

DIGITAL LIBRARY AND ITS FUTURE

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Abstract:- Digital libraries are need of the day. Digital libraries provide easy access to digital collections of documents where user can search and retrieve the document of users' interest in networked environment. Digital libraries are being created today for diverse communication and in different area e.g. education, science culture, development health, governance and so on. Digital library has go lot of changes not only in the library and information services but also in the rules and the expectation of the libraries and information professional. This paper is focusing on objective, purposes components and future needs the role of librarians.

Keywords - Digital library, librarian, information professionals, information service.

1.0 Introduction

We are living in the information society, where information is considered as valuable item for any life. The advent of information technology has paved the way of reducing the size of the libraries from biggest to the very small. In fact, modern libraries are moving towards smaller but with rich potential of information. This smallness of the libraries is due to the digitization of information, which has outcome a number of problems faced by the traditional libraries since long. The digital libraries are based on digitized data of information which has gradually replaced paper based records. Because the visual information system are getting more popular these are day in compression to text based information system, therefore digital libraries, today are becoming more and more popular and more graphical in nature. Digital libraries have reduced space problems in them.

There are number of terms which are used by authors to represent the concept of digital libraries. These terms are polyglot library, electronic library, dis eight top library, without walls etc. by these terms digital library, is commonly using By the majority of the population. Digital libraries are heterogeneous in nature. This include work related to information and how to digitize, store, find, link, visualize use publish manage and share information.

A digital library is a global virtual library and its can be defined as library with all the information available in the digital from. Digital libraries are being created today for diverse communities and in different fields they are basically stock piles of materials in electronics format and maneuver huge collection of those materials efficiently.

However the vital technical concern is how search and display the desired selected information from and across e-collections.

2.0 Definitions of Digital Library

The American digital library federation has defined the digital library as "Digital libraries are organization that provide the recourse, including the specialized staff to selected structure, offer intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of and ensure the persistence over time are readily and comically available for use by a defamed community or set of communities."

According to the Larson "Digital libraries as no single standalone and repositories of digital data instead they are a heterogeneous collection of product for users interaction data encoding and transmission.

According to the Berkeley "The Digital library will be a collection of distributed information source. Producers of information will mark it available and consumers will find it perhaps through the help of automated agents.

According to Lesk, "Digital library as a collection of information that is both digitized and organized and which offers capabilities beyond those of the traditional library.

According to E.A. Fox "The digital library may be defamed as the "New way of carrying out the functions of libraries concern assign new types of information resource new approaches to classification and cataloguing intensive use of electronic system and networks, dramatic shifts in intellectual organizational and electronic system and networks, dramatic shifts in intellectual organizational and electronic practices."

3.0 Meaning of Digital Library

A digital library is a library consisting of digital materials and services. Digital materials and items are stored, processed and transferred via digital devices and networks. Digital services are services that are delivered digitally over the computer networks. It maintains all or substantial part of its collection in computer accessible form as an alternative, supplement of complete to the conventional printed and micro form materials that currently comprise library collections.

As there are many definitions of a “Digital library” terms such as “electronic library, “Web library” and virtual library” are often used synonymously. A digital library is nothing but a large data base for the people who are working on a hypertext environment. It is an, which supports the full life cycle of creation storage, preservation and dissemination use of data information and knowledge.

According to arms a digital library is managed collection of information with associated services where the information is stored in digital format and accessible over the networks. According to digital library federation in the (US) “Digital libraries are organizations 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 collections of digital works so that they are material or its holding in the digital form which can be accessible by a computer on the network by using other protocol.

4.0 Objectives of Digital Library : The main objective of digital libraries are defined as follows-

1. To gather mass systematize and access information in digital form via communication channels and possess large digitized data base.
2. To save time of library staff by avoiding routine jobs and reduce cost involved in various library activities.
3. To provide coherent view of all information within a library in any format.
4. To meet the requirements of clients by offering superior services and provide custom-made and retrospective services in efficient way.
5. To serve widely dispersed communities throughout the network.
6. To minimize massive storage and space problem of large libraries.

5.0 Functions of Digital Library: Functions of a digital library are defined as-

1. Network accessibility on Internet.
2. Hypertext links of navigation.
3. Client-server architecture.
4. Support multimedia content along with text.
5. User-friendly interface.
6. Access to primary information sources.
7. Access to large amount of information to user whenever and wherever they need
8. Advanced search and retrieval.
9. Integration with other digital libraries

6.0 Components of Digital Library

The digital libraries need well established and proven information technologies by accessing the database or servers through networks. Following components are very essential to create digital library.

6.1 Hardware requirement: The requirement of digital library are mentioned here under-

- a) High power UPS
- b) 24 hours Internet connectivity
- c) Networks
- d) Multimedia interfaces
- e) Computer servers
- f) LAN or WAN

6.2 Need for Digital Library: Some days ago the information explosion has increased in all subjects like as science, humanities and social science. Libraries are face problem to maintain their services, which are very important for users. The present scenario digital libraries are spreading in every part of the world. It is very easy to control the huge data in a single computer. Some important needs are mentioned below-

1. To collect, store, organize and access information in digital form.
2. To promote the resource sharing.
3. To save the library staff and time by avoiding routine work.
4. To encourage the economical and efficiently delivery of information.
5. Accessible on www
6. To fulfill the requirement of users by providing better service.
7. To support search and retrieval.
8. To provide users friendly interface.
9. To support formal and informal learning.

6.3 Feature of Digital Library: We are in the midst of information explosion and information technology revolution leading to the emergence of electronics information on era. Rapid advances in information processing, storage and communication technologies have revolutionized the role of libraries worldwide in disseminating information services to their users. So the various features identified for digital library are-

1. Provide access to very large information collection.
2. Focus on providing access to primary (or complete) information not merely surrogates or indexes.
3. Support multi-media content.
4. Provide user friendly interface to access the information.
5. Enable link representation to local external objects (hypertext)
6. Provide client server architecture.
7. Support advanced search and retrieval of information linkage with other national and international digital library system.

6.4 Advantages of Digital Library : Digital library has no limitation of location but is distributed all over the world and information can be found internet. Actually it is a network of multimedia system, which provides fingertip access.

1. Provide faster access to the holdings of libraries worldwide through automated catalogues.
2. Preserve the valuable document, rare and special collection of libraries, archives and museums.
3. Help to locate physical and digitized version of scholarly articles and book through single interface.
4. Search optimization, simultaneous searches of the internet make possible preparing commercial database and library collections.
5. Offering online learning environment.
6. Making short the chain from author to user.
7. Save preparation/conservation, cost, space and more user from a single original which are not possible for materials stored any other forms.

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