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Types of E-Resources and its Utility in Library

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Abstract:

The study shows relationship between impact of electronic resources and its usage in academic libraries. Libraries are not only acquiring reading materials such as printed books and journals but also arranging for providing access to various learning resources in electronic form. The use of E- resources as a tool is changing the way users live and learn.

Keywords: E- Resources, Library Resources, ICT.

Introduction: The library and information services of the 21st century are fast changing with the rapid development of electronic publishing, Advances in computer applications during the past few decades have brought radical changes in the way information is gathered, store, organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed. The application of computers in information processing has brought several products and services to the scene. This important fact is convincing many libraries to move towards digital e-resources, which are found to be less expensive and more useful for easy access.

Ani (2008) states that “the transition from print to electronic medium apart from resulting in a growth of electronic information, has provided users with new tools and applications for information seeking and retrieval. Electronic resources are invaluable research tools that complement the print-based resources in a traditional library setting. Thus Libraries are using technology to improve the management of scholarly information to strengthen and speed access to scholarly information not held locally. Over the last several years a significant transformation has been noticed in collection development policies and practices. Print medium is increasingly giving way to the electronic form of material.

Library resources: According to Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, in his fifth law- Library is a growing organism. Library is not a store house of books, it is a knowledge centre. Every reader visits the library with the intention to get the solution for his problem. Explosion of Information and tremendous developments in the field of ICT caused the availability of information at the users finger tips. Publishers have begun to promote their goods in electronic format along with the print version. World famous publishers like IEEE, Springer, Pearson, McGraw Hill etc. have made their products available in electronic form and some of the ICT companies have developed some equipment to read online books, journals and other online products. They are IPods, Kindles, eBook Reader, etc.

E-resources: Electronic resources are the electronic representation of information. There are available in various forms like e-books, digital libraries, online journal magazine, e-learning tutors and on line test. Because of the effective presentation with multimedia tools, these e-resources have become the source of information. Electronic resources delivers the collection of information as full text databases, e-journals, image collections, multimedia in the form of CD, tape, internet, web technology etc. E-resources may include e-journals, e-discussions, e-news, data archives, e-

mail on line chatting, etc can be called as an e-resources. Electronic information source are a wide range of products going from electronic periodicals to CD-ROMs, from mailing list to databases, all of them having a common feature of being used and some time modified by a computer.

Need of e-resources

- Purpose of E-resources: Main purpose of electronic resources is providing current information.
- Update information is necessary for research work.
- Through electronic resources users are able to access latest information.
- Save the time of user and staff
- Solve the space problem in library
- Easy to use and disseminate

Types of e-resources

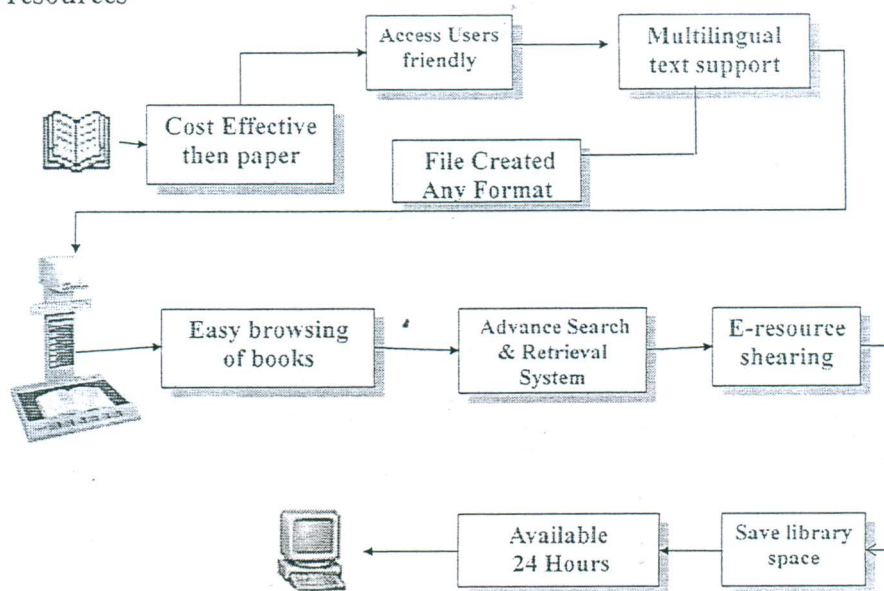
Electronic resources represent an increasingly important component of the collection building activities of libraries. "Electronic resources" refer to those materials that require computer access, whether through a personal computer, mainframe, or handheld mobile device. They may either be accessed remotely via the Internet or locally. Some of the most frequently encountered types are:

- E-journals: E-journals defined as "any Journal, Magazines, Web zing, Newsletters or any type of electronic serial publication which is available on the internet."
- E-books : Digital text they are issued as individual work and designed to be accessed by using special software for text navigation and ease of reading
- CD ROM/ DVD: It is the optical compact disc read only memory which pre recorded and cannot be altered. It can store up to 650 MB of data.
- E-Theses and Dissertation: An ETD is that explain in an electronic format. It can be used electronically with the use of internet for searching the information or thesis or dissertations
- E-News Paper: An electronic news paper is a self contained and readable version of newspapers that acquired and holds information electronically for in digital forms
- E-databases: E-databases may be understood as a synonym of online database. Now days e - databases have been proved to be the most useful and handy tools for searching various types of data with a short span of time with most convincing and comprehensive manner.

Characteristics of E-resources

- Hundreds or thousands may be carried together on one device. Approximately 500 average e-books can be stored on one CD
- Type size and type face may be adjusted
- E- Resources can be used with text-to-speech software
- Distributed at low cost
- Distributed instantly, allowing readers to begin reading at once, without the need to visit a bookstore.
- No risk of damage, vandalism, etc. on the pages

Utility of E-resources



Issues of E-Resources

- Licensing: E-resources need the license from the published to the library for making use of it.
- IPR: E-resources can be easily copied and forwarded to another person so librarian should be alert about IPR (Intellectual Property Rights).
- Standards of metadata: There are standards for metadata description like MARC21 but the available e-resources in the market are not standardizing by MARC21.
- Low budget: Libraries are non-profit organization so they cannot purchase and afford the costly electronic resources.
- Skill manpower: to handle the electronic collection the proper skills are required among the staff but libraries are lacking of skill manpower.
- Lack of infrastructure: Electronic collection is supported by Information and communication Technology components

Impact of E-resources on library and Information services: The development of information technology and the dissemination of web environment have a dramatic effect on the user behaviors in information usage. The workflows from acquisitions to user services and the life cycle of electronic resources is quite different from that of print resources science it is characterized by access without holding the physical objects. As libraries build ever-large collections of electronics resources, finding ways to manage them efficiently become a major challenge.

The number of electronics journals, citation, databases held by most libraries has grown rapidly. Managing these electronic resources involves providing the library users with convenient ways to find and access them and providing library staff with the tools to keep track of them.

Conclusions: The rapid growth of information and communication technologies have gave rise to the evolution of several new jargons like paperless society, electronic resources, portal / gateway and global digital library. In the day context, all types of libraries viz: academic, public and special are not only providing printed resources to their library users rather they provide printed, electronic

as well as other Internet resources like e-books and databases for fulfilling the day to day academic and research requirements of the library users.

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