PROBLEMS AND PROSPERITY OF E-RESOURCES IN COLLEGE LIBRARIES

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to draw attention to and explore the new possibilities and problems related to using college libraries' information resources. In the current era of information exploration, having access to accurate and up-to-date information is crucial for both professional and personal growth, and electronic information resources are indispensable for educational purposes. Users now have more options to access online information resources for academic and research purposes at any time and from any location thanks to the development of the Internet. The Internet delivers information produced by publications, companies, institutes, research centers, and individuals globally, and it serves as a portal for libraries and information centers to enter the electronic information era. In a perfect world, the electronic information resources would undoubtedly provide the solution to many of our conventional issues with quick delivery, availability, limitless time, location, and security. Furthermore, librarians may encounter challenges in adapting and forming routines to manage electronic information resources, as well as inadequate infrastructure to support them.

KEYWORDS: *College Libraries, Electronic E-Resources, ICT, User Satisfaction.*

INTRODUCTION

Technology is transforming libraries and will continue to have a significant impact on how libraries should be strategically positioned in society. The most cutting-edge networking technologies are being used to transform traditional library holdings into global resources that may be accessed anytime, anywhere. Information may now be retrieved regardless of time zones or geographic location, and the most recent information can be found in virtual libraries or in the form of walls-free libraries. Libraries face a difficulty in keeping up with the rapid advancement of technology and the constant strain on their budgets, all while offering enhanced services and increased access to information. Professional librarians therefore need to be proficient with computers and aware of how to use electronic information resources.

Because of how quickly significant changes happen, it is impossible to successfully adjust to the changes and keep up with the dynamism. As a result, the library should automate all of its operations and teach its workforce to perform tasks using information technology tools and methods in order to compete with the organization. Because electronic information resources offer improved user happiness, cost effectiveness, faster and simpler programs, rapid replies, and easier operational procedures, their use in academic libraries has skyrocketed. Electronic information resources are typically used in libraries through personal computers, bibliographic databases, online literature searches, and online access to library holdings.

E-RESOURCES

In the push to provide consumers with access to information and data transfer, the usage of electronic information resources has become crucial. Electronic data is necessary for research and education in many different types of institutions, yet there are issues with system connectivity, functionality, and accessibility. Users are motivated by electronic information because it makes it possible to send, receive, or download files and share knowledge about topics that interest them.

Electronic information sources suggest that the opportunities available to users now are different from those in the past (Ray & Day, 1998). The information needed can be delivered to the user from the most appropriate source; the user can dynamically re-specify their needs; the information is obtained when needed, thus it becomes "just in time" rather than "just in case"; the user can choose only the information necessary to answer a particular question; and finally, the information is only stored if the user so desires, according to Brophy (1993).

Electronic resources are updated more frequently than printed tools and can be printed as well as searches saved for later use. In connection with this, the Internet serves as a vehicle of expression for educating students, meeting their desktop information demands, and delivering error-free, cross-referenced material to the right place. One may argue that better data transmission infrastructure will significantly lessen the time and effort students spend gathering and producing the data that will form the foundation for their research and improved academic success. This is due to the apparent fact that consumers' utilization of electronic material improves their academic achievement. The Internet, e-mail, electronic journals, bulletin boards, telephone, telex, CD-ROM databases, electronic journals, and electronic books are some of the electronic information systems that people use to get the majority of their information.

Although a sizable percentage of respondents at academic libraries had access to the Internet and the online resources offered by the library, usage statistics for these resources were quite low (Swan and Brown, 1996). Computer use in early childhood education encourages academic success and social engagement. Elliot (1996) proposed that in order to enhance learning possibilities, computers should be introduced in early childhood settings. Additionally, instructors should be given assistance in locating hardware and software that is developmentally appropriate.

TYPES OF E-RESOURCES

Libraries are adding e-resources in many media, like databases on e-books, CD-ROM and DVD-ROM, online databases, e-journals, and a wealth of Internet or Web resources, to their traditional print holdings. These sources range in substance from whole texts to bibliographies.

E-books

A book's material that is made available to readers electronically is called an electronic book. Electronic books are defined as "a term used to describe a text analogous to a book that is in digital form to be displayed on the computer screen" by the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. Electronic books, or e-books, are books stored as computer files that may be read on a variety of computers, including laptops and portable devices made expressly to read e-books.

E-journals

Electronic journals, often known as e-journals, have become increasingly significant with the advent of the Internet. A fundamental shift is occurring in the publishing industry as more and more periodicals are shifting to a Web-centric focus.

The majority of publishers are selecting the Web as an access channel and mark up their journal material in HTML so that web browsers can read it. Another name for these publications is networked e-journals. Other publishers have opted to combine the Web with extra access software; Adobe Acrobat and its Portable Document Format (PDF) file format are the most widely used examples.

Online Database

The ease of use and popularity of the Web, along with the Internet's recent growth, have encouraged libraries to subscribe to online information services. The cost-effectiveness and timeliness of using online databases vs their CD-ROM equivalents must be considered and decided. KR Science Base, STN, and other online information services are examples. Information sources including BIOSIS, CA Search, Elsevier Science Publishers, Reuters, and NTIS are all included in KR Science Base. With rapid, direct linkages to literature, patents, and chemical catalogues, STN International offers a comprehensive collection of in-depth scientific and technology databases. Several databases on STN, including CAplus, INSPEC, MEDLINE, SCISEARCH, and TOXLIT, are available from The Chemical Abstract Service, the largest and most complete database of chemical information in the world.

CD-ROM databases

Because CD-ROM databases provide so many benefits when it comes to storing and retrieving information, their use is growing every day in practically every industry. Most book and journal publishers, internet retailers, and several academic associations are releasing new publications on CDs equipped with robust, easily navigable retrieval software. Abstracting and indexing services, encyclopedias, dictionaries, directories, yearbooks, back volumes, patents, standards, and several other reference works are among the electronic information resources available on CDs. Information professionals now have many chances to provide end users additional information offerings thanks to CD-ROM technology.

DVD-ROM database

The ultimate benefit of the DVD is its high data storage capacity of 17 GB, which allows for the integration of several reference sources and additional multimedia features, including sound and video, on a single disk. This is also known as the digital versatile disc or DVD-DVD. "Other characteristics, such as improved audio and visual quality, faster data transfer speeds, data security, etc., make DVD a more sensible choice than CD-ROM. But currently, the development of DVD technology is being slowed down by issues like a lack of standards between DVD and drive manufacturers, the requirement for more PC hardware, and the greater cost of that hardware. Britannica DVD 99, Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, Webster's International DVD Encyclopedia-2000, Eyewitness World Atlas DVD-ROM Deluxe Edition, and The Complete National Geographic on DVDROM are a few DVD reference sources.

INTERNET as a gateway to E-Resources

Information management has undergone a paradigm shift thanks to the Internet and the World Wide Web (WWW). With the growing amount of information available on the Internet, it is becoming increasingly important for libraries of all kinds to provide their clients with pertinent information. All libraries offer their internal and external information resources through websites and Web-OPACs, and the majority of reputable publishers, academic institutions, and commercial societies host their products online. Strong online search engines are assisting with finding information more effectively. Internet services like discussion lists, newsgroups, bulletin boards, and email are becoming more and more important in libraries and are essential tools for patrons. Since of the Internet's influence, people are moving from offline to online

environments more quickly since the Web is quickly gaining traction as a popular user interface for granting access to far-off and regularly updated information.

NEED OF ICT SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

Effective information retrieval and finding is a transferrable talent that will help in the future and facilitate the productive and efficient use of electronic resources. According to Blandy's (1995) research, users' ability to recognize metadata and locate works in libraries is influenced by their proficiency in information skills and search tactics. Users can use techniques like the BOOLEON operator ("AND," "OR," and "NOT") to find things in the library. Free text search and keyword search Termination Word closeness and additional

In order to satisfy their needs, the user employs a technique that looks for information from several sources. These requirements are frequently nebulous at first and change as a user searches, making browsing a more accurate representation of user behavior than searching. P. Brophy (1993). The term "browsing" refers to a search strategy that is definite, situational, and unexpected—a stark contrast to the standard information retrieval paradigm of a single question or answer.

PROBLEMS AND PROSPERITY

The advent of the information explosion has forced libraries to take on new opportunities and challenges in order to serve users such as scholars, staff, faculty, and students, who have high expectations and demands due to the increasing use of cutting-edge and emerging technologies in academic settings.

Problems associated to E-Resources

Insufficient searching abilities were the primary cause of the non-utilization of electronic resources. The lack of fundamental skills is the main cause of the restricted usage of electronic resources. Libraries must take an increasingly active role in educating, promoting, and enlightening members of the academic community in order to fully utilize the potential of electronic material. act as a gateway to a plethora of information resources, with an emphasis on knowledge management and access rather than ownership. In light of the evolving methods of knowledge creation and transmission, libraries, staff, and leadership ought to reframe their identities in connection to the academic communities they support. College libraries and their employees ought to be the ones to take the lead in guiding flexible information seekers and letting go of their responsibilities by giving the appropriate information to the appropriate users at the appropriate time and, if at all feasible, with a personal touch. Tsigilis N. and Togia A. (2009). Encourage users to recognize their potential in order to promote paper manuals, on-screen assistance, and training for less often used electronic tools.

Advantages of E-Resources

When conducting a retrospective search, electronic information sources can frequently yield faster results than reading print indexes. Additionally, employing keyword combinations can make electronic information sources easier to use. They made it possible to search through several files at once, and this was easier to do than with printed counterparts. Electronic resources are updated more frequently than printed tools and have the ability to be printed as well as searches saved for later use. One major benefit is their accessibility from outside libraries, which is especially helpful for those who are learning remotely or have limited time to visit the library.

USER STUDIES

System-oriented studies and user-oriented studies are the two primary categories of user studies. In the first instance, users are seen as passive information recipients, and the study looks into their outside behavior, usually with the use of qualitative techniques. Michael N. and Brenda D. (1986) These surveys produce quantitative data that provides a broad overview of information requirements and seeking behavior, but they fall short of providing a complete picture of the circumstances that lead to information searches or a deeper understanding of the conceptions and thoughts of the respondents. User-oriented research, on the other hand, focus on users' internal cognitions and employ qualitative approaches to explore them. Users are seen as active, self-regulating information recipients.

Information professionals are left with the disturbing impression that they only have a basic understanding of user demands and information-seeking behavior, despite the abundance of user studies. Understanding information-seeking behavior is crucial because it helps comprehend how electronic information services are provided, especially in light of the ongoing advancements in electronic system providing. W. Sugar (1995).Alternative research techniques and conceptual frameworks are required in order to give the information science community the proof it needs to get a deeper comprehension of information service users.

CONCLUSION

Despite the fact that electronic resources are available in a variety of electronic formats, their utilization is growing more and more common. Many colleges now rely heavily on electronic information resources. Users' awareness of and utilization of electronic information sources mostly depend on their individual ability to identify distinct knowledge pieces. The amount of electronic information sources available on the web has expanded due to information explosions. Electronic information resources facilitate more access, improved usability and efficacy, and the creation of novel avenues for people to use information to further their professional goals. Compared to print media, people who are aware of electronic resources may find it easier to stay up to date on the latest advancements in their respective subject areas. For users, using electronic information resources is essential primarily because they offer better, faster, and more convenient access to information than print media does. You may count on electronic information resources to provide accurate information in a timely manner, fulfilling the adage "the right information to the right user at the right time."

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