E-Resources: Milestone in the History of Library

Narender Kumar

Abstract

Library is the repository of sources, resources and services for its users. Earlier, library was known as the store house of the dead tree media documents viz. books, manuscripts and manuals and their retrieval system was manual. Retrieval of the collection hailed into catalogues as catalogues were prepared to unveil the collection of the concerned library. Ensuring the effective access to quality study material for the readers in the minimum possible time was a time consuming tedious process and big challenge in front of the library professionals. However, emerging technologies have changed the concept of the library and the accessibility of the material become easier. The library reached at the door step of the end user, in fact reached at their finger tips. Many new concepts viz. Hybrid Library, Digital Library, Virtual Library, Electronic Library and Mobile Library have been emerged and proved milestone in transforming the shape of the traditional library into digital library. E-resources are capable enough to sustain the thrust of information of the modern users. The present study tries to elicit the facts in respect to e-resources which are responsible for change the Library and its services along with the academic pursuit.

Keywords: E-Resources; Milestone; Library; Technology.

Introduction

Library professionals play a fundamental and significant role in the successful organization, administration, utilization and exploring its sources, resources and services for the complete satisfaction of its users. Untrained library professionals cannot offer the ultra modern services whether the library is housed in the luxurious and big building or having extensive manual and digital collection. In the olden days the library collection and retrieval tools were manual. Libraries were opened as per scheduled time which was scheduled by the library authorities and in some sections of the library, the entry was restricted. To retrieve the information from the manual system was a very tedious and studios job and sometime it had been taken 2-3 working days or one week and to cope up with this situation, the library defined two types services viz. long range reference service and short range reference service. In addition, borrowing facility was also for limited period. However, in the age of information and communication technology the library got paradigm shift from manual to online. It won't be an exaggeration to say that emerged technologies unveil the collection and started services 24*7*365 at the desktop of the end user. E-resources resolved the budget problem along with space problem up to a limit as virtual library, digital library and mobile library got privileged due to demand of the users. Easy access, circulation and information retrieval and dissemination have become easier. Global access of information has become possible. Latest and nascent technologies have been proved milestone for library services which are being offered by the library to the modern users. Information and its requirement are increasing day by day. Each and every sector whether business, society, family matter and academic industry are required the right information at the right time to resolve every type matter. Information plays a significant role in taking the right and factual decisions. The advancement of information retrieval and dissemination tools and technologies changed the entire arena of conventional information retrieval system of the library.

Author's Affiliation: Assistant Librarian, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar.

Reprint's Request: Narender Kumar, Assistant Librarian, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar,Haryana 125001

E-mail: nkcgju2014@gmail.com

Definition of E-resources [1]

This is very hearting to know that the e-resources have become the essential part of modern academic

community. In the last decade, the e-resources have made considerable progress. Some of the important definitions of the e-resources are as under:

An electronic resource is any information source that the library provides access to in an electronic format. The library has purchased subscriptions to many electronic information resources in order to provide you with access to them free of charge.

E-resources is the short form of electronic information sources and resources. These are the collection of information in electronic or digital format and accessible through LAN, MAN, WAN and CWN etc.

Literature Review

To justify the present study, it is very important to cite the studies which have been conducted earlier in the same field. In this series, some studies have been considered and the brief inferential observations of these studies are as given below.

Hatua [2] in the paper discusses that electronic journals are widely accepted by a large number of libraries. They prefer more and more journals with its print version. This paper is basically concentrating on basic characteristics, benefits and a comparative study of facilities given by some popular aggregators.

Jogelkar and Sen [3] in their article discuss the evaluation aspects of e-journals in library and information science. Mentions the criteria used in the selection of e-journals for the study.

Joshi and Singh [4] states in their study electronic journals in economics subscribed by DULS made available to affiliated colleges through LAN. More

and more journals are now being made available in electronic form by their publishers. College faculty members have been demanding more and more scholarly journals by every passing financial year. With such a small college library budget, consortium based electronic journals subscribed by affiliating university are a great boon.

Kaushik and *Relan [5]* describes in their study the recent advances in computer applications during the past few decades have brought radical changes in the way information is generated, stored, organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed.

Kumar [6] states in his paper what an e-journal is, its advantages like speed, multiple accesses, shelving space, availability, delivery, downloading and publishing costs. Also explains the disadvantages of e-journals. He also explains e-journals and libraries.

Nishtha Anilkumar [7] in her paper describes the ongoing shift towards electronic publishing and access is expected to continue in spite of the fact that print media is still preferred for ease of reading and portability and because of the fact that the authors still consider it authoritative medium and format for the publication of peer-reviewed research.

Types of E-resources

It is curiosity among the academic community to know the types of e-resources as number of electronic, digital and virtual contents are available in the market. Hence, things confuse which shall be considered as types of e-resources. For the clarification of the purpose the categories of the e-resources are as under:
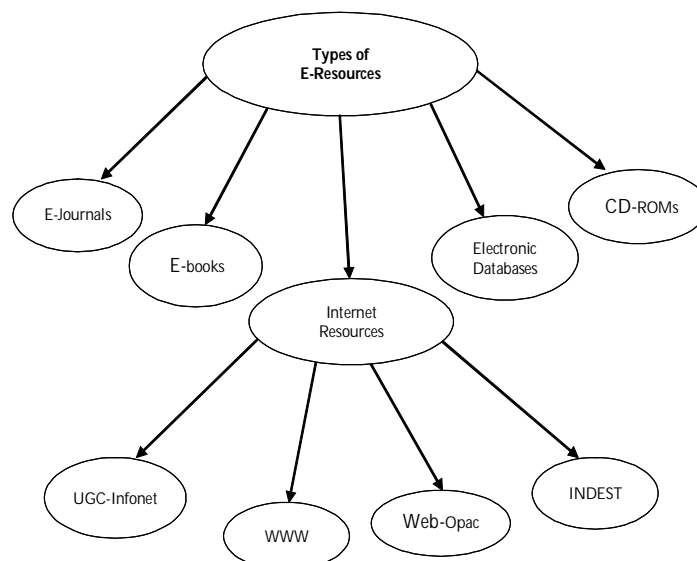

Fig. 1: Types of E-Resources

E-resources through Consortium: A Government Initiative

Government of India has taken initiative to provide the e-resources to users and academic institutions on nominal price or shared basis thereby; the concept of Consortium came into existence viz. INFONET and AICTE-Consortium and work under the aegis of Government of India. The list of the journals being offered under UGC-INFONET and AICTE-Consortium is as under:

E-Resources @ UGC-Infonet [8]

List of Journals including Title, URLs are as under.

E-Resources (Full Text)	
American Chemical Society	http://www.pubs.acs.org/
American Institute of Physics	http://scitation.aip.org/publications/myBrowsePub.jsp#AIP
American Physical Society	http://scitation.aip.org/publications/myBrowsePub.jsp#APS
Annual Reviews	http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/
Blackwell Publishing	http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/
Cambridge University Press	http://journals.cambridge.org/
Elsevier Science	http://www.sciencedirect.com/
Emerald	http://www.emeraldinsight.com
Institute of Physics	http://www.iop.org/EJ/
J-STOR	http://www.jstor.org/
Nature	http://www.nature.com/
Oxford Uni versity Press	http://www.oxfordjournals.org
Portland Press	http://www.portlandpress.com/pp/journals/default.htm
Project Euclid	http://projecteuclid.org/
Project Muse	http://muse.jhu.edu/
Royal Society of Chemistry	http://www.rsc.org/Publishing/Journals/
SIAM	http://epubs.siam.org/
Springer Link	http://www.springerlink.com/
Taylor and Francis	http://www.informaworld.com/
SciFinder Scholar	http://www.cas.org/SCIFINDER/SCHOLAR/index.html
MathSciNet	http://www.ams.org/mathscinet/
ISID	http://isid.org.in/
JCCC	http://jccc -ugcinfonet.in or www.jccc -ugcinfonet.in
About Open Access	oaeresources.html
Open Access E -Journals	oaeresources.html#ejournals
Open Access Directories	oaeresources.html#directories
IRs@member Institutions	oaeresources.html#IRs

E-Resources @ INDEST [9]

List of Journals including Title, URLs are as under.

E-Resources (Full -Text)	
ABI / Inform Complete	http://search.proquest.com
ACM Digital Library	http://dl.acm.org/
Annual Reviews (Through NME-ICT Project)	http://www.annualreviews.org
ASCE Journals	http://scitation.aip.org/publications/myBrowsePub.jsp
ASME Journals (+ A M R)	http://scitation .aip.org/publications/myBrowsePub.jsp
ASTM Standards & Digital Library	**Standards:** http://enterprise.astm.org **Journals:** http://journalsip.astm.or g/
Capita line	http://www.capitaline.com/intranet/INDEST_consortium.htm
CRIS INFAC Ind. Information	http://www.crisil.com/
EBSCO Databases	http://search.epnet.com/
Elsevier's Science Direct	http://www.sciencedirect.com/
Emerald E-books (Business Mgmt & Economics Collection)	http://www.emeraldinsight.com/
Emerald Full-Test	http://www.emeraldinsight.com/
Emerald Management Xtra	http://www.emeraldinsight.com/
Euromonitor (GMID)	http://www.portal.euromonitor.com/portal/server.pt
IEC Standards	http://www.igpublish.com/iec-ebooks/main.nsp
IEEE / IEE Electronic Library Online (IEL)	http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/
INFORMS Pub Suit	http://journals.informs.org/
INSIGHT	http://www.insight.asiancerc.com/
McGraw-Hill's AccessEngineering (FKA DEL)	http://www.accessengineeringlibrary.com/

Nature (27 titles Through NME-ICT Project)	http://www.nature.com/
Optical Society of America(Optics Infobase)	http://www.opticinfobase.org
Project Muse (Through NME-ICT Project)	http://muse.jhu.edu
Springer Link	http://www.springerlink.com/
Taylor & Francis (Through NME-ICT Project)	http://www.tandfonline.com/
INSPEC	http://www.engineeringvillage2.org
MathSciNet	http://www.ams.org/mathscinet
SciFinder Scholar	http://www.cas.org/SCIFINDER/SCHOLAR/index.html (access through a Z39.50 Client to be installed on each PC)
SCOPUS Database	http://www.scopus.com
Web of Science	http://isiknowledge.com
About Open Access	oaeresources.html
IRs@member Institutions	oaeresources.html#IRs
Open Access Directories	oaeresources.html#directories
Open Access E-Journals	oaeresources.html#ejournals

Leading Dogmas [10]

The leading dogmas should be identified as availability, accessibility and accountability and many more. The following leading dogmas may be used as a template:

➢ *Availability, Accessibility and Accountability:* To ensure the availability, accessibility and accountability of the e-contents and e-resources for each and every user is the major objective of the e-resources as e-resources shall ensure the trinity of 'A'.

➢ *Economy*: E-resources give the solution of budget as e-resources reduced the operational and infrastructural costs and enhance the usability along with improve the learning, teaching and research quality.

➢ *Dexterity and Effectiveness*: Usages of e-resources ensure the dexterity and effectiveness in the delivery of services and expected results.

➢ *Pertinence:* Improve pertinence of reading materials and available contents among the users community is also the basic and fundamental objective of the e-resources.

➢ *Transparency:* The great evil of any system is the lack of transparency; however e-resources improve the transparency in delivering the services to the end users and academic community.

➢ *Privacy:* The very significant aspect of the e-resources is that it provides the privacy of usages. E-resources are licensed based and access only through the username, password, LAN and Campus Wide Network. Username and password may be private one, public domain and institutional based.

Capacity Building

Academic community based on the information resources through which latest updates may be accessed on a single platform and make them capable enough to cope up with the latest changes and updates in their concerned discipline. E-resources designed with the purpose that to provide the help of stakeholders to improve their capacity to make use of the e-resources optimally. It is pertinent to mention here that e-resources play an important role to aware with the updates to students, researchers and academicians about new updates around emerging nascent technology use for teaching, learning and research. In the age of information and communication technology, it is easy to copy and paste the required material from here and there in their assignment work which is being assigned by the concerned institution. For the same, the whole responsibility of the concerned institution to trained their students and teachers about the proper use of e-contents being offered by the institution. In this connection the library consortium have gained significant value that consortium pay attention on legal issues for usage concerns of the e-resources and contents. E-resources users need up gradation from time to time and therefore capacity building for e-resources is an important aspect.

Inferential Observations

Undoubtedly, e-resources are the significant part of the modern day academic community; in fact e-resources provide researchers unlimited power, strength and access to relevant study material to find the success in their research area. Numerous institutes, colleges, deemed universities, private universities and government universities etc. are available in India, but to ensure the availability and accessibility of e-resources for underprivileged are not up to the satisfactory level reason being the drastic cut in the budgetary allocations. Sometimes it has been observed that the e-resources are available but the concerned person does not know how to use the same for better outcomes. In this connection,

government of India is doing every possible effort to enhance the usability of e-resources among the academic community. For the same, many projects have been started like UGC-INFLIBNET, N-LIST, Shodhganga Repository and Shodhgangotri etc. These copious efforts have been proving milestones among the users community. Through Shodhganga repository the member libraries can send the soft copies of the same and make them accessible in public domain. This is the value addition in the academic and research community. However, this is not bountiful and cognizable; the communities and sectors (public and private one) have to think beyond this and try to strive for the establishment of the paperless society.

Suggestions

It won't be an exaggeration to say that e-resources proved mile stone in the history of library. Generation 'Z' users believe in getting the information whether the same is being offered by legal or illegal way. They do not bother these issues. However, some agencies like INFLIBNET, AICTE-INDEST Consortium, ICICI Knowledge Park, and IIM Consortium are taking pain and the service offered by them with full proof of legal issues. Even library consortium gave the right solution of the budget. Things are available on the recommendation of the mutual agreement and on a single platform. The author feels that the following points should be considered to enhance the usability and awareness of e-resources among the users community.

➢ Nearly more than half the academic and research institutes are head in-charge library and information centers. It is strongly recommended that the competent authority should take in knowledge and initiative to appoint the qualified library professionals; thereby the e-resources may groom amongst the users community and researchers especially.

➢ Government agencies those who are offering the access of e-resources to government and government aided institutions (free of cost), they must prepare some modules of e-resources and their access to private one also on nominal price/charges so that it may be public and private success together. In addition, private institutions can also participate in the rapidly changing world with the public sector and can be the witness of public-private success along with nation development.

➢ Although the present academic society requisite that it's a information and communication

technology era and even communication agencies also putting their claim that they are offering 3G/4G network environment, however they are far from the reality as the downloading speed is not sufficient and users face problem regarding continuous connectivity of INTERNET. Hence, library and information centers have to create the strong network area for their users where users can get the accurate and uninterrupted connectivity.

➢ Likewise, the library and information centers networking of their e-resources at zonal level. It shall give the rid of from budget constraints. In addition, it would minimize the cost of resources and maximum the user satisfaction and prove mile stone.

➢ Institutions must try to develop their institutional e-repository and digital library so that the uploaded material shall be available for its users.

➢ Regular orientation programs should be organized by the library and information centers to explore their collection among the academic community even centers must take initiative to publish newsletter of their routine activities time to time so that users shall take attention in order to know the activities being done by the library and information centers.

References

1. https://www.google.co.in/?gfe_rd = cr&ei =87z VVe_ UFI6 D2A Ta8aVw &gws_ rd= ssl#q= definition+of+e-resources browsed as on July 29, 2015.

2. HATUA (SR). Aggregators: A rich and economic source of E-journals. *IASLIC Bulletin.* 2004; 49(2): 111-119.

3. JOGELKAR (N) and SEN (B). Evaluation of Electronic journals in library and information Science. *Information Studies.* 2000; 6(1): 189-198.

4. JOSHI (T) AND SINGH (JN). We Don't Subscribe Scholarly Journals, Yet We Get: Electronic Journals in Economics Subscribed by Duls Made Available to Affiliated College through LAN. *In* VASHISHTH (CP). Ed. Papers and Proceedings of the National Conferences on Financial Managements of LICs in e-Environment. New Delhi.31 May 2009; P74-90.

5. KAUSHIK (DK) and RELAN (S). Evaluating Electronic Journals. *In* DHAWAN (SM). Ed. Library and Information Studies in Cyber Age: essays in Honour of Prof. J.L. Sardana. Authors Press, New Delhi. 2004; P317-322.

6.   KUMAR (PSG). Financial Management of LIC in e-Environment. *In* VASHISHTH (CP). *Ed.* Papers and Proceedings of the National Conference on Financial Management of LICs in e-Environment. New Delhi.31 May 2009.Pix-xxiv.

7.   NISHTHA ANILKUMAR. Electronic Journals: major issues. *International Information, Communication and Education.* 2004; 23(1): 87-91

8.   http://paniit.iitd.ac.in/indest/ browsed as on August 20, 2015.

9.   http://crl.du.ac.in/Infonetresources.htm browsed as on August 20, 2015

10. University News. August 03-09, 2015; 53(31): 4-5.