Impact of E-Resources on Academic libraries

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Abstract

This era is called as the era of Information and Communication Technology or Digital era or Electronic era and almost everything is readily available electronically over internet. Modern libraries have evolved from paper based libraries into distributed network of digitized information and knowledge, known as digital libraries. Now, libraries use electronic resources and databases to provide better services to the users. Access of information is no longer restricted to what is physically available in the library. Today, information is accessible from a wide variety of globally distributed commercial repositories such as e-publishers and aggregators with access charge. In today's world, electronic resources have become very popular in libraries. The present paper emphasized on the impact of e-resources on academic libraries. The need for e-resources to users is growing and becoming very essential. The impact of web-based information influenced every facet of academic libraries. E-resources are an important resource for research and academic community and play a significant role in scholarly communication. E-resources are a very broad term that includes a variety of different file formats. Instant access is quite possible with e-resources within a fraction of second. Acquiring knowledge from e-books, e-journals, online resources, CD-ROM, internet with related databases are the impact of e-resources.

Keywords: *E-Resource, E-journal, E-book, E-database, CD-ROM, E-Library.*

Introduction :-

This era is called as the era of information and Communication Technology (ICT) or Digital era or Electronic era and almost everything is readily available electronically over internet. The advancement of science and technology has made tremendous changes in all walks of life. Specially, the magnetic word 'information technology' has been chanted in all corners of the global arena. Now - a - days we can see the impact of IT in each & every sphere/field of the knowledge to provide best and fastest services to its customers. The services rendered with the help of ICT are faster and more effective. It's the demand of the clients in the IT era as the clients need immediate information to end their tasks in their respective areas of knowledge. Information Technology facilitates transfer of electronic data or information from one place to another, one person to another or one educational institution to another crossing all boundaries. Hence, the libraries have used IT in the different areas of knowledge for dissemination and satisfying the needs of its users in a speedy way and to exist their importance in the digital era. E-journals, CD-ROM, databases, online databases, e-books and variety of other electronic resources are fast replacing the traditional resources of libraries.

Concept of E-Resources-

E-resources are an important resource for research and academic community and play a significant role in scholarly communication. E-resources are those resources which include documents in electronic or e-format that can be accessed via internet in digital environment. These may be delivered on CD-ROM/DVD over the internet and so on. Many type of library material such as books, journals, commentaries, manuals and many more are now in digital form. From the library's point of view, digital format offers convenience of storage and maintenance, cost effectiveness and ability to target global users. From the user's point of view, digital resources offer convenience of time & place, ability to search directly on text and ability to disseminate and share information.

E- Library – E- library is a digital library service which is an assemblage of digital computing, storage and communication machinery together with the software needed to reproduce, emulate and extend the services provided by conventional libraries based on paper and other material means of collecting, storing, catalogueing, finding and disseminating information (Gladney, H. M. et al 1994).

E- Book- E-Book is an electronic version of a book. A book is fully available electronically via a website on the internet.

E - journal- E-journal is an electronic version of a journal or periodical. A journal is available in electronic form and can be accessed using computer technology.

E- database- Electronic database consists of organized pieces of information placed into records. A computer program assists the user in electronic database.

CD-ROM- CD-ROM is also a strong medium of electronic information.

E-Resource- An electronic resource is defined as a resource which requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, electronic journals, image collections and other multimedia products. The e-resource on magnetic and optical media has a vast impact on the collections of university libraries (Dhanavandan and Tamizhchelvan, 2012).

E-resources refer to those material that require computer access. They may either be accessed remotely via the internet or locally. These may be delivered on CD-ROM, on tap via internet and so on (Dalve and Tekale, 2012).

Electronic resources are those resources which include documents in electronic or e-format that can be accessed via internet in digital library environment. These may be delivered on CD- ROM/DVD over the internet and so on (Sinha, Sinha and Sinha, 2011).

Information (usually file) which can be stored in the form of electrical Signals usually on a computer is an e-resource.

Thus, E - resources are an electronic version of printed reading material. They are available electronically via websites on the internet. Different type of library material such as

books, journals, commentaries, manuals and other reading material are now in electronic or digital form.

Need of E-Resources-

E-resources are the concept of new era which brought many phenomenal Changes in the process of information dissemination. This is the era of information explosion in which large amount of information is being generated at every moment. Today, in the present context, e-resources are needed because of the following reasons:

- To provide online access to information on LAN/WAN or other networks.
- To provide accessible resources free or at low cost to users.
- To make development in the growth of online, time sharing and resource sharing.
- To use efficient and economical mass storage devices, video terminals and other electronic devices.
- To find information not yet available in books or obtain up-to-date information on current events or issues.
- To provide authoritative, accurate and current reference material.
- To offer a new dimension to share resources among the libraries by creating library network.
- Information explosion.

Features of E-Resources:

- E-Resource provides up-to-date information.
- E-Resource provides quick information.
- E-Resources have multidisciplinary approach.
- E-Resource provides 24x7 (any time information available) to the users.
- E-Resources are peer - reviewed information source.
- E-Resource provides various search option.

Advantage of E-Resources:

There are several advantages of E-resources such as:

- Electronic resources are more updated and upgraded. It can have the most up-to-the-minute information available.
- Electronic resources take up less space.
- They are quicker to obtain.
- E-resources save the time of the users.
- E-resources are more portable and have quick and easy access.
- Electronic resources help us to save trees and help to reduce pollution form pulp mills.
- They provide accessible resources free or at low cost to the users.
- They are available in a variety of forms like "PDF for Adobe Acrobat, text formats
- E-resources are as accessible as print based books.
- E - resources provide us with authoritative, accurate and current reference material.

- They are specially useful for finding information not yet available in books, or obtaining up-to-date information on current events or issues.
- They help us to find articles on a particular subject from many different publications at the same time.

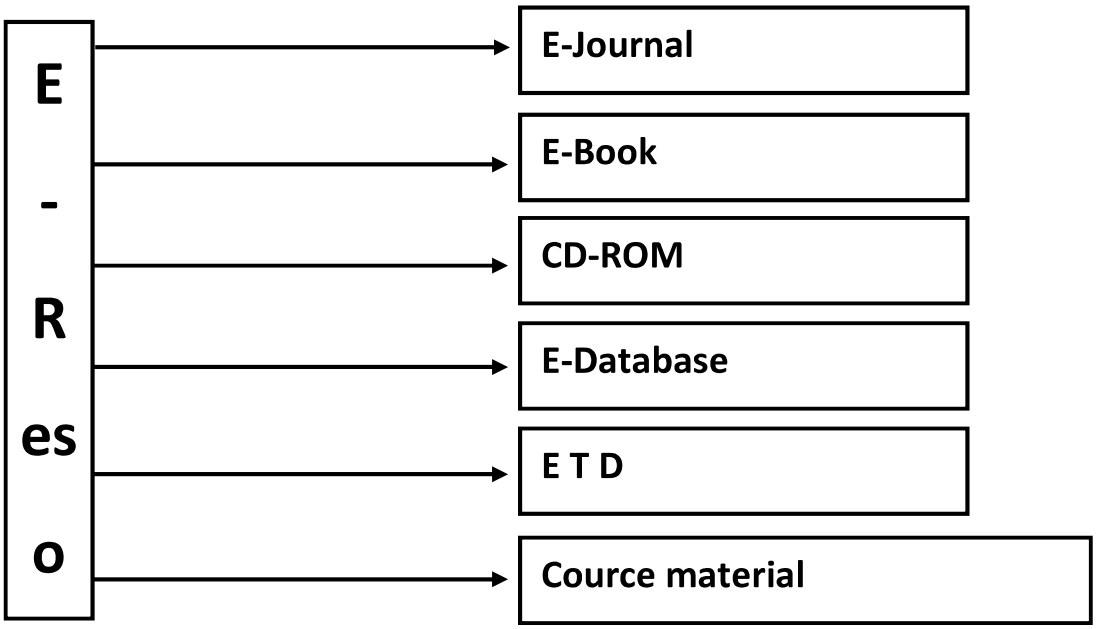
Disadvantage of E-Resources:

E-Resources are having some disadvantages also. Such as:

- Electronic resources have no long life.
- Always dependence on the equipment.
- Everyone can't use these resources due to unawareness of the latest technology.
- Someone could buy E-resources, make copies and distribute them which is violation of copyright act.
- Difficulty in reading from equipment.

E-Resources used in Academic Libraries -

Eternally, education depends on information resources which are the driving forces for making an educated society. Both 'education and library are inseparable and indivisible concepts, working for the promotion and evolution of teaching, learning and research for greater use of academia (Rao and Chaudhary, 2009). Some of the common types of e-resources are:



Usage of the E-Resources in Academic Libraries-

Libraries have a duty to disseminate appropriate knowledge or information to the right users at the right time. It is now possible because knowledge is becoming available in digital form. Digital data can be manipulated in many forms to reach the user in presentable form. Digital library contains all types of documents (primary, secondary & tertiary) in digital form which allows flexible learning and distance education, providing online information available to users readily, Therefore, e-resources may be utilized in the following areas:

Inter-library Loan (ILL)

Inter-library loan should always be permitted. At a minimum, FAX or postal dispatch of photocopies of printed electronic articles should be allowed. Use of secure ILL software such as Ariel or comparable systems, for lending to other libraries should also be allowed.

Pay-per-view

Service to access articles which are not available in the library's print or online collections may be used in the libraries. It should be possible for the library to purchase the article and send it to the patron via e-mail. Pay-per-View is not a replacement for ILL.

Viewing, downloading & printing-

Authorized users should be allowed to view and print copies of the article. They should also be permitted to download electronic copies of single articles from the electronic resource for private use.

Challenges before the Future Library-

The first and foremost challenge before the library to face the future academic needs of the user in the e-learning environment is to provide electronic access to all relevant information and integrate it on networks across the world. In this e-learning and e-publishing environment, electronic reference services and other support services with various expertise and digital repositories are becoming a must. In this context, the most pressing and pervasive issues and challenges that the academic libraries and library professionals face in the present digital era for providing digital information service to the knowledge society are:

- New generation of learners
- Copyright issues
- Privacy | Confidentiality
- Online | Virtual security
- Manpower issues

The future look of the academic libraries will be very different from what it is now. Clearly, consortia will become even more important forces in the electronic information world. As long as they can prove that they are providing a cost-efficient product that is used, they will continue to receive the support of funding agencies (Thomton, 2013). The electronic resources empower and enrich the library system. The increase in information generation has made the task of collection, organization and retrieval of information very difficult although the university libraries often prefer electronic resources to print collections for maximum use. Many reasons have forced the university libraries to opt for electronic resources in meeting the needs of the large community of users (Okorie and Agboola, 2013).

Conclusion-

To conclude, the academic libraries in India are faced with the challenges to meet the user requirements due to exponential growth of knowledge, price escalation and budget

restrictions. The role of a library is being reinvented and is currently undergoing a rapid and dynamic revolution leading to new generation of libraries with the emphasis on e-resources. The world is moving towards paperless society. E-publishing has increased tremendously. Since information technology has become very fast, information can be accessed easily just in a click through various searching and linking facility. User's preference towards e-resources is rising and heir demand for providing electronic information services in library is increasing. Therefore, academic libraries are concerned in building and purchasing e-resources. But the main problem that libraries are facing is archiving since stability of e-resources is still in a dilemma. There is a general consensus that e-resources would not replace but coexist with the print format. However, digital resources also pose human, social and technological problems such as discomfort in reading on the screen, unawareness of internet access, poor infrastructure, lack of sufficient skills to use the digital resources. S0, in this context, the library can take initiatives to organize **'Orientation Programs' and 'User Awareness Programs'.**

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How to cite reference of this paper-

Pandey, P. (2022). Impact of e-resources on academic libraries. *Educational Metamorphosis, 1*(1), 22-28.