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Role And Importance Of Internet In Different Type Of Libraries

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Abstract

Libraries are using the Internet to support their fundamental functions and services: acquisition, circulation, and reference, classification, cataloguing and providing access to the Internet as an independent service. The term internet has been coined from a concept inter-networking trade denotes interaction between networking of computers. It is an umbrella under which different networks, small and big, freely exchange information across the globe. Internet, thus, can broadly be defined as world-wide network of computers communicating via an agreed upon protocol (rules for exchange of information). It provides access to the most diversified source of information hosted by individuals and various organizations world-wide on a vast network of servers. Internet access in public libraries started almost in 1990's like in other libraries. Internet gives on to the world web, the interconnections to thousands of servers created by various organisations, commercial establishments, industrial units, academic establishments, various groups, individuals. The library and information professionals have a vital role to play in organising the information and bridging the information gap

Introduction

The Internet was originated in 1969 for military communication and research and continued to expand through the 1970s. The users were primarily military personnel and scientists involved with mili-tary research at that time. The National Science Foundation started funding a number of supercomputer centers and interstate structures in the mid-1980s for general academic research and communication, and the users were largely government agencies, academic researchers, college students, and librarians. Libraries are using the Internet to support their fundamental functions and services: acquisition, circulation, reference, classification, cataloguing and providing access to the Internet as an independent service. The Internet access and use can enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of library services and functions. It also affects the level, quality and compatibility of library services offered to users. Internet has increased not only the quality of traditional library services but also has made it possible for libraries to pioneer in new services in a constantly changing environment. Today, it is considered the responsibility of libraries to provide the Internet facilities just like books or any other informational sources. Internet gives on to the world web, the interconnections to thousands of servers created by various organisations, commercial establishments, industrial units, academic establishments, various groups, individuals.

Definitions

In simply library may define as a collection of standard programmes and subroutines that are stored and available for immediate use. There are several definitions given by the authors are as follows:

(i) **Islam** (2004) described it as a learned institution equipped with treasures of knowledge maintained, organized, and managed by trained personnel to educate the children, men and women continuously and assist in their self-improvement through an effective and prompt dissemination of information embodied in the resources.

(ii) **Omojuwa** (1993) described the library as an enabling factor to obtain spiritual, inspirational, and recreational activities through reading, and therefore the opportunity of interacting with the society's wealth and accumulated knowledge.

(iii) **The online Dictionary, Thesaurus and Encyclopedia** described the library as a place in which literary and artistic materials, such as books, periodicals newspapers, pamphlets, prints, records, and tapes, are kept for reading, reference, or lending. In a digital sense, a library may be more than a building that houses a collection of books and other materials as the Internet has opened up an avalanche of online and electronic resources for accessing documents on various fields of interest.

(v) **Online Glossary defined** digital library as a collection of texts, images, etc, encoded so as to be stored, retrieved, and read by computer. Furthermore, a digital library is a collection of documents in organized electronic form, available on the Internet or on CD ROM disks.

(vi) **A web definition** for virtual library is that which exists solely in electronic form or on paper. The building blocks required for such a library may not exist, and the chemical steps for such a library may not have been tested. But the materials needed like journals are barred to a location, which can be decoded through passwords.

Types of Library

There are different types of libraries, viz:

(a) Academic Libraries

The primary objectives academic library is to meet the academic needs of the particular institution for which it is created to serve. The purpose of academic Library differs, in varying degree, from that of a school or college library in that the former adheres extensive and particular emphasis to research projects apart from the curricular needs of the institution. Besides aiding in the studies of children and assisting the teachers in their teaching and periodic research, a school library is primarily concerned to pro-create an urge for reading habit amongst the children who here get a first hand-knowledge to use the library resources most effectively in their future career.

(b) Public Library

Public university often call “peoples” University”, in a democratic society operated for the people by the people that conserves and organizes human knowledge in order to place it freely in the service of the community without any distinction of occupation, creed, class, religion, or ethnicity. The scope or command of a public library that meets specific but general requirements of the public thus remains quite broader in its vision. It offers from the other types of libraries in that by offering opportunities of informal self-education it inculcates reading habit amongst all types of general readers and, as a result, maintains a sizeable collection of newspapers, light literature, i.e., fictions, novels, story books, e.t.c., for recreational studies, and a children’s corner equipped with juvenile literature. Among its broad based functions to perform in educating the general public as well as the children, the following ones can be quoted:

- (a) It facilitates informal self-education of all people in the community;
- (b) Enriches and further develops the subject on which individuals are undertaking formal education;
- (c) Meets the informational needs of all;
- (d) Creates and further develops civic sense and habits of the citizens;
- (e) Supports educational, civic, and cultural activities of groups and organizations;
- (f) Encourage wholesome recreation and constructive use of leisure time.
- (g) Provides children, young people, men and women opportunity to:
 - (i) educate themselves continuously,
 - (ii) keep abreast of progress in all fields of knowledge, and
 - (iii) maintain freedom of expression and constructively provides a critical attitude to all public issues and world affairs.

(c) Special Library

A special library is created to serve the needs of some working organization, either a company, a research association or a government department. It is often established to save time which the staff, either executive or research, would otherwise employ searching for information.

The Internet And Library And Information Services:

Internet and library and information services and it can be classified into the following topical categories:

1. Academic libraries and scholarly research
2. Bibliographies, directories, guides, and glossaries
3. Business resources
4. Collection development and resource sharing
5. Community, community networks, and community services
6. Community colleges
7. Electronic publishing, document delivery, and interlibrary loan
8. Global and international networking
9. Government information

10. The government's role, policies, and national information infrastructure
11. Internet resources and services, access, tools, and miscellaneous topics
12. Internet training and education
13. law librarianship
14. legal, ethical, and security issues
15. library science education
16. medical and health science libraries, and resources
17. Online Public Access Catalogs
18. privatization and commercialization
19. public libraries
20. reference services
21. research and development
22. schools, school librarianship, and school media specialists
23. special libraries
24. standards and protocols
25. user needs and human cognition
26. women, minority, the disabled, and equality

Importance Of Internet Tolibraries

Inter net is very important for library. Without library internet enable to reach its goal Internet has become a part of libraryenvironment today. It has added a great valueto the library and information services.

According to Gryez, "with the expansion ofInternet a new class of electronic document has emerged, it was at once promising andattractive for its obvious advantage of speedand transmissibility and profoundly elusive andconfounding to the library community becauseof its intangibility and malleability. Within thelast ten years, the Internet has become globaland ubiquitous. It reaches in hundreds ofcountries of all continents and is featured dailyin the business sections of all major newspapers. Internet is playing an important role intransforming the library system and the way in which we view the library resources and thelibrary services. With the help of web basedlibrary services in developed countries, usersare attended round the clock. Internet provideslinks to various library sites, specializing inalmost every topic and they can be accesseddirectly from any part of the world. As thelibraries are going web based more and morelibraries' are becoming accessible via libraries'web pages. With an internet connection, astudent in any university of India can browsethrough the documents in computers of USNational libraries or elsewhere in the globe.The Net therefore, provides instant access tobillions of information sources which includebooks, reports, journals, video films, soundrecording and wide variety of other sources.

The library and information professionals have avital role to play in organising the informationand bridging the information gap. internet hascreated some of the following new anddifferent service operations:(a) By designing clearly organised, easilyaccessible and well

published library websites librarians can extend the traditional librarianship to the use of information technology and seize a leadership role in both fields. (b) The libraries can initiate Bulletin Board Service which gives complete information regarding services, products, and various events organised by them. (c) Ready reference service can be provided with greater speed and in much shorter time.

(d) Books and journals can be ordered online, technical processing of the documents too can be done without much effort. (e) E-mail services can be used for delivering information to the users and communicating with the fellow information professionals.

(f) E-SDI services can be used for delivering information to the users.

(g) Access to various databases and OPAC of other libraries located in remote areas can be provided. Internet has thus integrated nearly all library activities e-mail, discussion through listserves, support reference service through search of remote databases, exploiting the catalogue of other institutions, participation in inter-library loan (ILL), ordering books and journals, inter-library loan establishing home page, etc.

Under these circumstances resource sharing and cooperative functioning of the libraries through internet has also become vital. The utilisation of facilities by them largely depend on getting internet connection and exploiting its services and resources for providing better access to global information. The scope is unlimited or rather limited to the imagination of library professionals.

Conclusions

Libraries are using the Internet to support their fundamental functions and services: acquisition, circulation, and reference, classification, cataloguing and providing access to the Internet as an independent service. The internet has thus integrated nearly all aspects of the library activities, the librarians can now use the Internet for exploiting the catalogue of the other institutions, ordering books and journals online, participate in ILL, use e-mail, and discuss through list serves, support reference service through remote databases and most important of all establish library/home pages to project their collection and services on the site.

The scope is only limited to the imagination of library professionals. All that is required by the today's professionals is a thorough understanding of change in concept of librarianship and psychological willingness to look upon the internet and the WWW as an opportunity and respond to the challenges of information resource management and information infrastructure development for harnessing the benefit of the much talked about internet technology in context of the libraries.

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