

Collection Building and Archiving of E-Resources in Engineering College Libraries

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Abstract

The traditional library collections are gradually replaced by e-documents due to advancement of information technology, information explosions, availability of large number of documents in electronic forms etc. In this context the libraries have no other option than to build collection on e-resources. This paper highlights the different forms of e-resources through which library can build its contention. It also analyzes the advantages and disadvantages of e-resources. Different issues regarding e-resource building and archiving have been discussed thoroughly. Many suggestions have been provided to overcome these issues.

Keywords: e-documents, e-resources. E-resource building and archiving, consortia

Introduction

For centuries, libraries have been entrusted with the work of gathering, recording, organizing and disseminating information and knowledge, mostly in the form of physical media. But it has certain limitations associated with the storage and access to information, within past few decades' remarkable development has been made in computing and networking systems, which has resulted in generation and dissemination of information in digital formats on electronic media. Thus, technological revolution and information explosion has changed our outlook towards functioning of libraries, and the library environment is rapidly changing to electronic environment. The physical hard volumes of books and journals are slowly being replaced by electronic media like floppy discs, magnetic tapes, CD-ROMs, DVDs etc. Also the concept and mode of presentation is changing from static text based to graphic, hypertext, audio, video, multimedia etc. [In this changing library situation, collection and archiving of e-resources have been a great concern for library professionals.

Collection building of E-Resources

The e-resources of a library include the followings, which should be acquired by library as per its needs, infrastructural facilities, financial provision etc.

1) CD-ROM: CD-ROMs are chief e-resource of a library, which is used in the storage of a large amount of data with user-friendly search software. It can be networked through a CD-server or exist as a standalone unit with both specific and general in coverage. There is a developing trend to use CD-ROMs for specialized collections of full text materials.

Examples:

- i. Cross-Cultural CD, published by Silver platter information UK contains full text articles on human relation subject.
- ii. Current contents on CD-ROM- Arts and Humanities, published by Institute of Scientific Information, USA contains number of journal articles on arts and humanities in a database form.
- iii. Biotechnology abstract on C-ROM, published by Silver platter Information Ltd, UK contains abstract articles from good number of journals on biotechnology.

2) E-Journals: The advent of electronic full text journals affords the opportunity to take a fresh approach, recognizing that any risk to publishers in new electronic age is likely to fall on small and medium size libraries, which are operating on restricted budget. Many e-journals are now available online. Some publishers provide free online access to journals published by them against print subscription of library. Publishers provide access to these e-journals either through homepage, for example Cambridge University Press, Chicago University Press etc. or through aggregator such as Analytic Press, Blackwell, Sage publication, Springer etc. e-journal access can be made through.

3) Online Database: More and more e-databases in bibliographic as well as full text sources are available and also added up frequently with the growing demand of users. Some databases are web enabled and some are networked solutions. Web enabled databases are easily accessible from user desktops through the web browser while the networked solutions may require special installation at client side. The e-databases may be of following types,

A) Bibliographic databases;

Asiatic Society Journals Index

- NDMED: Index to Indian Biomedical journal develop and design by Indian MEDLARS center.
- ISID Index to Indian Social Science Journal
- Agricultural Online Access (Agricola) is an index to all aspects of agricultural sciences
- AGRIS (International Information system for Agricultural Science and Technology)
- ERIC database on education
- Ingenta.com- offers access to article of more than 6000 titles
- National library of medicine database provides a wide variety of resources related to the biomedical and health science. Important resources are MEDLINE, Tex net, biomedical information, clinical alerts etc.

B) Full Text Databases

Examples:

- Economic History Encyclopedia Index
- Scientific Electronic Library Online
- Searchable Ornithological Research Archive

C) Statistical Databases

- Census Information
- Database on Indian Economy
- GISTNIC, provides information on banking statistics, industrial statistics, public finance social sector statistics etc.
- Asian Development Bank
- Reserve Bank of India

4) E-books: Since 1970s, the development of electronic versions of printed books (e-books) has been as a part of the whole e-publishing phenomenon. A good number of e-books are available in most of the subject area online which can be accessed from net either free or on payment. Some e-books are available for browsing online or in some cases titles are downloaded from net.

Some online e-book suppliers are as follows.

- i) **Bartelby.com-** offers full text online access to reference, literature and verse books
- ii) **Books-online.com-** includes both free and priced books in its collection, books are available on all subjects and are classified by using DDC.
- ix) **E-Library-** offers online free access to e-books on various subjects. To browse these books one has to download their plug in.

5) Abstracting and indexing databases: The collection and acquisition of abstracting and indexing databases depends on the need of users. Also a library has to choose the required data from a large number of such databases available in the market. Some of the examples of abstracting and indexing database providers are as follows. 1) Dialog 2) CAS 3) OCLC 4) Ovid

6) E-mail and List servers: It provides a means for formal and informal communication. Many list servers are discussion lists that allow discussions to 'take place on a variety of topics and other provide access to electronic titles such as newsletters or serial pricing issues or edupage. Email is now days not only used for transmission of messages but also used for the discussion of ideas, news features et.

7) E-Reports; E-Reports are now a day considers as an Important e-resource of library, which contains reports, publisher by scientist- research scholars etc. These reports are scanned and converted to searchable PDF document. Then these are classified according to subject categories and archived in a server class machine and a detailed entry is made in a database for facilitating search.

8) E-content pages: The idea behind it is to provide desktop access to the digitized content pages of books, conference proceedings, journals etc. it helps the users to browse the content pages to library documents due to excessive physical browsing. The textual information on content page can be processed using OCR method in order to provide full search option on content pages of documents. To represent E-content pages many file formats are available such as PDF, JPEG, GIF, TIF etc. among which PDF is faster and economical for online viewing and archiving.

9) E-clippings: The main objective of e-clipping is retrospective search and comprehensive analysis of new items' It facilitates users to retrieve news clips by simple clicks. The news items are archived into server and users have the option to view them by specific date, duration or news source.

Advantages of e-resources:

There are number of advantages of electronic resources, such as:

- i) It allows remote access.
- ii) It can be used by many users simultaneously
- iii) It is interactive and allows interaction between author/ publisher and users.
- iv) It provides timely access to documents.
- v) It support searching capabilities.
- vi) It accommodates unique features such as links to related items.
- vii) It eliminates priming and postage cost.
- viii) It do not require physical processing.

Disadvantage of e-resources:

The followings are the disadvantages of e-resources.

- i. Initial high infrastructure and installation cost.
- ii. Need special equipment to access.
- iii. Lack of compatibility among different publishers.
- iv. Hardware and software compatibility issues between publishers and users.
- v. Excessive printing of documents.
- vi. Difficulty inherent in relating to a large amount of data on a screen
- vii. Causes more concern about copyright.

E-resources: issues

Several issues are to be taken into consideration for e-resource building as discussed below.

- i. **Organizational issues:-** E-resource building is more oriented towards users point of view and to a great extends depends on organizational culture, objectives, effective strategic planning.
- ii. **Procurement issues:-** Procurement and installation of hardware, software, communication and networking etc. involve and require guidance of experts in the concerned area. Internet connectivity, internet based library applications, networking etc. requires technical skills of IT experts.
- iii. **Financial Issues:** Initial expense to develop necessary infrastructures for e-resource building is quite high. Further it requires recurring expenditure for maintenance and continuation of such related services.
- iv. **Formats:-** It is quite difficult task to decide on the amicable file formats from a numbers of available format such as PDF, ASCII, HTML, GIF, TIF, etc.

- v. **Access to e-resources-** Issues regarding accessing of information via Internet or through the corporate Internet besides hardware support, system support, standardization, ease of use and up gradation etc are to be considered properly.
- vi. **Security-** It is associated with the issues pertaining to security of passwords and information from misuse, hackingetc.
- vii. **Retention-** It means to look at the issues of retaining the articles, copying, downloading under IPR rules and regulations.
- viii. **Licensing-** The e-resources are acquired via licenses for accessioning the electronic copy for a specific period of time and usage as per the terms and conditions negotiated. in the license.

Archiving of e-resources

Archiving is not a new concept to librarians since they have been doing this job since the libraries started acquiring printed materials. But due to technological development, and generation of documents in electronic form, they have to deal with e-resources. Archiving of e-resources assumes greater importance due to production of large number of e-resources both online and offline. Most of the libraries and publishers are concerned with archiving of e-resources so that the information can be made available for long term access to the scholarly community.

The process of archiving requires preserving, storing organizing, and providing effective research facilities to the archived data. Therefore librarians and library professionals should possess the knowledge of creating and maintaining the data bases along with the knowledge of computer, computer languages and different features of the software used other factors such as cost, time technology should also be considered while planning for archiving.

The content of any e-resources is the property of the publishers. They supply it directly to the end users or through a third party i.e. aggregator or vendor. Thus the initial responsibility for archiving e-resources rest primarily on publisher then on aggregator/vendor/copy right holders and lastly on end users i.e. libraries.

E-Resource archiving: issues

E-documents are particularly vulnerable, since the very development of technology continuously makes the hardware and software that contains them outmoded. A web archive should solve the technical problems facing all e-documents as well as its unique problems. The information is generated continuously, it is not discrete rather it is linked, as a result the boundaries of the object to be preserved are ambiguous.

The electronic media, software applications, computer hardware all continue to change at a rapid rate. Therefore policies must be developed to address that reality and the archive must change. The very notion of a permanent of fixed archive must have to give way to an ecological preservation system that is in a state of constant change.

User of an e-archive must be secure that the content they find in archive is the content of the author created, and the publisher published as in case of print collection. But the e-archive has the responsibility to migrate content through numerous generation of hardware and software, according to the rapid changes in technologies of all sorts. Content should include data and discourses about the data that author submit to the publisher, revisions prompted by peer review or copy editing or editorial contents.

Further the archive will not complete with the publisher's presentation. It should be a value adding activities that do not have a major impact on the reader's ability to read content but may help the reader to locate, interact and understand the content.

Suggestion

The issues regarding e-resources building and archiving is large in numbers and are multifarious in nature. To overcome such issues, some suggestions are as discussed below. In the present IT age, it is

fact organizations have to opt for e-resources rather than print version of documents. Therefore as per the requirement of users, every organizations should take initiative in this regard otherwise library will have no role in the domain of IT and role will be restricted to a store house of books and journals.

Above all for e-resource collection building, consortia mode of acquisition of e-resources is highly suggested which will reduce the financial constraints and also smooth delivery of e-documents. In this electronic age, consortia or consortium has gained momentum, even in the developing countries. In India some of the successful consortia are:

- a) SNDT University consortia of library and information science abstract (LISA) with other six universities..
- b) Forum for resource sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics (FOROSA) consortia of Kluwer e-journals, with five institutes.
- c) IIMS consortia of 33 Kluwer journals in management science.
- d) India, digital Library of engineering science and technology (INDEST) consortium by Ministry of HRD with all the IITs, IISC, NITIE, most of the Regional engineering college and IIMs are its members.
- e) UGC info net consortium of e-journals by INFIBNET.
- f) Consortium for CSIR laboratories for accessing e-journals by NISCAIR

Conclusion

E-resources building and archiving is a new trend in the information world, particularly in the field of libraries and librarianship. It has generated a lot of debate over its access, storage, organization, copy right archiving etc. It is still evolving and the future will decides it shape, upon which the future of libraries also depends. Therefore in the electronic environment, libraries need to recognize the increasing generation and demands of e-resources. Similarly library professionals have to and must broaden their understanding to take the new challenges of e-resource building and archiving. The libraries and library professionals in an electronic world will have to rethink their role for survival in 21st century.

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