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## Web Based Library and Information Services in Academic Libraries



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## Digital Libraries

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**Keyword :** Digital Library, Information Technology, Repository.

**Introduction :** There has been a dramatic change in the world of learning, business and governance brought about by information and communication Technologies. The ways and means of creating, accessing, distributing and managing information not only text but other forms such as audio-video and multi media materis's have undergone major changes. Consequently, today more and more information is created, managed and is available in digital form Libraries and resources centers are increasingly moving towards digital content and collection management. The role of Librarians and information managers also has undergone many change.

The advent of information Technology leads to a transition from industrial to information society. Internet and connected technology create an infrastructure for a global information exchange and enable creation and utilization of information sources wherever it is and to anybody who has an access to internet.

Due to information explosion traditional Libraries find it increasingly difficult to cater to the demands of the users. Therefore an increasing need is felt for the establishment of digital libraries. The explosive development of ICT in the form of internet and web and applications in the library system has been changing the conventional library system to modern due to the demand of user needs. The digital library depends upon the computers and traditional Library emphasis on the storage and preservation of physical volumes, mainly books and periodicals Digital.

**Definition :** A digital library is a collection of documents in organized electronic form, available on the internet or on CD-ROM (compact-disk read-only memory) disks. Depending on the specific library a user may be able to access magazine articles, books, paper, images sound files, and videos.

William Arims An informal definition of a digital library is a managed collection of information with associated service, where the information is stored in digital format and accessible over a network.

- The digital library is not a single entity.
- The digital library requires technology to link the resources of may.

**Need of Digital Libraries :** From a general end user point of view, technological environments are the product of their activities. Nevertheless, if we tend to perceive these environment's an external world of obvious things this can be an error of assessment. Technology does not exist by itself. Technology is primarily a social construct even if many designers reject and or deny this social constnchism.

### Types of digital libraries :

- Institutional repositories.
- Digital archives.
- Software
- Metadata
- Searching
- Digital preservation
- Copyright and licensing
- Recommendation systems

A digital library, digital repository, or digital collection is an online database of digital objects that can include text, still images, audio, video, or other digital media formats object can consist or digitized content like print or photographs as well as originally produced digital content like word processor files or social media posts. In addition to storing content, digital libraries provide means for organizing, searching and retrieving the content contained in the collection.

Digital libraries can vary immensely in size and scope and can be maintained by individuals or organizations.

1) **Institutional repositories :** Many academic libraries are actively involved in building institutional repositories of the institution's books, papers, theses and other which can be digitized. Institutionally repository software is designed for archiving, organizing and searching a library's content. Space, Eprints, Digital commons, and fedora commons – based systems Islandora and samvera.

2) **Digital Archives :** Physical archives differ from physical libraries in several ways. Traditionally, archives are



defined as :- Containing primary sources, Letters, Paper directly produced by an individual or organization rather than the secondary sources found in a library (books, Periodicals etc). the books and journals held by libraries are not unique, since multiple copies. Manuscripts libraries are the unique records of corporate bodies and papers of individuals and families.

3) **Software** : Greenstone, Dspace, Eprints, Invenio, feblora commons, etc.

**Characteristics of digital Libreres** : D.L. has certain characteristics which make them different from traditional library.

It has expansive and accurate system of searching with large volumes of text, image and audio video resources. Digital libraries donot need physical space to buld collection and it can be accessed from any where any time.

- Digital libraries the digital face of traditional Librariesthat include both digital collection and traditional; library.
- DLs will also include digital materials that exist outside the physical and administrative bounds of any one digital library.
- DLs will include all the precess and serices that are the backbone and nerous systems of libraries.
- DLs ideally provide a coherent view of all of the information contained within a library no matter its form or format.
- DLs will require both the skill of librarians and well as those of computer scientists to be viable.

**Importance of Digital Libraries** : Libraries play an important role in the educational and research process. A Disital

library can provide access to many of the knowledge network around the world. An important advantage to digital conversion is increased accessibility to usrs. They also increase availability to individuals who may not be traditional potrons of a library dowe to geographic location or organizational algiation.

**Advantages and Disadvantages of the Digital libraries** : A digital library is not confined to a partifalar location or so called building it is virtually distributed all over the world. The user can get his/her information on his own computer screen by using the internet.

- 1) No physical boundary : the user can go the library physically, people from all over the world could gain access to the same information as long as an internet connection is available.
- 2) Round the clock availability : Digital libraries can be accessed at any time 24 Hours a day and 365 days or the year.
- 3) Multiple accesses : The same resourees can be used at the same time by a number of users.
- 4) Structured Approach : Digital library provides access to much richer content in a more structured manner ie. Easily move particular book to a particular chapter.

#### Disadvantages :

- 1) Reading digital libraries is different because more concerntration is required. The temptation to click to something else is too much.
- 2) There is so much information just a click away that hyper extensive reading is encouraged.

**Conclusion** : Library play an important role in the educational and research process. Digital library has been the fouse of research and discussion for nearly twenty years. By various commurities across the world. Indian library and information sceience professional have given considerable importance to developing institutional repositories with software like d space, E prints and Green stone.

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