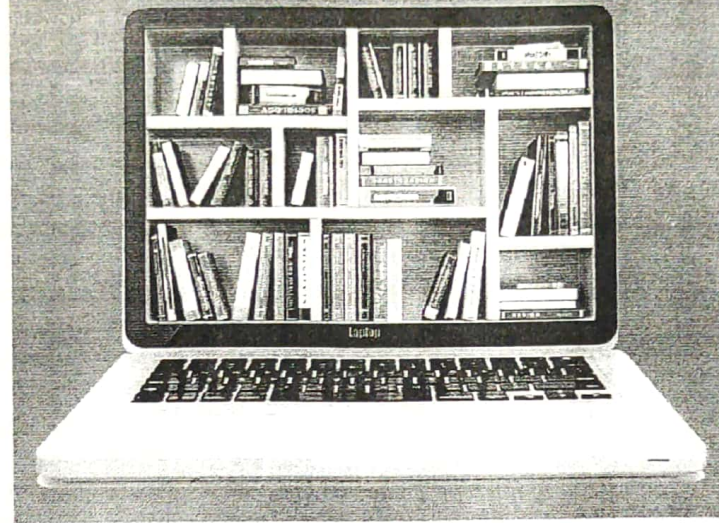VOL - II

Reinventing
Academic Libraries

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(III) Digital Libraries and Social Media

Digital Library: An Overview

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Abstract :
This paper describes the concept of digital library, Components of digital library, need, features, uses and importance of digital library and Importance of digital library in electronic era. It also describes shortly digital library software. Normally digital libraries mean the automation of the libraries. Digital library collect the information in electronic ways. In the digital library computerization is the most important factor.

Keywords- Digital Library, Hardware, Software

Introduction :

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

Digital libraries can very immensely in size and scope, and can be maintained by Individuals or organizations. The digital content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely via computer networks. These information retrieval systems are able to exchange information with each other through interoperability and sustainability.

Definition:

A digital library is a collection of documents in organized electronic form. Available on the internet or on CD-ROM Disks (Compact Disc - Read Only Memory). Depending on the specific library, a user may be able to access magazine articles, books, papers, images, sound files and videos.

According to Arms, a digital library is a "Managed collection of information, with associated services, where the information is stored in digital formats and accessible over a network."

Need of Digital Library:

Some of the common factor which is influencing to change the digital mode are the limited buying power of libraries. Complex nature of recent document storage problem etc. some other factors are:

- Information Explosion: There is explosion of information generation and publication.
- Searching Problem in Traditional Libraries: In traditional libraries, it not easy to find the pinpoint information to the right user at the right time.
- Low Cost of Technology: Technology needed for digital library is decreasing and efficiency in Increasing.
- Environmental Factors: The use of electronic resources decrease the paper publishing and it automatically saves the trees.
- Need Generation Needs: Today users are demanding information in electronic form and minimum time.

Features of Digital Libraries:

- It provides access to very large collection of information.
- It focuses on providing access to primary complete information, not merely indexes.
- It supports multimedia content.
- It provide users friendly interface.
- Network Accessible.
- Enable link representation to local, external object.
- It supports the advance search & retrieval.
- Available for a very long time.
- It supports publishing, annotation & integration of new information.

Components of Digital Library:

The basic components of a digital library include necessary hardware and software and skilled well –trained manpower.

A) Hardware :-
- Server with high capacity hard disk and clients in the LAN, web server and FTP server.
- Desktop workstation – pc
- Capturing devices such as scanners, cameras, cards, data compression devices etc.
- Cartridge tape
- High power UPS
- Secondary storage
- High speed network

B) Software :-
- Digital library management software's like D-Space, Greenstone, OCR-Software.
- OCR Software
- Scanning Software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- CD-Read / Write Software
- Windows – NT, Networking Software, SQL Server Software, DBMS etc.

C) Skilled Manpower :
The manpower who is supposed to implement and manage the IT should be trained and retrained in order to keep themselves abstract of the latest techniques and tools of IT.

Use of Digital Library:
The important characteristics of digital libraries are the storage of information in digital form. Direct usage of communication network for accessing and obtaining, information and copying by either downloading or on-line / off-line, printing from a master file. Digital libraries enable managing from a master file. Digital libraries enable managing very large amounts of data, preserve unique collections provide faster access to information facilitate dealing with data from more than one location and enhance distributed learning environments. They also help to perform searches that are manually not feasible or practical and offer to protect content owner's information (Hulser, 1997)

Digital material is available freely in the open access imitative. Internet and digitization has been shift from the hard copy formats to digital form.

Importance of Digital Library:
Digital library is understood to have the information stored predominantly in electronic on digital medium. The digital information are include digital books. Digital scanned images, graphics, textual and numeric data. Digitized files audio and video clips etc.

The following factors had catalytic effects in the emergence of digital libraries (Sherwell 1997)

1. A Well-informed and computer – literature user base has started to demand more information at the desktop.
2. Library budgets were not able to cope with the users rising demands for hard copy journal titles.
3. Users demanding documents for their research were not concerned whether these were had locally in the library or obtained from outside as long as they could be supplied quickly.
4. The distinction between library collection management and document delivery – the ownership and access approaches, was becoming increasing blurred.
5. The rapid growth in the internet has demonstrated the potential wealth of information resources available at the click of a mouse button.
6. Librarians started giving increased emphasis to provide access to resources available elsewhere rather than physically possessing resources.

Digital Library Software:
Today change the concept of library from traditional library to digital library. There are electronic resources available in CD-ROM, DVD, Floppies, digital format, online databases, repositories, digital archives etc. Open source software the key of making institutional repository open source software provides two types of software, commercial and free software. It provides free of cost download software through internet. GSDLS (Green Stone Digital Library Software), D Space, EAS (E- print Archive Software) CDS ware, Archimedes, Fedora are mostly used for develop institution repositories.

1. D-Space :
The D-Space is a joint project of the MIT libraries and HP labs. D Space is a digital asset management system. It helps create, index and retrieve various forms digital content. D Space is adoptable to different

community needs. Interoperability between systems is built- in and it adheres to international standards for metadata format. D Space is open source technology platforms which can be customized are extend its capabilities.

2. Greenstone :

The Greenstone digital library software from the New-Zealand digital library project provides a new way of organizing information and making it available over the internet. Collections of information comprise large number of documents and a uniform interface is provided to them. Libraries include much collection, individually organized though bearing a strong family resemblance. A configuration file determines the structure of a collection.

3. EPRINTS :

E Print is free software developed by the University of Southampton, England, E Print @ it repository collects preserves and disseminates in digital format the research output created the research community. It enables the institute community to deposit their preprints, post prints and other scholarly publication using a web interface and organizes.

4. ARCHIMEDE :

ARCHIMEDE developed by Laval University Library in Quedee city, Canada, the ARCHIMEDE project was designed to accommodate electronic preprints and past print from the institutions faculty and research staff. The first manages the University electronic thesis and dissertation; the second provide a productions platform for electronic journals and monographs.

FEDORA:

Fedora is a centre for innovation in free and open source software, and creates a community where developers and open source enthusiast come together to advance free and open source software. The FEDORA community contributes everything it bilds vack to the free and open source world and continues to make a advances of significance to the broader community. FEDORA is a by Linux based operating system that provides users. With access to the latest free and open source software, in a stable secure and easy to manage from members of its community for easy to manage from members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital material created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially an organization commitment to the stewardship of the digital materials including long presentation.

Conclusion:

Digital libraries enable the creation, organization, Maintenance, Management, Access to sharing & preservation of digital document collection. Digital libraries differ from traditional libraries by enabling users to access & work direct with electronic document.

Building a digital library is expensive and resource intensive. Before embarking on such a venture, it is important to consider some basic principles underlying the design, implementation, and maintenance of any digital library. Finally we need to strive for continued open access to all knowledge. There is no better time to start than new and no better place to start than with our own valuable collections.

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