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DIGITAL LIBRARY FOR TODAY'S WORLD : POSSIBILITIES AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract
Digital libraries for current era will stay for future that going to happened with conversion of form of information into digital is inevitable. For this, an appropriate care must be taken to prepare the possibilities and the services which are implemented for every learner. The massification of the digital concept will not be possible until if we not consider the difficulties behind it the technological gap between available repositories and the converted information into digital repository. This paper prepares to consider for possibilities, services and difficulties, the measures must be set overcome for the todays necessity. It is therefore essential to explore need with possibilities and support with services and any other difficulty since it is the part that requires the maintenance.

Keywords: Libraries, Information Technology, Internet, ebooks, knowledge.

Introduction to Digital Library

The term library means a traditional place where books, manuscripts, multimedia or other literary and artistic materials are kept for use but not for sale. In other words it is also an institution oriented towards collections and custody, where people may make use of the facilities. When considered about digital library then it is a computer based or computer oriented system for acquiring, organizing, distributing, searching and providing access of digital materials to end user. It is not always network based but designed to be capable of being connected to a network. A digital library is not just a collection of material in electronic form; it includes a browser interface and perhaps a virtual space and society. It requires less space and the data can be made available through communication networks to anyone anywhere, while facilitating searches with speed. The digital library is not a single entity and as such it is linked to the resources of many such collections.

The growth of digital libraries involves the digitization of existing library materials then connectivity to the users in the world via online communication and offline; then integration with networking; and availability on the internet. The initiative in digital libraries is started by making publications to be available on the internet in full text. Many organization and educational institutions have begun dealing with libraries through digitization.

This paper is an attempts to set the measures on services provided by digital library, possibilities about digital library and then difficulties that we should overcome so that digital libraries can function

effectively and to identify the role of digital libraries in making knowledge universally available and to explore its need for attaining self-sustained growth.

Digital libraries may have the following artifact for the current scenario

- Digital Libraries are the digital counterparts of traditional libraries and includes digital as well as print form and other materials such as audio, video, graphics, animation etc.
- A digital library owns and controls the information. It provides access to information, not just pointers to it
- A digital library has a unified organizational structure with consistent points for accessing the data.
- A digital library cannot consider as a single entity, it may also provide access to digital material and resources by internet.
- Digital libraries support quick and efficient access to a large number of distributed but inter linked information sources that are seamlessly integrated.
- Digital libraries have collections that are large and persist over time as well as are well organized and managed, available in many formats.
- Digital libraries include all the processes and services offered by traditional libraries, though these processes will have to be revised to accommodate differences between digital and paper media.

Possibilities in Digital Library

The term's digital library and electronic library are used as per the need, sophistication and synonymously. The term "virtual library" or "library without walls" usually refers to the meta resources, subject portals that extend virtual accessibility of digital collections from several diverse sources without the users even knowing where the resource actually resides. A virtual library would potentially be enormous, linking huge collections from all around the globe, or it could be very small, consisting of few hundred links to digital resources maintained by an individual. In this part, the possibility initiates from preparing more titles that will be available to more people across the world through internet. This can be done with respect to the educational institutions by loaning the titles between libraries which will be converted to local library systems, and it will be instantaneous.It will be easier to find titles, and immediately begin reading them therefore it will be better organized. One important thing to point out about technical possibility digital libraries is that they won' t be single access oriented systems like the turn-key, single box OPAC' s with which librarians are most familiar. Instead, they will be a collection of disparate

systems and resources connected through a network, and integrated within one interface, most likely a Web interface or one of its descendants. For example, the resources supported by the architecture could include

- Bibliographic databases that point to both paper and digital materials
- Indexes and finding tools
- Collections of pointers to Internet resources
- Directories
- Primary materials in various digital formats
- Photographs
- Numerical data sets
- Electronic journals

Though these resource may reside on different systems and in different databases, they would appear as though there were one single system to the users of a particular community.

Challenges in Digital Library

Creating effective digital libraries poses serious challenges. Some of the serious issues facing the development of digital libraries are

- Technical architecture : Libraries need to enhance and upgrade current technical architecture such as, High speed local network and fast connection to internet, Relational database that supports a variety of digital formats, Full text search engines to index and provide access to resources, A variety of servers such as web servers and FTP servers, Electronic management system

One of the important challenge in creating digital libraries will be the building of digital collections. Obviously, for any digital library to be viable, it must eventually have a digital collection with the critical mass to make it truly useful. There are essentially process for maintaining collections in digital library:

1. digitization, converting paper and other media in existing collections to digital form
2. acquisition of original digital works created by publishers and scholars. Example items would be electronic books, journals, and datasets.
3. access to external materials not held in-house by providing pointers to Web sites, other library collections, or publishers' servers.

While the third method may not exactly constitute part of a local collection, it is still a method of increasing the materials available to local users. One of main issues here is the degree to which libraries will digitize existing materials and acquire original digital works, as opposed to simply pointing to them externally.

There are many reasons why building digital collections is a good candidate for coordinated activity. First, acquiring digital works and doing in-house digitization are expensive, especially to undertake alone. By working together, institutions with common goals can gain greater efficiencies and reduce the overall costs involved in these activities, as was the case with retrospective conversion of bibliographic records. Second, it also reduces the redundancy and waste of acquiring or converting materials more than once. Third, coordinated digital collection building enhances resource sharing and increases the richness of collections to which users have access based on factors such as

- Collection strengths. A particular library with a strong collection focus could be responsible for digitizing selected portions of it and adding new digital works to it.
- Unique collections. If a library has the only copies of something, they are obviously the ones to digitize it
- The priorities of user communities. Such priorities will justify holding the materials locally, for example, because of the demands of a curriculum
- Manageable portions of collections. When there is no other overriding criteria, then material can be divided up among institutions simply according to what is reasonable for any one institution to collect or digitize
- Technical architecture. The state of a library' s technical architecture will also be factor in selecting who digitizes what. A library must have a technical architecture up to the task of support a particular digital collection.
- Skills of staff. Institutions whose staff don' t have the necessary skills can' t become a major node in a national scheme.

Yet, no matter how a collection is built— of materials digitized in-house, of original digital works, or of providing access to materials by pointing to other external resources libraries in a collective must ensure it is preserved and made available in perpetuity.

Conclusion

Libraries around the world have been working on this daunting set of challenges for several years now. They have created many digital library initiatives and projects, and have formed various national schemes for jointly exploring key issues. With several years accumulated experience, the initial enthusiasm surrounding the development of the digital library has been

replaced by sober second thought. Librarians have discovered that, with a few exceptions, making a business case for digitization and investments in digital technology is more difficult than first envisioned, especially given the technical and legal constraints that must first be overcome. As with most other technical developments in libraries over the years, we will have to move forward in small, manageable, evolutionary steps, rather than in an rapid revolutionary manner.

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