Web Based Library and Information Services: An Overview

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ABSTRACT

Services are the heart of any kind of library. Web based library services is a trend. Libraries are taking full advantages of internet and web facilities. They are remarkable changing their mode of provision of services. Users also very happy by getting the library services through web. They can save their time and harassment from not getting the information. The western countries have gone far miles than developing and underdeveloped countries. This paper discusses the background of web based services, basic advantages, future and challenges.

INTRODUCTION

The web was designed as an information space, with the goal that it should be useful not only for human – human communication, but also those machines would be able participate and help. One of the major obstacles to this has been the fact that most information on the web is designed for human consumption, and even if it was derived forms a database with well defined meanings for its columns, that the structure of the data is not evident WEB is popularly used as the synonymous term of World Wide Web or Internet or Online. The Internet and its "publishing arm" the WWW are important components in the communication process. The web is a client or server system used to access all kinds of information to anyone on the net. The information can be in the form of regular text, hypertext, pictures, sounds, Usenet newsgroups and other types of data. To access

this information, use a client program called browser. Within the web, the information is stored in pages. Each page can hold not only information but links to other pages. In each page a particular word or sequence of words highlighted item and the other information related to that words in some other pages. This means that there is a link between the highlighted item and the other information, the service is called hypertext. When anyone wants to follow a link, the browser will find out where it is and connect the web server at that location, request the new page and then display it on the screen.

WEB BASED LIBRARY SERVICES BACKGROUND

At beginning library was just a store house of books and other document. General people were not allowed to use that document. After long time library started document delivery service and circulation came into picture. From middle of the 19th century there was drastic change of library services. A large number of different services came into the picture. Computer came during the middle of the 20th century the mode of library services changed dramatically. It became information service and new kind of

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offline service came into picture and last one decade of 20th century it was started to provide online service. If we try to find out the history of web based services I would like to say that it was 1960s we can think as a first step.

In early 1960's developed countries began to experiment with the use of computer in library and information processing activities. Mainly these systems were batch oriented and used punched cards as data input media. Here it should be noted that the term 'information retrieval' as commonly used refers to systems and procedures for retrieval not of information but of documents that may inform the users on the particular subject areas of interest to them. Actually most retrieval systems do not deliver the documents at all. Instead, they retrieve some form of document surrogate such as full bibliographic citation or bibliographic citation plus the abstract.

BASIC ADVANTAGES OF WEB BASED SERVICES

To save the precious time of the scientist Availability of less number of library staff to carry out the library works and services Less dependence upon the library staff for getting the required information Location of laboratories/ departments in different places in the campus Instant and elaborate information requirements for R&D activities Information for decision making in MIS Multifold increase of the cost of books and journals Availability of information in different places and also in different formats Cut in library budget.

GENERAL SERVICES OFFERED BY WEB

Following are the very common and general services offer by the web. Some of them we can apply on our library and information science field. But most of these services we can't use as a library services.

1. List serve
2. Subject database
3. Community information
4. Government resources
5. Library catalog
6. Shopping and other commercial transactions
7. Document delivery
8. Commercial resources
9. Bulletin board
10. E-mail facilities
11. Surfing facilities.

WEB BASED SERVICES

1. Access to Database
2. Bibliographic and cataloguing service
3. Bulletin board service
4. Push based services
4.1 CAS
4.2 Profit based alert service
4.3 E-SDI: Link to remote information
5. List of acquisition
6. Hosting on web
7. E-mail delivery
8. FAQ
9. ILL and document delivery services
10. Internet Subject Gateways
11. Newsletter services
12. OPAC
13. Web PAC
14. Patent Information Services
15. Reference Services
16. Usenet
17. Uncover
18. Web casting
19. Whiteboard
20. Virtual Library

THE FUTURE OF WEB BASED SERVICES

Library Web services will continue to expand, offering: more full-text electronic journals. Eventually, indexes that do not now include full text will begin to do so, or link to external resources. OCLC's Electronic Collections Online may mature as such a service, better bibliographic access to full-text periodicals either through cataloging, databases, or vendors that "aggregate" access. Savings on interlibrary Loan and user convenience are incentives, electronic reserves, either locally or through vendors who simplify copyright issues, more Web forms for user feedback, and perhaps a virtual librarian who interacts in real time chat or video conferencing. While there's nothing like a simple phone call, the virtual librarian wouldn't have to be in the library. Well-developed user education modules or tutorials, especially to support independent exploration of library and Web resources. Library Web authors are getting more sophisticated and able to take advantage of appropriate technologies and software. More document delivery services to distance education or commuter students. This will not be cheap, but it's the type of thing that users want. Meltdown or solutions to the "printing problem" when "everything" is on the Web and nobody is using microfiche or printed periodicals, more resources through creative consortia purchasing. Statewide cooperation will become more common. SOLINET has also been a leader in coordinating contracts for its members. experiments with customized interfaces that organize resources for individual library users. People seem to either like or dislike a portal-style interface, finding them comfortingly personal or restrictive. Somebody will have to figure out how to keep Word users from saving print documents as XML, without thinking in terms of Web, not print, space. XML will be embraced as a way to control page appearance and behavior, but it will take a while for people to figure out how to use it well.

and there will be trends we haven't thought of yet

CHALLENGES

The participating libraries should have the infrastructure for providing the service to their users the librarian should take one more step further instead of just providing access to the internet. He or she should take the responsibility of evaluating the web resource for providing the effective. The librarian should have depth knowledge about the web resources and the search engine, which will give the real power to the reference librarian to answer the queries.

The librarian should create a web directory of the inter resources so that it can be used or referred to by a user whenever it is needed for providing the services. The users of the library should be given a proper training and explanation about internet and the search option. One of the most widely used formal devices for organizing knowledge of information retrieval is by indexing. Indexing systems have been originated with early collections of systems and their function is essentially to indicate the content and related features of a document with the double purpose of: identifying documents on specific subjects and identifying documents on related subjects.

CONCLUSION

This new mode of service is highly effective in special libraries rather than academic libraries. In our country we are far backward in this matter. Though we are thinking a lot but in practical it is very very difficult to apply. Our national policy is there but there is no intention of implementation. Here is no infrastructure at all to implement web based library services. Government policy of restricted employment opportunity compelled not to take professional manpower as many as required. Various networking system in our country is simply failed due to the lack of good will, effort and ego problem of big libraries. But still I hope we will enable to overcome all these problem and though initially the installation cost is high but when a library will enable to provide web based service it will popular and if the library and

information center is being a professional about their services then in near future it can become a money making self earning organization.

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