E-Resources Management System: An Overview

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Abstract

This paper has made an attempt to highlight the main issues of e-resources. The paper describes the concept and the meaning of e-resources by giving definitions. It also describes the various types of e-resources; E-journals, e-books, online databases etc. are the main e-resources. These are very useful due to inherent, providing information access is cheaper to acquiring information, savings in storage and maintenance. The paper also explores the critical issues and challenges of e-resources which are facing by libraries and other institutions to manage and access the information in electronic format.

Keywords: *E-Resource, E-Prints, type of resource, Meta Resources.*

Introduction

E-resources have become very important and essential source of information in the present age of Information and Communication Technology The role of e-resources has become very important in the present age of ICT. Due to the development of Information Communication Technology and its applications, information is available in electronic format very commonly and the information in electronic format has become easier and accessible in comparison to printed collection. Availability of huge amount of information and day to day changing expectations of getting information quickly and efficiently are increasing the need and importance of e-resources. . E-journals, e-books, e-databases, online database, Meta-Resources etc. are the main e-resources. These are very useful due to inherent, providing information access is cheaper to acquiring information, savings in storage and maintenance etc. Access to timely, up-to-date, and appropriate information are the key issues to increase the popularity of e-resources.

E-Resources: E-Resources (Electronic resources) can be defined as resources that include both document and non-documents in electronic or e-format that provide information or a link to the information.

According to Library of Congress, Collections Policy Statements: Electronic Resources, 1999:'E-resources' is defined "as any work encoded and made available for access through the use of a computer"-based device. E-resources means the material consisting of data and computer programs encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer or by the use of peripheral device connected to the computer via a network .E-resources are those electronic products that deliver the collection of information in electronic format. E-Journals, E-Books, Electronic Theses and Dissertations, E-Databases, Electronic Preprints and E-Prints etc. are the main e-resources.

Need of E-Resources

There are several reasons to prefer electronic. Some of them are following:

1. Electronic resources can be accessed from anywhere at any time.
2. The library can get usage statistics that are not available for print collections;
3. Electronic resources are relatively easy to maintain.
4. Electronic journals can be linked from and to indexing and abstracting databases;
5. Users can get a huge amount of information through Electronic resources.

6. Resource sharing and transportation of information has become very easy through Electronic resources.

7. Through electronic resources, users can get his/her information immediately.

Types of E-Resources

There are many types of E-Resources available; some of them are given below:

Electronic Journals: These are scholarly journals or intellectual magazines that can be accessed via electronic transmission. In practice, this means that they are usually published on the Web. They are a specialized form of electronic document: they have the purpose of providing material for academic research and study, and they are formatted approximately like journal articles in traditional printed journals. Electronic journals form a large part of the collection of a library for providing web-based services.

There are three important formats of electronic journals:

Online E-Journals: We can access these journals on payment basis via online hosts. Generally, the cost of these journals is very high.

CD-ROM E-Journals: CD is one of the most useful, important and reliable media to store information in electronic form.

Networked Journals: These are the journals in electronic format which are based on mailing list software and distributed by e-mail and FTP to the subscribers of the journal.

Electronic Books: A book composed in or converted to digital format for display on a computer screen or handheld device is called an electronic book. These are the electronic versions of books which are delivered to customers in digital formats. Questia, NetLibrary, Ebrary provides these e-resources.

Electronic Theses and Dissertations: An ETD is a thesis/dissertation created as an electronic document (or set of electronic documents). The electronic documents that make up an ETD can be created using any popular word processing software program. Like a paper-based thesis/dissertation, an ETD describes why the work was done, how the research relates to previous work, what research methods were used, and what was found, followed by an interpretation and discussion of the results

Electronic Preprints and E-Prints: Ginsparg Preprint Archive, Pub med Central, CERN preprint server etc. are the examples of preprint servers which provide the electronic preprints of research articles that are available for distribution before peer reviewing, through the network. E-Prints are the peer reviewed articles in electronic format.

Online Databases: An online database is an organized, integrated and interrelated collection of computer-based data, records, files or information, accessible from a network, including from the Internet. An electronic database is a comprehensive collection of information in electronic form and organized for quick retrieval which may be the database of either full-text documents or citations and abstracts. These are large collections of machine-readable data that are maintained by commercial agencies and. are accessed through communication lines. Many libraries subscribe to them for easy access and use of current information.

Meta Resources: Meta Resources are those resources that facilitate easier access to network-based resources in a defined subject area, subject gateways, subject based information gateways, virtual libraries, clearing house, pathfinders, guide to Internet information resources etc.

Other Collection: Electronic conferences, Print-On-Demand, OPAC, Library catalogue, digital collections of images, audio and videos virtual libraries, archives and museums, etc are other available E-Resources.

Challenges of E-Resources:

Libraries are facing many challenges to manage e-resources; some of them are given below:

*   Preservation of Electronic resources.
*   Inadequate library funds.
*   Need of technical infrastructure.
*   Technological obsolesce.
*   Licensing of Electronic resources.
*   Security to access of electronic resources.
*   Lack of professional skills.
*   Lack of awareness towards e- resources.

Access of E-Resources: We can get the information from various e-information resources available in the market in the following way:

- Through the traditional commercial publishers offering electronic versions of their resources.
- Through the new enterprises offering new products and services.
- Through the Subscription agents, electronic aggregators, institutions etc which are also providing the information through electronic resources.
- **Through Resource sharing**: Increase of the literature in all subjects and shrinking of the library budget made the libraries depend upon each other. This leads to library cooperation and resource sharing so the access of E-Resources can also be possible by resource sharing in the following manner:

Consortia: A library consortium is a collective activity to provide shared expertise, access to new electronic and print resources, professional development, and new sources of funds. The aim of Consortia is to achieve what the members of the group cannot achieve individually. A number of library consortia have emerged in India; for example: UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INDEST-AICTE Consortium, SIR E-Journal Consortium, MCIT Library Consortium, DAE Consortium etc. The consortia provide a large number of electronic journals and databases to its users.

Network: Network is one of the organizational arrangements for achieving the objectives of resource sharing. The concept of library networking to aid information resource sharing and support activities in libraries has become a real necessity. There are many Library Networks in India like DELNET, MALIBNET, CALIBNET, MYLIBNET, BONET, etc.

Conclusion

Higher level education students, researchers and faculty members prefer e-resources to traditional resources of information. E-resources are offering creative possibilities for expanding access as well as changing learning behavior and research activities. So libraries should encourage and create the environment to enhance the utility and accessibility of e-resources; to get this objective training programs and technical sessions should be introduced and organized to create and enhance the awareness and use of e-resources for the users and the staff because e-resources are the boon to the present era.

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