

Importance of Library and It's Professionals In Digital Scenario

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Abstract

This paper is about growth of technology in the field of library and information science and now the age of digitisation because of that library becomes a "Digital Paradigm". Libraries are information and knowledge service providers. Without service, libraries are indistinguishable from museums today, information is everywhere. The number of books, magazines, and newspapers published worldwide is so huge that there is no longer a reliable way of counting them. In more recent years, with the digitizing of information and the arrival of the Internet, almost one-quarter of the world's population can get access to a wealth of information from their own computers and now from their phones. The revolutionary innovation of information and communication Technologies have changed the ways in which people think communicate and share knowledge. In this paper a brief overview of the impact of technology in library in digital era is presented.

Keyword: Digital Library, Information Technology (IT), Information Professional

Introduction

The term "digital" covers the creation and distribution of all types of information over networks, digital library that delivers scientific, technical, and business information to users with a personal computer, Internet access, and one of the common worldwide Web browsers. The Library without Walls focuses on creating a network of knowledge systems that facilitate scientific communication and collaboration. We are living in the information age where the information is basic requirement to everybody because without information we cannot do anything in a proper way.

In this case we need a proper bridge between user and knowledge so there the library plays a vital role in the knowledge dissemination. Now day's information

literacy is the key of knowledge where the libraries help us for getting their information. Library has provided several new media, new modes of studies, organizing, retrieving the information so that mean library strategically provides information to all users. Information Professional accomplishes this through the development, deployment, and management of information resources and services. So the main function of the library in the digital era likes a communicator of information and for that libraries have become increasingly aware that their digital collections. Information and communication technology has revolutionized the concepts of libraries so each and every library slowly getting digitized. However, the main purpose of digital libraries remains consistent with that of traditional libraries in that the purpose of digital libraries is to organize, distribute, and preserve information resources just as it is for traditional libraries.

Here just an overview how to disseminate the information by digital library in figure 1.

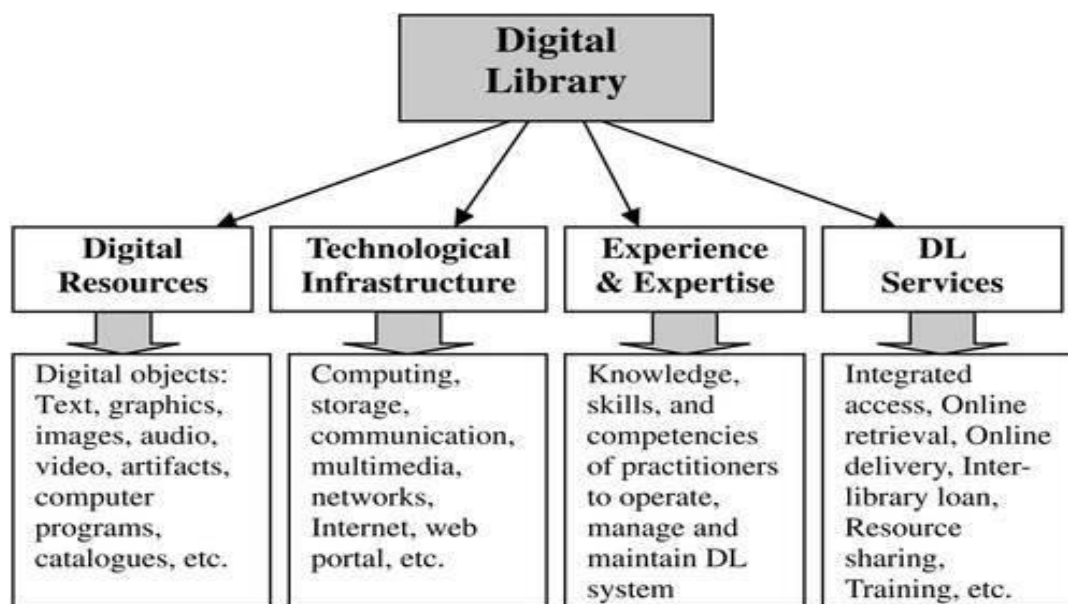


Figure 1: Information Dissemination through Digital Library

Objective

- Digital Library is locating, acquiring, disseminating & tracking information resources of many types.
- Digital Library play a crucial role in the education process by making people aware of a need & motivating the use of information new knowledge.
- Collecting information from different sources and repackaging the same in the required format as per the requirement of information seekers.
- They are also leaders in devising and implementing standards for the ethical and appropriate use of information.
- Organized collection of multimedia and other types of resources.

- Resources are available in computer process able form.
- The function of acquisition, storage, preservation, retrieval is carried out through the use of digital technology.
- Access to the entire collection is globally available directly or indirectly across a network.
- Support users in dealing with information objects
- Helps in the organization and presentation of the above objects via electronic/digital means etc.

Information Professionals

The impact of IT, librarians now faces difficulties and challenges due to new trends in information access. The rapid changes brought about digital libraries have opened up additional facilities; provide multiple choices of media, show improved performance and assure greater economy in time, money and effort. At the same time, there is increased complexity in selecting the right useful, authoritative information from vast available information sources, so in information & communication technological era library professional have to change them as information professional. Now information specialists have to work as e-information resources. Librarians obtain professional knowledge through various educational courses, professional and working experiences. The knowledge helps them to acquire certain professional skills that are not merely confined to mechanical skills but also include the expertise and intellectual activity. They have also adapted the new electronic information environment and learn about new technologies for aware of the strengths& weaknesses of them and for can work properly in the present electronic/digital era. Various professional groups are expected to map out the strategies that lead to produce, manage, maintain and provide the information. The information professional must be able to actively participle in the educational process rather than gathering information and disseminate it to the public through workshop, orientations, training etc. Now days Information Professional has to work shown in figure 2.

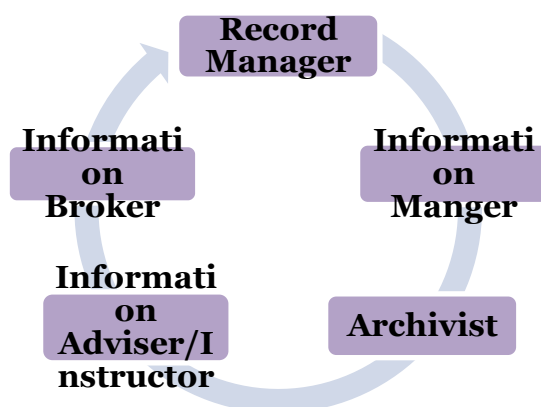


Figure 2: Information Professionals new role

Some Basic Skills of Information Professionals

Information overload is a growing problem and in this case Information Professional has quality to filter and provide needed information in an access able form. The skills required of a librarian include acquiring information, organizing it, managing it, storing it, retrieving it and disseminating it in the ever changing technological and social environment. The digital era information professionals has play very important role so they need to know understand some basic things like:

- Managing Knowledge resources (books, periodicals, internet etc.)
- Managing Technological facilities and resources (Computer, Online Catalogues, and Websites etc.)
- Managing Human resources and knowledge for its development.
- Managing Financial Resources like budget and its management.
- Managing Information Services.
- Knowledge of user interaction with knowledge resources

Professional Skills Normally Acquired By Librarians/ Information Professional

Knowledge	Skill Acquired
Universe of knowledge, subject disciplines, their boundaries, inter-play, relationship and fusion of subject, information-flow, channels of communication, Document- types forms, media.	Classification Cataloguing Indexing Mapping of knowledge
Document, Personal, Users, Services, Economy, Budget.	Management Administration Identification and selection of right document, organizing them for use.
Library Building	Planning, Designing, Maintenance, Economy of Space, time and money.
Reference/ Information Sources User needs	Reference service Communication skills Public relations
Languages	Translating
Equipment, Tools, Computer, Reprographic machines Telecommunication	Systems analysis, Use of machines, Managing change
Legislation, copyright laws Patent acts	Protection of right
Writing, comprehension	Summarizing, abstracting, digesting, repacking information
Printing	Compiling, Editing

Role of Information Professional In Digital Library In Digital Era

In the modern era, information becomes a digital form and the digitization form of the information is rapidly replacing the traditional printed form of the information. Digital Information or e-information is more abstract dynamic in comparison to printed form and the because of this many users cannot found their internet based information, here an information professionals not only the acquisition and processing but learn new skills they need to help patrons understand how to use digital materials. The Information professional is responsible for locating, acquiring, disseminating & racking information resources of many types. Information professionals play a very crucial role in the education of people for effective & efficient information use and making people aware of a need & motivating the use of information new knowledge. That means they must ensure that there is effective and efficient flow of information from the generators to uses in digital environment. This is a complex communication chain with librarian and Information system. So the Information Professional plays an important role for their organization and society development likes:

- Provider of information of intellectual access to information in any format for the user.
- Evaluation of information sources for the right use.
- Preserver the information for the long time use.
- Knowledge navigator.
- Search assistant.

Basic goal of information professional has always been to provide the information to those needs it.

Characteristics of Digital Libraries

The gradual facelift of overall libraries from the past, there appears some tangible impact recognizing the predictions of Lancaster's paperless society to reality. The transformational effect that digital technology bring in to information systems are as follows:

Collections: digital library collections contain fixed, permanent document. Not only those current libraries have more dynamic collections, but digital environment will enable of quick handling and/or ephemeral information.

Technology: Digital libraries are based on digital technologies. The underlying assumption is that the digital libraries will contain only digital materials, may be wrong. It is likely that both digital and non-digital information material will have to coexist.

Work: Digital libraries are to be used by individuals working alone. There is work oriented perspective focusing on group of information analysts, work being done and the document and technologies that support it.

Trans-bordering of information: Breaking the physical boundaries of data transfer within and outside the countries. It is viewed that the support for communication and collaboration is as important as information seeking activities.

Compaction of data storage is enabling storage of conventional works in digital form. Electronic publishing is swiftly converting the bulk space onto the table top. The telecommunication is facilitating the use of electronic methods to get back,

browse and connect to teleconferencing, videotext, paging, messaging etc. With the capacity to copy from master version, the mechanical aspect of publishing and printing of books and magazines will gradually disappear as soon as the replicating facility of digital library takes in.

Advantages of Digital Library

A digital library is not confined to a particular location or so called building it is virtually distributed all over the world. The user can get his/ her information on his own computer screen by using the Internet. Actually it is a network of multimedia system, which provides fingertip access. The spoken words or the graphical display of a digital library is again having a different impact from the words that are printed. In the new environment owing a document will not be problem for the library because the user will pay for its uses.

1. **No physical boundary:** The user of a digital library need not to go to the library physically, people from all over the world could gain access to the same information, as long as an Internet connection is available.
2. **Round the clock availability:** Digital libraries can be accessed at any time, 24 hours a day and 365 days of the year.
3. **Structured approach:** Digital library provides access to much richer content in a more structured manner i.e. we can easily move from the catalog to the particular book then to a particular chapter and so on.
4. **Information retrieval:** The user is able to use any search term bellowing to the word or phrase of the entire collection. Digital library will provide very user friendly interfaces, giving click able access to its resources.
5. **Preservation and conservation:** An exact copy of the original can be made any number of times without any degradation in quality.
6. **Multiple accesses:** The same resources can be used at the same time by a number of users.
7. **Space:** Whereas traditional libraries are limited by storage space, digital libraries have the potential to store much more information, simply because digital information requires very little physical space to contain them. When the library had no space for extension digitization is the only solution.
8. **Cost** - The cost of maintaining a digital library is much lower than that of a traditional library. A traditional library must spend large sums of money paying for staff, book maintains, rent, and additional books. Digital libraries do away with these fees.
9. **Networking:** A particular digital library can provide the link to any other resources of other digital library very easily thus a seamlessly integrated resource sharing can be achieved.

So that digital library play a unique role in gathering, organizing and coordinating access to the best available information sources for the organization as a whole. If Information Professionals did not exist they would be reinvented as organizations struggle to gain control over ever-increasing amounts of information in multiple storage formats. They are leaders in devising and implementing standards for the ethical and appropriate use of information.

Library Become Traditional Library to Digital Library

The development is already taking place. The traditional closed access libraries are shifting towards open access library. The open access libraries are shifting towards automated library, the automated one towards the electronics, and the electronics to digital and finally end in Digital library because of that library become a digital paradigm.

- **Traditional library:** The collection of the traditional libraries is mostly print media, manuscripts etc and are not well organized. The documents are deteriorating at a rapid rate, the collection information is not easy to locate and so does not easily reach to user, Again the traditional libraries are confined itself within a physical boundary.
- **Automated library:** A library with machine-readable catalog, computerized acquisition, circulation and OPAC are called as automated library. The holding of this type of libraries are same as that of traditional libraries.
- **Electronics library:** When automated libraries goes for LAN (Local Area Networking) and CD-ROM networking and started procuring E- journal and other similar kind of publication then it is known as electronic library. The resources of the electronic libraries are in both print and electronic form. The electronic Medias are used for storage retrieval and delivery of information.
- **Digital library:** It is a later stage of electronic library. In digital library high speed optical fiber are used for LAN and the access is over WAN and provide a wide range of Internet based services i.e. audio and video conferencing and like other. The majority of the holding of a digital library is in the computer readable form and also acts as a point of access to other on line sources.
- **Hybrid library:** The libraries, which are working both in electronic or digital and print environment, are known as hybrid library. Actually it is a transitional state between print and digital environment. It is estimated that in near future libraries will be of hybrid nature, some of the very strong point in favor of this view are century's old reading habit of paper, convenience of handling and reading a paper document then the digitized one. There are some factor which is indicate that how and why we need the digital information and Information explosion Searching problem in traditional libraries
- **Low cost of technology:** When we consider the storage capacity of digital document and its maintained then it can be easily realize that the cost of technologies is much more less than that of traditional libraries.
- **Environmental factor:** The use of digital libraries is the cleanest technologies to fulfill the slogan "Burn a CD-ROM save a tree".

Significance of Digital Library in Digital Era

Librarian is a technology application leader who works with other members of the information management team to design and evaluate systems for information access that meet user needs. Where required, the new era digital librarian provides instruction and support so that end users can make optimal use of the information resources available to them. The new era Librarian is capable of working in the hybrid world of print and electronic media and providing the best mix of information

resources in the most appropriate formats for the environment. Librarian play a key role in developing information policy for the organization ensuring that access to all information resources—from internal records to external databases – is provided in the most strategically- effective and cost – effective manner. Digital librarian is knowledge based practitioners who use research as a foundation for their own professional practice and who support the conduct of research through their professional association. Librarianship has undergone a radical change in recent years, which will be continued in the future. As libraries have changed, so too, has the role of the librarian. Public librarians have expanded their role by providing local community information through publicly assessable computing systems. Some librarians are expert on computer and software. Other are concerned with how computer technologies can preserve the human cultural records of the past or assure that library collections on crumbling paper or in old computers file can still be used by people many centuries in the future. The work of librarians has moved outside library walls. Librarians have begun to work in the information industry as sales people, designers of new information systems, researchers and information analysts.

Conclusion

In the information society not only a huge amount of information is produced but also tremendous development in the computer hardware & communication technology along with the necessary software tools have made possible the quick retrieval desired information, merely on the pressing of buttons. This paper aims to study changing aspects of Information society in the 21st century & how library digitization are accepting changes & how they are trying to become competent to face the changes and why library towards the digital paradigm. It is hoped we can stay focus in this fact changing environment which demand that librarians & information professional must be someone with multi tasking abilities & competent in areas of work such as management, communication, language, public relations & others. Digital libraries are not going to replace the physical existence of document completely but no doubt to meet the present demand, to satisfy the non local user digitization must be introduced so that at least libraries becomes of hybrid nature. The initial cost of digitization is high but experiment shows that once digitization is introduced then the cost to manage this collection will be cheaper than that of any traditional library. Day by day the cost of digitization is decreasing, the online publication is increasing, the needs of user are shifting towards a different environment so it's needless to say that after one or two years my library or your library will go to be digitized so it's the pick time to all informational and library professional that they geared themselves to take the challenge.

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