



Selection of e-resource for academic libraries

Jyoti

Assistant Professor, Monad University, Hapur Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract

E-resources are playing vital role in modern time. Collection of e-resources is very essential for academic libraries. The library services have changed quickly in the last twenty years. Nowadays, networks, electronic resources and the World Wide Web (WWW) are utilized extensively in the library services. The major findings of this paper is to explaining about e-resources, difference between print and electronic resources, types of e-resources, advantages and disadvantages of e-resources and selection of e-resources for academic libraries.

Keywords: E-resources; Print Vs Electronic resources; Types of E-resources; Essential requirement of e-resources; Merits and Demerits of E-resources; Selection of E-resources and Evaluation of E-resources

Introduction

In the 21st century most of the academic libraries are changed in the form of e-journals, e-theses, e-books and e-dissertations. Revolution of information and communication technology has drastic changes in the way of information gathered, organized, store, accessed, consumed and retrieval. Due to the advantages of e-resources, many academic libraries have re-positioned towards digital e-resources, which are found to be low-priced and easy to use. The difficulty of electronic resources has grown to cover of library online catalogue list of CD-ROM, database, reference materials, newspapers, online journals, e-books, many publishers and bookshops are amounting to the electronic resources, at the time there is a pressing need for guidance in the proper utilization of these resources. Their preferences have been changed. User satisfaction level has been increasing to wards for digital library. Now libraries have been able to provide fast and seamless access of information to its users. In the 21st century most of the

libraries are present the information by electronic formats such as e-books, e-database, e-journals etc. In present time libraries are developing from print to electronic format. But choice of e-resources is one of the major task for technical professionals because there are too many e-resources available in the market.

E- Resources

The e-resources are systems in which information is save electronically and made easy to access through computer networks and electronic systems. These resources include CD-ROMs, OPAC, E-journals, E-books, Online-Databases, Internet resources etc. so, in the context term means any electronic product that delivers collection of data in text, graphical, numerical or time based as a commercially available resources. They have commercial aspect is in many ways.

Print Vs Electronic resources

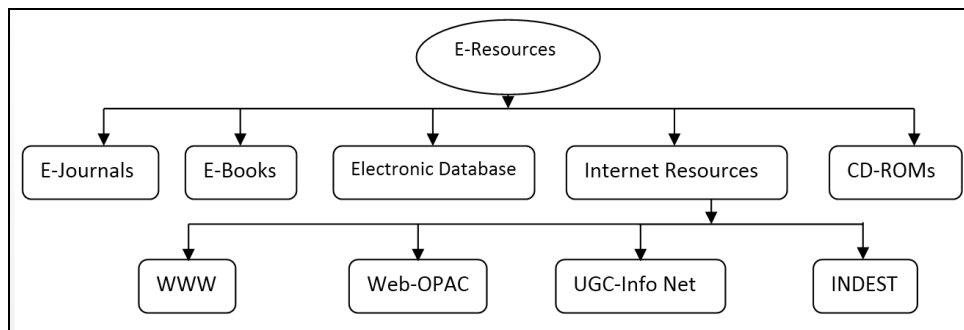
Table 1: In general the difference between the print and electronic resources can be summarized as follows (Singh 2010):

Print Resources	Electronic Resources
Non-interactive	Interaction can be included
Continuously presented	Each document can be split into multiple hyper linked pages.
No link to further information except through the contents pages and index	Links can be provided to further information through hyper linking
User training not required	Basic training required to access information
Technology independent	Technology dependent

Types of E-resources

Electronic resources include electronic book, electronic

journals, CD-ROMs, Internet resources, electronic databases etc. the different types of e-resources are described as follows:



E- Books As the name suggest it is simply an electronic version or we can say edition of printed books or texts which can be accessed on a personal computer or on any hand-held gadget designed particularly for this purpose.

E- Journals Same as E-books, E journals are the electronic version of journals, publications used widely by the scientific and academic society to circulate research findings.

E- News papers It is the online accompaniments of established newspapers where news articles and the latest update are published on the web.

E-zines E-zines are equivalent to e-newspapers but published by established print magazine publishers. Many magazines title such as the Economies times, National Geographic and so on, have also established online websites.

E-database e-databases may consist of books, periodicals, report and theses, etc can be converted to electronic form that allows access through network.

E- Thesis It is an electronic document that explains the intellectual works or research of a researcher.

CD-ROM It has granted new aspect for information for information storage and retrieval. Now a days most of the work on e-journals has concentrated on distribution via the internet and CD-ROM as well.

E-reference sources It is an electronic version of references sources, such as Encyclopedia, Dictionaries, Biographies etc.

Essential requirement of e-resources

Many of the electronic books or electronic publisher's web site freely permit and encourage readers to provide feedback on works, often directly to the author rather than to the publisher. Never the less users may established their own accounts, charge services to credit cards or pay by prearranged method and have requested material delivered directly to them by fax, e-mail, etc. today, libraries of all kinds have been spending larger and larger shares of their budgets to adopt or gain access to electronic resources from publishers and vendors. This is due the fact that e-resources have enabled libraries to improve services in numerous ways. First, most e-resources come prepared with influential search-and-retrieval tools that facilitate scholars to carry out literature search more effectively and efficiently. Users can access the information with multimedia (i.e. sound, vedio, animation, graphical form and so on).

Merits of E-resources

The merits of e-resources are

1. Allow remote access

2. Available before print version
3. More than one user can use it simultaneously
4. Provide timely access to documents
5. Support different searching capabilities
6. Accomodate unique features such as links to related items
7. Save physical storage space
8. It can support multimedia information
9. It can be globally fruitful
10. It can be saved digitally
11. It eliminates printing and postage cost
12. It can easily merge with alerting service
13. It provides improved access through full text searching
14. It can solve the problems of missing issue of any journals
15. Any change in e-resources can be made available quickly
16. In case sole the problems of missing issues of any journals
17. Any change in e-resources can be made available quickly
18. In case of any eventuality, calamity such as fire, the resources can still be in tract
19. Easy to convert in different language
20. Do not require physical processing.

Demerits of E-resources

The demerits of e-resources are

1. Initial high infrastructure and installation cost
2. Need special equipment to access
3. Lack of compatibility between various publishers
4. Hardware and software compatibility issues between publishers and users
5. Difficulty inherent in relating to a large amount of data on a screen
6. Causes more concern about copyright
7. Uncertainly of permanent access
8. Issues related to achieving
9. Training
10. Plagiarism
11. Excessive printing of documents
12. Bibliographical control
13. Classification and catalogue
14. Pricing
15. Security

Selection of E-resources

While selecting e-resources for academic libraries, there are several things to be considered carefully:

1. Contents: to check the contents of the various products because print, CD-ROM and online version of a product

- have different content, quality, scope, indexing, referencing and illustrations.
2. Cost: cost of each product in various formats will vary and may not relate to the quality and scope of the document.
 3. Building: when one title in electronic form is purchased, one may have also to take various different titles or modules, bundled to gather as a deal product, whether user require it or not.
 4. Full text/abstract/citation: it full text database required? If the databases do not contain full text, does it have document delivery option? If not, are the given citations complete enough for placing an order? These few questions are also considered at the time of selection.
 5. Coverage: to check the subject area and scope of the databases and also the database provide links to further resources (full text as well as abstract) of information.
 6. Different versions: to check the different versions available for the database and all the information is same in each one.
 7. Currency: to check the currency of the information.
 8. Reliability: to check the authority and information compiled from valid sources.
 9. Format: can documents be viewed and downloaded in a variety of formats?
 10. Ease of use: is it user-friendly or requires end user training?
 11. Support and backup: what level of support and backup is provided by the producer, online help, support documentation and help desk and training? Is local support available or not?
 12. Free trail: is a free trial offered to allow a complete evaluation of a product by the users?
 13. Terms of license: is there is any restriction placed on access, downloading and distribution?
 14. User behavior: assessment of user behavior is essential, particularly when moving from print publications to e-resources because user's ability to search, browse and jump across the titles via hyperlinks in an environment is the pre-requisite for such sources.

Evaluation of e-resources

Evaluation of resources plays a great role due to the huge number of e-resources, such as e-journals, database, e-text, etc present globally on internet. Authority, currency, intended audience, ease of use accuracy etc are some accountable parameters for evaluation of e-resources. Moreover, extensiveness of the content, accessibility, quality of technical support, cost, conditions of licensing agreement are also other responsible factors which should taken into account. During the evaluation of e-resources the under mention should be considered.

- To identify the electronic version have the retrospective data (as mostly electronic resources do not include data prior to some year);
- To determine particular source of information of e-resources offer any unique features which are unavailable in other print version;
- To test the stuff of the e-resources with significance to the

users as well as to the collection as a whole;

- To check whether the information is often updated or not;
- To determine the e-resources have reasonable cost or not through offered diverse pricing system by the publishers;
- To check the technique of accessing of 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.

Some free website for e-resources are:

Full- Text E-Resources

1. AMU Social Science E-Books Cyber Library <http://14.139.43.151:8080/browse/category/allbooks>
2. Tech books for free Download <http://www.techbooksforfree.com>
3. E-book project Gutenberg <http://www.gutenberg.org>
4. DOAJ <http://doaj.org>
5. DOAB <http://www.doabooks.org>
6. Open Access Journal Search Engine <http://www.oajse.com>
7. FOLDOC – Free Online Dictionary of Computing <http://foldoc.org>
8. Free Tech Books <http://www.freetechbooks.com>
9. Book Boon <http://bookboon.com>
10. E-book Library <http://ebooksgo.org>
11. Science Direct <http://www.sciencedirect.com>
12. BASE (Bielefeld Academic Search Engine) <http://www.base-search.net>
13. UDL (Universal Digital Library) <http://www.ulib.org/index.html>
14. The Mathematical Atlas <http://www.math.niu.edu/~rusin/known-math>
15. Free Full PDF <http://www.freefullpdf.com>
16. National Library of Medicine (NLM) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc>
17. The Scientific Electronic Library Online – SciELO <http://www.scielo.br>
18. HINARI – Enabling the Developing World to Access Health Research <http://extranet.who.int/hinari/en/journals.php>
19. Health Network <http://healthinternet.org>
20. Free Medical Journals <http://www.freemedicaljournals.com/f.php?f=jpmedic>
21. Free Medical Books <http://www.freebooks4doctors.com>
22. Bartleby <http://www.bartleby.com>
23. Free Computer Books.com: Free Computer, Mathematics, Technical Books and Notes, etc. <http://freecomputerbooks.com>
24. Free Online Books <http://onlinesapiens.com/books.html>
25. Open Textbooks <http://collegeopentextbooks.org>
26. Open College Consortium <http://oerconsortium.org/dicipline-specific>
27. IPL.2: Information You can Trust <http://www.ipl.org>
28. The National Academics Press (NAP) <http://www.nap.edu>
29. Online Books Library <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu>

30. Ebook3000 <http://www.ebook3000.com>
31. OMICS Group Open Access Journals <http://www.omiesgroup.org>
32. Book Chums <http://www.bookchums.com/ebooks.php>
33. Book Yards <http://www.bookyards.com>
34. Rapid Search <http://rapidseach.infobind.com>
35. Digital Book Index <http://www.digitalbookindex.com/search001a.html>
36. E- Books Directory <http://www.e-booksdirectory.com>
37. Web Books Viewer <http://www.web-books.com>
38. Free Fiction Books <http://www.freefictionbooks.org>
39. Munseys <http://wwwmunseys.com>
40. Alex Catalogue of electronic Texts <http://informations.com/alex>
41. Free Electronic Resources <http://library-emu.edu.enlibRARY/freeresources.htm>
42. Intute (Stopped Now) <http://www.intute.ac.uk>

Online E- Religious Books

1. Swami Dayananda <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>
2. Aadi Shankaracharya <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
3. Sri Aurobindo <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
4. Swami Vivekanand <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
5. Swami Ramteerth <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
6. Sitaram Goel <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
7. Veer Savarkar <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
8. Swami Shivanand <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
9. Hindu Rastra & Hundurastra <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>
10. Basic Hinduism <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
11. Hindutva and India <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
12. Islam Postmortem <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
13. Christianity Postmortem <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
14. Autobiography <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
15. Religion and spirituality <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>
16. Yajna <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>
17. Brahmcharya <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
18. Yog <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
19. Upanishad <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>
20. Geeta <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
21. Manu and Pure Manusmriti <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
22. Valmeeki and Kamba Ramayan <http://drive.google.com/open?id>
23. Books on Vedas <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>
24. Maharshi Dayananda <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>
25. Introduction to the Commentary on the 4 Veda <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>
26. Rig Veda <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>
27. Yajur Veda <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>
28. Sama Veda <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>
29. Atharva Veda <http://drive.google.com/folder/d/>

Conclusion

The present electronic environment is posing major challenges to library and information professionals to satisfy the complex and ever increasing information demands of the users. So the selection of appropriate e-resources for the users is more important and also great responsibilities on the library and information professionals to identify, understand, acquire and

process the potential electronics information resources available in different formats and styles and to apprise and teach the user's community about their use.

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