E-Resources And Digital Academic Libraries

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Abstract

Today availability of electronic resources in academic libraries is common. The paper discusses various e-resources available in the academic libraries as well as advantages of electronic resources. Due to growth of IT most of the documents publish in e-format. Publishers are also moving towards e-publishing. There are number of e-books and e-journals available on internet. Now a day's use of e-books in modern libraries cannot be ignored.

Introduction

The main purpose of academic Library is to support education and research. E-resources are digital version of printed material accompanied by extensive hyper linking, apart from textual matters, graphs, charts, illustrations etc. e-resources plays an important role in all types of library throughout the world. Libraries are aggressively switching over to the digital libraries by adding more e-resource to their users. The web revolution had a tremendous impact on libraries with the success of full text online journals and e-books. The users started demanding addition of more e - resources to the libraries. Now a day's libraries have become hybrid libraries in collection development by procuring the e-collections either in the form of CD-ROM or access permissions for the e-resources like e-books, e-journals and data bases. Due to growth of ICT most of the textual documents are available in e-format; publishing companies are also moving rapidly into the digital age.

E-Resources

E - Resources refer to that information which requires computer access and that may either be locally accessed or accessed remotely through the Internet. E-resources are available in HTML & PDF format for online reading. The preferred format for off-line viewing is CD-ROM, e-readers are developed for viewing the e-books and Hardware is no barrier to access e-books, e-resources can be conveniently and comfortably read on any computer starting from pc's to palm tops many of printed books are being converted to e- books subject to copyright restrictions. Now a day's many e-resources are available on web in open source and pay option.

Types of e-resources

1. e-Books
2. e-Journals
3. Patents
4. Conference proceeding
5. Full text data bases.
6. Multimedia products
7. Standard specification
8. Technical Reports
9. Bibliographic data bases
10. e-Reference books
11. Directories
12. Encyclopedias

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13. Bibliographical Information sources
14. Dictionaries
15. Yearbooks
16. Current event sources
17. Geographic Information sources

Now a day's students are giving preference to online resources because of its easy access.

E-journals

Journals are primary source of information and very important for researchers. Latest technological innovations are immediately published in journals are brought out on internet and offered on subscription basis. A combined subscription for print as well as e-version is also available on network. Most remarkable aspect of e-journals is that, it retrieves the desired output very fast. Most of the journal publishers are bringing out their current journals directly in e-forms. E-resources are money saving matters. No need to purchase multiple copies. Hence use of e-resources is increasing in all types of libraries over traditional libraries.

Advantages of e-resources

Natrajan has given advantages of e-books in his book entitled e-Libraries: Problems and Perspective.

1. Available as soon or even before the print version is published
2. Accessible via Internet on the computer
3. E-publishing May be less costly than paper
4. Available for 24 hours a day.
5. Economy in maintenance (replacement wear and tear)
6. It is Interactive (Online exchange of ideas by e-mail, interaction with author, allow readers to comment on article that appear in the journals.)
7. It saves printing and mailing costs
8. The content can be reproduced, forwarded, modified and leading to problems with copyright protection and preserving authenticity
9. Space savings to libraries
10. No risk of damage

Importance of E - Resources

E-resources can be stored into hard disk, CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, Pen drive and USB HDD etc. One important features of e –resources are easily available and are searchable as well as modifiable. Uses can search Micro information with the help of keywords and phrases. E-resources need not go under physical processing work and very important thing is it consumes less space in the library.

Use of E - Resources in Academic Libraries

In academic libraries, where parent institution is having PG and doctoral courses, e - resources optimally used by the users, undergraduate students also use information available in electronic form more easily and accurately. Almost all the academic libraries are providing internet access to their users.

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Conclusion

E - Resources can't replace print formats yet because only a fraction of scholarly materials is available electronically. E-resources are very good tool for digital academic libraries. Use of e-resources is increasing. Libraries are giving preference to subscribe e-journals and e-books. The need for e-resources in digital libraries has been well established. Management of e- resources is easier in case of digital library. Users are preferring use of e-resources. The development of systematic library services and collection development in a hybrid library i.e. a library of the current times which houses both printed and electronic documents, it reflects growing expectations of the end users in relation to services. E-based information services are essential for research scholars in academic libraries. The transfer of library services to the e-based environment helps the users to find, evaluate and use information effectively. The libraries hold the hands of the users who are moving towards new communication paradigm a shift from face to face human contact to human machine interaction, from paper to electronic delivery, from text centered mode to multimedia and from physical presence to virtual presence.

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