

DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIA : AN INTRODUCTION

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Abstracts: This paper discusses the new activities method and technology used in digitalization and formation of digital libraries. The digital library software is comprehensive system for building and distributing library collection. It provides a way of organizing information based on metadata and publishing it on the Internet. Digital libraries are being created today for diverse communities and in different fields as education, science, culture, development, health governance and so on. This paper introduces greenstone and explains how librarians use it to create and customize digital library collection.

Keywords: digital libraries (libraries systems) collections management user interfaces.

1.0 Introduction

Digital library is a special with a focused collection of digital objects that can include text, visual material, audio material, video material, stored as electronic media formats (as opposed to print, microform or other media) along with means for organizing, storing and retrieving the files and media contained in the library collection. Digital libraries can vary immensely in size and scope. Digital libraries are organized focused collection of information. Digital libraries are being created today for diverse communities and in different fields as education, science, culture, development, health governance and go on. The digital library collection has become an attractive and feasible proposition for library and information professionals around the world.

1.1 Aim and scope

Greenstone aims to enable users particularly in universities, libraries and other public service institutions throughout the world to build their own digital library collection, science and culture. UNESCO hopes this will encourage the effective deployment of digital libraries to share information and where appropriated place it in the public domain. The key points that Greenstone makes it its core business to support include:

- *Design and construction collection
- *Distributed on the web and/or removable media
- *Customized Structure depending on available metadata.
- *End user collection building interface for librarians
- *Reader and librarian interfaces in many languages.
- *Multiplatform operation.

What are digital Libraries?

A digital library is collection of digital objects. This definition is the people of today. Nevertheless, Smith (2001) defined a digital as an organized and focused collection of digital objects, including text, images, video, audio with method of access and retrieval and for the selection, creation, organization, maintenance and starting of collection.

"Digital Libraries are organization that provide the resources, including the specialized staff to select, structure, offer intellectual access to interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of and ensure the persistence over time of collection of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities]" (DLF 2001).

2.0 Preservation and conservation

Digitization is not a long term preservation solution for physical but does succeed in providing access copies for materials that would otherwise fall to degradation from repeated use. Digitized collections and born digital objects pose many preservation and conservation concerns that analog materials do not. Please see the following "Problem" for examples

Space: Where trading libraries are limited by storage space, digital libraries have the potential to store much more information, simply because digital information requires very little physical space to contain them and media storage technologies are more affordable than ever before.

Added value: Certain Characteristics of objects, primarily the quality of images ,may be improved .Digitization can

2.1 Interpretable into the indefinite future. Each necessary component of this must migrated. Preserved or Typically lower levels of systems(floppy disks for example) are emulated ,bit-streams (the actual file stored in the disks) are preserved and operating system are emulated as a virtual machine.

3.0 Benefits of Digital Libraries

Digital libraries brings significant benefits of the users through the following features:

3.1 Improved access

Digital libraries are typically accessed through the internet and compact Disc Read only Memory (CD-ROM).They are noticed to the physical location and operating hours of traditional library.

3.2 .Wider access

A Digital library can meet simultaneous access request for a document by easily creating multiple instance or copies of the requested document.

3.3 Improved information sharing

Through the appropriate metadata and information exchange protocol the digital libraries can easily share information with other similar libraries and provide enhanced access to users.

3.4 Improved preservation

Since the electronic documents are not prone to physical wear and tear ,their exact copies can easily be made ,the digital libraries facilities preservation of special and rare documents and artifacts by providing access to digital versions of these entities.

3.5 The Role and Structure of Metadata

A digital library's organization is reflected in the interface it presents to users. Much of the organization rests on metadata structured information about the resource (typical documents) that the library contains. Metadata is the stuff in the traditional card catalog card catalogs of bricks –and-mortar libraries (whether computerized or not)It is “structured in that it can be meaningfully manipulated without necessarily understanding its content. For example given collection of source documents, bibliographic information each document would be metadata for the collection

4.0 Why Digitization?

There are three main needs for digitization two or all the three of them may apply to your digital library project.

i-To preserve the Documents: That is to all people to read older or unique documents without damage to the originals

ii.To make the documents more accessible :This is to serve the existing users better e.g. to allow the users to search the full text of the documents or to serve in remote location ,example more than one persons at a time.

iii.To rescue the documents : It means to convert documents into different formats : for example to use images it slide how and to adopt the content for a different purpose.

Digitizing documents can take a lot of time effort and money.

Greenstone Digital Library Software

Green Stone is freely available suite of building and distributing digital collections. It provide new way of organizing information and publishing it on the Internet or on the CD-ROM.

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The Greenstone is open source software issued under the terms of the GNU General Public License.

5.0 Conclusion

A general purpose digital library system like Greenstone must cater for a wide range of user's. Digitization has geared up new audiences and services for libraries and it needs to be integrated into the plans and policies of any institutions maximize its effectiveness .Just as libraries have ventured into audio and video collections. It is hoped that the approach of the issues outlined the software mentioned in this paper the reference to detailed source and past project will contribute to the future success of initiating digitization of library resource.

6.0 Reference

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