Digital Libraries & Special Libraries

Library Science

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DIGITAL LIBRARIES & SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Friedrich Nietzsche the famous German philosopher said regarding the human condition; "our treasure lies in the beehive of our knowledge. We are perpetually on the way thither, being by nature winged insects and honey gatherers of the mind" (p. 1). This quote is a perfect example of one of the fundamental human benefits of a universal digital library; the want of knowledge. Instead of having human knowledge spread scarcely across the globe in archaic buildings, we can build an advanced digital beehive of human knowledge, accessible by anyone. The universal digital library is a proposed plan to take all known texts and books and scan them, creating a digital copy that can be accessed by anyone for free on the web. This Universal digital library will not be an easy task to create. It will take time, money, and effort. It will also have to overcome the invested interests of other institutions, and the library generation. But with the increasing number of internet users in the third world the universal digital library will be able to bring knowledge to impoverished citizens that before w... Friedrich Nietzsche the

DIGITAL LIBRARIES

The term digital libraries was first popularized by the NSF/DARPA/NASA Digital Libraries Initiative in 1994.[2] These draw heavily on Vannevar Bush's essay As We May Think (1945), which set out a vision not in terms of technology, but user experience. The term virtual library was initially used interchangeably with digital library, but is now primarily used for libraries that are virtual in other senses (such as libraries which aggregate distributed content). In the early days of digital libraries, there was discussion of the similarities and differences among the terms digital, virtual, and electronic.[3]

The technology used to create digital libraries is even more revolutionary for archives since it breaks down the second and third of these general rules. In other words, "digital archives" or "online archives" will still generally contain primary sources, but they are likely to be described individually rather than (or in addition to) in groups or collections. Further, because they are digital, their contents are easily reproducible and may indeed have been reproduced from elsewhere. The Oxford Text Archive is generally considered to be the oldest digital archive of academic physical primary source materials.

The future
SPECIAL LIBRARIES

A special library is a library that provides specialized information resources on a particular subject, serves a specialized and limited clientele, and delivers specialized services to that clientele.[1] Special libraries include corporate libraries, government libraries, law libraries, medical libraries, museum libraries, news libraries, and nonprofit libraries. Special libraries also exist within academic institutions, including law school libraries and medical school libraries. These libraries are included as special libraries because they are often funded separately from the rest of the university and they serve a targeted groups of users.

Characteristics

Special libraries often have a more specific clientele than libraries in traditional educational or public settings, and deal with more specialized kinds of information. They are developed to support the mission of their sponsoring organization and their collections and services are more targeted and specific to the needs of their clientele. Special libraries may or may not be open to the general public. Those that are open to the public may offer services similar to research, reference, public, academic, or children's libraries, often with restrictions such as only lending books to patients at a hospital or restricting the

History

The idea of "special libraries" in the context of sharing a collection of books to a targeted audience was by no means novel.[4] The first known libraries, dating back to the beginning of known history, recorded commercial transactions and inventories.[5][6] Today, these fall under the heading of corporate libraries, discussed below. The concept of "special libraries" as a distinctive categories of libraries emerged in the United Kingdom and the United States in the nineteenth century. The burgeon of various special library association ensued the founding of American Library Association (ALA) in 1876. The Medical Library Association was found in 1898, followed by the

Professional associations

One major professional association for special libraries is the Special Libraries Association, which has chapters in Canada, the US, and Europe. The UK based Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals and the Australian Library and Information Association also have focus groups devoted to special libraries. More special library associations around the world can be found in the List of Library Associations. There are also associations dedicated to supporting

Types of Special Libraries
Corporate libraries

A corporate library is a collection of resources contained within a corporate entity. Corporate libraries help to organize and disseminate information throughout the organization for its own benefit. They often support areas in the company relating to finance, administration, marketing and technical specialization. In terms of size, they are seldom very large, and most library departments employ less than five full-time staff.[9] One major issue in corporate libraries relates to the difficulty of putting a dollar value on the intangible services the library provides to its parent company. The information services

Law libraries
Main article: Law library

Law libraries are designed to assist law students, attorneys, judges, and their law clerks, and other individuals conducting legal research including members of the general public. Most law libraries are attached to law schools, private law firms, or government courts for the use of the respective institution's clientele, though some university libraries also maintain a dedicated legal section. The collections of law libraries are tailored to the specific legal interests of the institution they

Federal libraries

Federal libraries are libraries of a federal government. In the United States, The most obvious is the Library of Congress (LC),

but there are "more than 1,100 libraries in the U.S. federal government."[16] The Library of Congress has identified eleven types of federal libraries:

1. Engineering & science
2. Military base/post
3. Health & medicine
4. Law
5. Archives, museums, Presidential libraries
6. Prison
7. National Parks
8. General Agency
9. Academic
10. Training centers & Technical Schools
11. Program/Regional Office

The Library of Congress managers the Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK) as a consortium for U.S. federal government libraries, offering purchasing, training, and resource-sharing. FEDLINK's mission is to "achieve optimum use of the resources and facilities of federal libraries and information centers by promoting common services, coordinating and sharing of a nation-state.

Medical libraries
Main article: Medical library
Medical libraries, also known as hospital libraries or health libraries, are designed to support the needs of physicians, health professionals, medical researchers, medical students, patients, and consumers interested in the medical field. Most medical libraries are intended to assist active medical professionals, researchers, and the public interested in researching the medical field and are attached to hospitals, medical research facilities, medical schools, and similar

Military libraries
Military libraries are designed to support the needs of members of a nation's armed forces and other personnel attached to the unit or base that the library is a part of .[18] The primary responsibilities of military libraries are assisting military personnel with access to resources for professional development, personal education, and leisure. Military libraries attached to military bases often include collections and services for families of personnel assigned to the

Music libraries
Music libraries are designed to support the needs of musicians and musicologists as well as broadcasting authorities, orchestral, opera and choral professionals, music publishers and suppliers and music librarians.[19] The primary responsibilities of music libraries are to collect musical scores, recordings of performances, critiques, commentary and scholarship on the development of music as an art of both composition and performance. Music libraries document music as an art in all of its diversity of forms and genres. Music libraries contain

Transportation libraries
Transportation libraries are designed to support the study, research, and dissemination of information related to transportation. They provide resources related to policy, regulations, operations, and other aspects of transportation. Users of transportation libraries include engineers, city planners, contractors, academic researchers, and the general public.[21] Transportation libraries are located at the federal, state, and local levels of government, as well as at universities and research institutes. Major transportation libraries can be found

Museum libraries
Museum libraries are libraries within museums. Like any other special library, museum libraries have aspects of traditional libraries, but also contain other characteristics unlike public or academic libraries. Museum libraries are often associated with a public museum or institution whose main purpose is to provide

Correctional Institution libraries
Main article: Prison library
Correctional Institution libraries,[28] or prison libraries, serve a number of roles in a prison community. They provide a source of entertainment for the incarcerated, offer a place to research legal cases, and facilitate education. Because many inmates often have low literacy levels, correctional institution libraries sometimes offer tutoring services from civilian volunteers, teachers, or other inmates. Correctional institution libraries usually have one or two

News libraries and Hemerotec
News libraries maintain collections of news articles and news-related items. Archives of newspapers, magazines and other periodicals in print for consultation in public libraries may be called a Hemerotec in some European countries. The term also refers to an archive or a collection of newspapers, magazines and other journalistic publications of a specific type such as document archives of publishers. The term is also used for archives of recent web-pages.

Performing arts libraries
Performing arts library specialize in collecting items relating to any faction of the performing arts, including music, theatre, dance, film, and recorded sound. Generally, these libraries are open to the public, though patrons are only allowed to study these items within the library itself. The reason for this is because of how rare and fragile some of these resources are. This type of library is usually of portraits, and even printed materials like books and periodicals.

Theological Libraries
Theological libraries provide many different types of resources to assist in educating and promoting the study of theology and religion. These libraries assist students, faculty, staff, and researchers through the use of primary and secondary sources to advance their knowledge of religion and theology to better understand its impact upon the world. Within the category of theological

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