13 at Dares Salaam University of Tanzania he announced that India has digitized 80,000 books.

Another development in India is INFLIBNET (Information and Library network Centre http://www.inflibnet.ac.in), an interuniversity centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India.

The Ministry of Human Resources Development has set up the Indian National Digital Library in the Engineering Science and Technology (INDEST) Consortium.

DEFINITION OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

Digital Library Federation (DLF) Says Digital libraries are organisations that provide the rosources including the specialised staff, to select, structure, offer intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve and ensure the persistance over time of

collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities.

According to wiederhold A digital library is popularly viewed as an electronic version of a library where storage is in digital form allowing direct communication to obtain material and copying it from a master version.

According to Lesk (1997) Digital libraries are organized collections of digital information. They combine the structuring and gathered of information which libraries and archives have always done, with the digital representation the computers have made possible.

REQUIREMENT FOR DIGITAL LIBRARY

The following components are essentials to create digital library.

Computer Hardwar- Server, P.C., U.P.S. etc.

Software- Linux operating system, editing software, D-space.

Network- LAN, MAN, WAN, Wifi, etc.

Printer- Dot Matrix Printer, Barcode, laser Printer, Scanners.

Storage Devices- CD-ROM, high power hard disk, etc.

Human Power- Well trained man power for online help.

PURPOSES OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

The important purposes of a digital library are

- ➢ To develop the means to collect, store and organize information and knowledge in digital form.
- ➢ To assist the economical and efficient delivery of information.
- ➢ To encourage cooperation among libraries.
- ➢ To save time of library staff.

- ➢ To strengthen communication and collaboration among the research and development, business, government, industrial and educational communities.
- ➢ To minimize storage and space problem of big libraries.
- ➢ To contribute to the life long learning opportunities.
- ➢ To collect, store, organize and access information in digital form with the help of communication channels.

India has made tremendous progress in the field of Information Revolution. India has also made tremendous progress in the field of Information and Communication Technology.

INFORMATION ACCESS IN DIGITAL LIBRARIES

The two basic modes of accessing information in Digital libraries are browsing and searching. Most Digital libraries provide facilities for browsing and searching. A number of portals and subject gateways have been developed over the past few years to facilitate access to digital information.

PRESERVATION AND DIGITIZATION

Preservation is one of the most advantages of digitization. It reduces handling of the old, useless and fragile material. It increases the life of original. Preservation means guaranted longevity of intellectual content. Digital conversion alone does not constitute preservation since all materials are not normally digitized due to the number of factors such as budgetary constraints, lack of expertise, copyright and ethical problems. The hybrid approach combining traditional preservation with digitization ensure the best of the both.

ADVANTAGES OF DIGITIZATION

According to Sally Mckay digitizing offer following advantages:

➢ Information and related content may be delivered directly to end user/reader.

➢ User can be retrieved information easily.

➢ Image quality is quite good.

➢ Possibility of full text searching, cross collection.

➢ Flexibility of the digital material

➢ Data is not fixed as with paper or printed text it is easy to reformat, edit and print.

➢ To provide a large number of users with access to rare or special collections.

➢ Accessibility to a wider audience through electronic surrogates of primary material provide a great service and increased usage of collections.

➢ Providing access to primary material.

➢ Digitization provides the display of illustrated and visual materials.

➢ To provide ready access to high demand materials.

➢ Preserve the valuable documents, rare and special collections of libraries.

➢ To provide online learning environment.

➢ Save preparation cost, space and money.

➢ No space problems for storage.

➢ Low maintenance cost.

DISADVANTAGES OF DIGITIZATION

Large budget allocation is a big problem. Sally Mckay of Getty Research Institute submits that the large budget allocations are required to fund research, selection, assessments, training and prioritization of collections of items to be digitized.

Cataloguing of new material and plan additional cost.

It is also possible that access to digital surrogates may or will increase the use of the original. This will impact staff in other ways with more calls, letters and requests for Original Publication and added reference service may be needed. The conversion of traditional libraries to electronic libraries is possible but very difficult especially in case of India, there are more than 71,069 libraries in the country.

According to Parvathamma developing countries like India cannot afford to adopt information technology its fullest extent due to some problems such as: unreliable power supply, lack of funds for the development and maintenance of digital data, political uncertainties and poorly developed communications infrastructure. Reading and understanding information in digital form requires equipment and software.

SOME OTHER DISADVANTAGES

➢ Storage media related problem.

➢ User education and training

➢ Lack of trained manpower

➢ Security against hacking

➢ Costly technology.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The purpose of a selection criteria guide is to evaluate whether materials should be digitized whether they may be digitized and whether they can be digitized. One of the most important challenge facing digital library planners is the selection of research collection for digitization. Librarian at many academic libraries have developed selection criteria for the creation of digital collection.

FUTURE OF DIGITIZATION

Books will continue to be useful and important and we will continue to see them published but users will find more and more of their information online and the number of books will decrease. The future holds for digital library development rapid advancing technolgies will also impact the future of digital libraries.

IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

- ➢ Easily and rapidly accessing books
- ➢ Contain very little physical space
- ➢ No physical boundary but internet connection is must.
- ➢ To gain acess to the information at any time.
- ➢ Same resources can be used at the same time by a large number of users.
- ➢ Low cost, digital library pay only fees.

CONCLUSION

In India, digital libraries are increasing day by day. The growth of digital library collection in size is inevitable. With the growth of digital reference services and collaborative networks, there is clear need of defined standards. The traditional librarian's role of slecting, organizing and making information accessible to users is as necessary in the digital world of tomorrow as it was in the print world of yesterday. The library and information professionals are required to acquire such knowledge and skills as the library is one of the highly information technology influenced service professions.   At present time day by day the cost of digitization is decreasing and so many libraries will start to be digitized to take the great challenges.

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