ROLE OF E-RESOURCES IN LIBRARIES & INFORMATION CENTERS

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The E-resources have become very popular in libraries & information centers. The paper deals with the concept of E-Resources, its features and types as well as use of e-resources on Libraries and selection cum evaluation of e-resources. It also reveals the significance of E-Resources.

INTRODUCTION

Information Technology has thrown a new challenge to the libraries. The technology has shown a great impact on the service of the libraries. The access to information through internet has changed the role of libraries. Libraries now have both printed document as well as electronic information sources on their collection. The electronic documents can be stores, accessed and delivered as and when requires, therefore the services of the libraries are not confined on to local, regional, national and international networks. It has become a global activity.

Electronic information has gradually become a major resource in every update library. Electronic information has diversified the ways of communication, storage and retrieval of information, demands of users and information management system in the libraries.

E-RESOURCES

E-Resources are those electronic products that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text basis, e-journals, image collection, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based as commercially available till that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD-ROM, on tap via internet and so on.

DEFINITION

According to Sukula "An E-Resources is electronic information resources that can be accessed on the web,

on or off campus, user can get the information what he or she want, when it is needed.

FEATURES OF E-RESOURCES

- 24x7 availability.
- E-Resources provide hyperlinks.
- E-Resources are huge information reservoirs.
- E-Resources provide quick information.
- E-Resources provide various search options.
- E-Resources provide easy citation.
- Easy in uploading and updating.
- Ease in copying, storage and dissemination.
- Comprehensive of everything.
- Time, space and cost are not major hurdles in E-Resources.
- Ease in archiving.

TYPES OF E-RESOURCES

There are various types of E-Resources

ELECTRONIC DATABASE

Electronic database consists of organized pieces of information placed in to records with in electronic database. Computer program assists the user in selecting the desired piece of data.

E-Database includes products such as periodical indexes & abstracts, directories, encyclopedias, dictionaries,

other reference work. E-Database provides search facility to users by subject, type and title or keyword with the Boolean logic feature.

E-JOURNALS

E-Journals are available in the electronic form and be accessed using computer and communication technology. It could be available free or as part of a paid service. E-Journals have now become a major source of information delivery for scholars and researchers. Their timely production, delivery, incorporation of multimedia, hyperlinking and searching facility has attracted the interest of people.

E-BOOKS

An e-book is an electronic version of book that can be read by using a personal computer or by using e-book reader user can purchase an e-book on diskette or CD. An e-book available fully electronically via a website on the internet. E-books are preferred by the users for their features like portability, upgradability, note making, citation, changeable font size, references links to other relevant sites, searching etc.

CD-ROM

CD-ROM is a non-volatile optical data storage medium using the same physical format such as audio, compact discs, readable by a computer with a CD-ROM drive. Various dictionaries, directories, year books are available on CD / DVD ROM.

WHY TO ADOPT E-RESOURCES IN LIBRARIES

There are various reasons for requiring electronic resources in libraries.

User Demand

With the advance of information technology, information is available on a single click, by providing various searching, linking and facility. User attracts towards electronic resources, there is ample demand from users for providing electronic information services in the library.

Anyone can access the information by sitting in the corner of house through internet from the world.

Availability of Information in E-Form

In globally emerging trend of e-publishing the primary focus is on the output of high value digital contents with robust search facility.

Selection of E-Resources

The selection process should be done in relevance with the demands of the users, committee, focus group, user recommendations etc. apart from this it should take into consideration the following steps.

- To identify library needs.
- To identify content and scope of the e-resources.
- To evaluate quality of that particular resource and search capabilities.
- To estimate the cost.
- To check the either subscription based or web based when acquiring.
- To evaluate the systems and technical support.
- To review licensing agreements.
- To evaluate application software and installation, updated sporadically or in regular schedule.
- To check the facilities for educational support and training.

Evaluation of E-Resources

According to Devi & Devi, the following points should be considered while evaluating e-resources

- To identify the electronic version have the retrospective data.
- To check the content of the e-resources with relevant to the users as well as to the collection as a whole.
- To check whether the information is often updated or not.
- To identify the methods of accessing of

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e-resources available.

- To identify the e-resources needed to maintain and redesign the library website identified.

- To check the staffing needs for training of recruiting with the existing technology.

- To determine the e-resources have affordable price.

Issues and Challenges

The explosion of e-resources have raised new issues and challenges follows

Interoperability

It is an ability to store and retrieve material across diverse content collections administered independently.

It brings an inter-relationship between information service related disciplines like library management, archives management, document management and resource management.

Intellectual property rights

Libraries need flexible licenses that enable them to create legally archival collections and to transfer content to newer storage technologies for preservation, licensing arrangements become complex as libraries purchase and share access to both print and electronic versions of documents.

Privacy and security

A related set of challenges for electronic resources is the ability or in some cases the requirement to electronic and digital contents from unauthorized access or uncontrolled use of that content such as replicating and transmitting it to others.

Preservation

Long term storage technologies and efficient procedures for transferring ephemeral content into long-live storage have not been developed yet.

Conclusion

Due to the advancement of information technology libraries gradually shifting towards the electronic libraries with electronic resources. Libraries are now increasingly involves in creating and acquiring e-resources due to extra ordinary features of electronic resources. However in order to meet the ever increasing demand of the user community in digital environment, libraries have to develop a way to manage access to materials available in electronic format

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