

Digital Library: Sources, Services and Preservation: A study



Library Science

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Bharat B. Ramani

Librarian, Shri Junagadh kelavani mandal college of education, Junagadh

ABSTRACT

The Library and Information services of fast changing with the swift development of digital publishing. The libraries are not only acquiring printed material but also providing various learning resources in digital form. The present article deals with the digital resources, advantage and needs of preservation, infrastructure required for preservation in Indian environment.

INTRODUCTION

The digital resources are playing most important role in the area of education to provide better services and easy access. Due to explosion of information and knowledge, the digital resources have become more powerful tools that allow users to search the information more effectively and efficiently. The digital resources have become most important aspects of a digital library, which changed the format of information from printed to digital form. With the help of digital resources the users get more information within second and achieve their aim. The development of digital resources has presently become a very common source for information seekers.

DIGITAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Digital resources usually consist of e-books, online Journals, online databases, Institutional Repository, OPAC and Web OPAC, website, e-thesis and e- dissertation, CD-ROMs etc. Therefore, the resources which are available online in digital formats are called digital resources. The digital resources can be used by users through online access. Here we are describing some online digital resources which are useful for academicians, research scholars and LIS professionals.

➤ E-Books

The Oxford Dictionary of English defines the e-book as "an electronic version of a traditional printed book" (<http://en.wikipedia.org>). The e-books are usually read by using a personal computer/desktop and even smart phone also. Usually, some e-books can be downloaded free or at reduce cost through online digital resources. In technical education ground, some leading publishers such as Wiley, TMH, etc are producing e-books.

➤ E- Journals

The E- Journals are usually published on the web and providing information for Academicians, Research Scholars and LIS Professionals. The articles can be downloaded by the users through online digital resources. Many publishers provide free access to online Journals against the print subscription. In the Technical Education ground, some leading publishers such as Elsevier, Blackwell, Wiley, Taylor and Francis, MC Graw Hill and Springer Link are producing online Journals.

➤ Institutional Repositories

The Open Source Software DSpace was developed by MIT and HP dedicated to scholarly community in creating a digital repository of an institution. Green stone (OSS) developed by New Zealand Library Project in association with University of Waiko and distributed under the help of UNESCO that can be freely downloaded from internet, Panneerselvam (2012). The creation of digital repository, digitizing of printed collection and their dissemination successfully carried out by using the DSpace and Green stone OSS (Open Source Software).

In India, there are so many Institutional Repositories developed by research and academic institutions which contain useful information for academicians. The Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC), Bangalore is an example of a subject-specific repository for LIS professionals (<http://drtc.isibang.ac.in/>).

Some popular Indian Library and Information Science Repositories are as under:

ISI, Bangalore	http://library/isibang.ac/in/8080/dspace
IIM, Kozhikode	http://Dspace.iimk.ac.in
INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad	http://dspace/inflibnet.ac.in
IIT, Delhi	http://eprint.iitd.ac.in/dspace
IIS, Bangalore	http://etd.ncsi.iisc.ernet.in/
DRTC, Bangalore	http://drtc.isibang.ac.in
NIC, New Delhi	http://openmed.nic.in

➤ OPAC

Online Public Access catalogue (OPAC) is an online database of material held by the library including books, Journals, etc. The first large-scale online catalogue was developed at Ohio State University in 1975. (<http://en.wikipedia.org>). In OPAC, all the bibliographical information is displayed on computer by author, title, publisher place and etc in a read only format.

The web OPAC helps a user to browse entire document collections on internet of the library.

➤ Website

A website is a collection of World Wide Web (WWW) files includes home page, images, videos or other digital materials that are address connected to a Universal Resource Locator (URL). By giving an address of an institution or individual users get more information about that particular University or institution.

ADVANTAGE

- ❖ The online digital resource can be accessed anywhere on desktop/ notebook computer.
- ❖ Any correction and modification can easily be done in them.
- ❖ One of the most important advantages of online digital resources is multiple access of document.

DIGITAL PRESERVATION

Digital Preservation is a process by which digital data is preserve in digital form in order to make sure that digital information of continuing value remains accessible and usable. The preservation of digital resource is involving way to maintain digital heritage culture.

WHY PRESERVE DIGITAL RESOURCES?

Due to the significance of digital resources it has become the important process in this information society to preserve the digital resources for our future generation and their use. The digital preservation is required due to some following reasons.

- ❖ To provide worldwide accessibility.
- ❖ To maintain the information for future.
- ❖ To save the space and time of users.
- ❖ To preserve the traditional knowledge.

REQUIRED FOR DIGITAL PRESERVATION

The following IT components are making available for the preservation of the digital collection:

- ❖ Personal Computer
- ❖ High Speed Processor
- ❖ Large Random Access Memory
- ❖ Hard disk with large space, Pen Drive
- ❖ CD drive (Read and Write)
- ❖ Modem, Scanner, Monitor
- ❖ Web Cam, Video Camera
- ❖ Open Source Software (OSS)

DIGITAL PRESERVATION IN INDIA

The concept of digital preservation has been introduced in India very lately in 2008. National Digital Preservation programme of India was initiated by Ministry of Communications & Information Technology in 2008, Devi et.al. (2012).

In India, most of the institutions thought to develop consortia based subscription of Journals for online access and preserva-

tion of information and knowledge. The libraries having largest collection of e-resources subscription through various consortia such as UGC-INFONET <http://www.ugc.ac.in>, INDEST Consortium.

CONCLUSION

These digital resources are satisfying the information needs of the academician, researchers and LIS professionals. To save the valuable information and fulfil the requirement of the users, digital resources should be preserved and maintained. In our country, most of the libraries are facing so many problems in digital preservation as lack of fund provided to them. To provide the better services through digital resources to the users, Indian libraries to explore various option to create models for digital preservation of e-resources. Government of India, UGC, Consortia of the Country, INFLIBNET and other Universities/ Institutions should take more steps for digitisations and their preservation. The Digital resources will not survive or remain accessible without their preservation.

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