Need of Digital Libraries and Changing Role of Librarian

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Abstract:

This paper highlights the importance of digitalization of library resources. It differentiates the library resources and services. New generations are not satisfied with the printed available material they required data in electronic form which can easily carry anywhere in tablets, mobiles, laptop, Palmtop computers etc. major changes in this information technological world have transformed the role of librarians. Paper also discussed necessity of e-dimension of library resources and library's existence does not depend on the physical form of documents. Its mission is to link the past and the present, and help shape the future by preserving the records of human culture, as well as integrating emerging information technologies. This mission is unlikely here in the near future. Digital libraries come in many forms. They attempt to provide instant access to digitized information and consist of a variety information, including multimedia. Librarian's need have to working in networked digital and computerized environment.

Keywords: *Information Technology, Digitalization, Computerization, Digital libraries*

Introduction

The role of libraries changing, and wish it, the role of librarians. The main function of the library, however, is no longer to just house books much of its selection now resides digitally and those who work within the halls of libraries, which are the librarians, are adapting to these changes as well. Rapid advances in information technologies have revolutionized the role of libraries as a result, libraries face new challenges. competitors, demands, and expectations libraries are redesigning services and information products to add value to their services and to satisfy the changing information needs of the user community. Traditional libraries are still handling largely printed materials that are expensive and bulky. Information seekers are no longer satisfied with only printed materials.

A librarian or information professional must be able to participate actively in the educational process rather than gathering and disseminating information to the public through workshops, orientations, training, etc. They must ensure that there is effective and efficient flow of information from the generators to users of information in the digital environment. This is a complex communication chain with libraries and information systems playing an important, even critical, role. The information professional must be able to address the changing and challenging environment for libraries and information systems and services in the Digital Age with an emphasis on examining contemporary problems, und solutions.

Definition

Digital library is a relatively new concept. The term digital library explains the nature of its collection. Many Definitions are available in the literature. Digital libraries are electronic libraries in which large number of geographically distributed users can success the contents of large and diverse repositories of electronic objects. Electronic objects include networked text, images, maps, sounds, catalogues of merchandise. They also include hypertext, hypermedia, multimedia compositions.

The Digital Library Federation defines digital libraries as: Organizations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer Intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily available for use by a defined community or set of communities. (Shiri 2003).

The DELOS Digital Library Reference Model defines a digital library as: An organization, which might be virtual, that comprehensively collects, manages and preserves for the long term rich digital content, and offers to its user communities specialized functionality on that content, of measurable quality and according to codified policies. (Digital Library)

The digital content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely via computer networks. Ray R Larson defined "digital library is a global virtual library, the library of thousands of networked electronic libraries "based on the view of different persons, a digital library may be referred to as combination of library system with computer network technologies or computerized network system where all the library information is stored in electronic format, which can be accessed and transmitted through networks enabling retrieval of required information by a large number of users. Users may access to desired information using a computer terminal at their pace of work.

2. Objectives
1. To save time of library staff by avoiding routine jobs.
2. To provide retrospective services in an efficient way.
3. To collect, store, organize and access information in digital form.
4. To serve widely dispersed communities throughout the network
5. To reduce cost involved in various library activities.

3. Requirement for Digital Libraries
The Internet and World Wide Web provide the impetus and technological environment for the development and operation of a digital library. The Internet provides the TCP/IP and or its associated protocol for accessing the information and web provide tools and technique for publishing the information over Internet. In the digital environment it is reasonable to say that a central back up or archive should be created at the national level, which will store information output of the region as well as information from outside the country. Some of the requirements

4. For digital libraries are
- Computer: Server, P.C. with multimedia, UPS. Etc
- Scanner: H.P. Scan jet, flatbed, Sheet feeder, Drum scanner, Slide scanner, Audio visual: Color TV, V.C.R. D.V.D. Sound box. Telephone etc
- Printer: Laser printer, Dot matrix, Barcode printer, Digital graphic printer etc
- Network: LAN, MAN, WAN, Internet etc.
- Software: Any suitable software, which is interconnected and suitable for LAN and WAN connection.
- Storage devices: Optical storage device, CD-ROM, Jukebox etc. Microfilming scanner, Digital camera, Barcode scanner etc

5. Advantages of a Digital Library
- The advantages of digital libraries include
- Nearly unlimited storage space at a much lower cost
- Reallocate funds from some staff collection maintenance, and additional books.
- No physical boundary
- Round the clock availability

- Multiple access
- Enhanced information retrieval.
- Preservation for some print material
- Added value
- Universal accessibility
- Space
- Added value
- Easily accessible

6. Skills and qualities of a librarian

Understanding the process of information transfer and its problems in relation to user population. Assessment of information technological resources. Fully knowledge in IT or ICT. Organization of information and matching the needs of the user with resources.

7. Qualities of librarian

Librarian must be intellectual honest and genuine scholar.
Librarian Should be psychologist so that librarian can understand the need of library users. Librarian should possess a logical and analytical mind.

8. The New Role of Libraries/ Librarians in a Digital Environment

Information and Communication Technology has revolutionized the concept of libraries, Each library is slowly being digitized. A digital library comprises digital collect services and infrastructure to support lifelong learning. research, scholarly communication as well as preservation and conservation of our recorded knowledge. It is also a process of democratization of information. This article will discuss the factors that will necessitate the traditional libraries to get digitized, as well as the definition, need, advantages and disadvantages of digital libraries, the requirement for building a digital library etc. The emphasis is also put to describe the role of librarian in the new environment. We are in the age of a networked society where IT in addition to its use in all spheres of human activity has been used extensively to record, store, and disseminate the information in the digital form. IT has almost converted the world into a global village. The revolution in the IT sector is influencing the information industry also. Libraries are also changing to meet the demand put on them. The new generation whose demand for information is never met is always demanding that traditional libraries should be developed as a well equipped and interconnected as digital libraries. If we consider that the information is for use and for all then why not libraries for all? Why not libraries become universal open for all those who seek for Information. By considering this view, a number of large organizations in USA and Europe have already more or less switched over to digital mode.

They are making digital images of periodicals which are not available in electronic form and there after no new procurement is being made on print media if a digital version is available. Examples of such organizations are University Micrographic Inc. (UMI of USA), National Institute of Scientific and Technical Information (INIST of France) etc. The term Digital Library has a variety of potential meanings, ranging from a digitized collection of material that one might find in a traditional library through to the collection of all digital information along with the services that make that information useful to all possible users. As there are many definitions of a "digital library" terms such as "electronic library" and "virtual library" are often used synonymously. A digital library is nothing but a large database for the people who are working on hypertext environment. It is an environment, which supports the full life cycle of creation, storage, preservation, dissemination and use of data, Information and knowledge. According to Arms a digital library is a managed collection of information with associated services where the information is stored in digital format and accessible over a network. The digital library federation in the USA defines the digital library as: Digital libraries are organizations that provide the resources, including specialized staff, to select, structure, offer

intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities. A digital library is in organized collection of digitized material or its holding in the digital form, which can be accessible by a computer on the network by using TCP/IP or other protocol.

9. Conclusion

The profession parades an array of people from diverse backgrounds such as engineering, communication, computer, electronics and other fields. Librarians can team up with other professionals to develop new technologies. Information professionals should be well informed on new inventions in ICT. Digital libraries are not going to replace the physical existence of document completely but no doubt to meet the present demand, to satisfy the non local user digitization must be introduced so that at least libraries becomes of hybrid nature. It needs to be integrated into the plans and policies of any institution to maximize its effectiveness. Librarian need to realize the advantages of the mass delivery of library information services in the digital age become inevitable, the professionals can join the revolutionized technological race without sacrificing their conception of traditional libraries.

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