DIGITAL LIBRARIES

Dr. Siddiqui Eraj Azeeza*

*Librarian,
Dr. Rafiq Zakaria College
for Women,
Aurangabad, Maharashtra,
India.

QR Code

ABSTRACT: - *A digital library is nothing but the transformation from traditional library. The digital libraries concept come into existence in the 21st century. Virtual library, electronic library, library without walls and digital library are synonymous to each other. In this study*

KEYWORDS: Digital Library.

Introduction

The terms, which have been in vogue at different times, include paperless library, virtual library, and electronic library online library, desktop library, and polyglot library, library without boundaries and more recently digital libraries. The term Digital library in broad sense is a computerized system that allows users to obtain a coherent means of access to an organized electronically stored repository of information and data Collection in which complete contents of documents are created and converted to computer possible form for online access. Online databases and CD-ROM information products. Computer storage devices on which information repositories reside such as optical disc, Juke bases DVD ROM towers etc.Database including library catalogue accessible through the Internet. Computerized networked library system.

The digital library is making the library undergo a change in the paradigm of its role to create organize and distribution of information resources. A digital library is a distributed electronic collection that covers virtually all fields of human endeavor to serve the defined community Digital libraries are logical extension and augmentations of physical library. They extend and augment their physical counterparts by extending existing resources and services and enable development of new possibilities for information access and Retrieval in other worlds Electronic library based on

digitalized data is text replacing the paper based records and that is why with the help of networking one can have access to resources round the clockThe collection of information image graphics etc. in a digital library without any geographical circumscribe are disseminated in all digitized form through internet which are accessed by the network services provider and millions of users connect their PC's through Digital collection services using local Area Network (LAN) Technology to get a transformed authentic, pin pointed information.

Definition

A digital library is a library in which collections are stored in digital formats (as opposed to print, microform, or other media) and accessible by computers. The content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely. The first published use of the term may have been in a 1988 report to the Corporation for National Research Initiatives. The term was first popularized by the NSF/DARPA/NASA Digital Libraries Initiative in 1994. Bush (1945) created a vision based on experience ("Digital library.")

Characteristics of Digital Libraries

Recent developments in library technology and practices have helped bring some of Lancaster 's paperless society to reality. The effects that digital technology has brought include: (Jebaraj and Deivasigimani 2003)

Digital library collections contain permanent documents. The digital environment will enable quick handling and/or ephemeral information. Digital libraries are based on digital technologies.

The assumption that digital libraries will contain only digital materials may be wrong. Digital libraries are often used by individuals working alone. The physical boundaries of data have been eliminated. Support for communications and collaboration is as important as information-seeking.

Compression of data storage is enabling publication and storage of digital information. Telecommunications is facilitating the storage, retrieval, use, and exchange of digital resources.

Function of Digital Library

- Access to large amounts of information to users wherever they are and whenever they need it.
- Access to primary information sources.
- Support multimedia content along with text
- Network accessibility on Intranet and Internet
- User-friendly interface
- Hypertext links for navigation
- Client-server architecture
- Advanced search and retrieval.
- Integration with other digital libraries.

Purpose of Digital Library

- Expedite the systematic development of procedures to collect, store, and organize, information in digital form.
- Promote efficient delivery of information economically to all users.

- Encourage co-operative efforts in research resource, computing, and communication networks.
- Strengthen communication and collaboration between and among educational institutions.
- Take leadership role in the generation and dissemination of knowledge

Advantages

The advantages of digital libraries include

- Nearly unlimited storage space at a much lower cost
- Re-allocate funds from some staff, collection maintenance, and additional books.
- No physical boundary
- Round the clock availability
- Multiple access
- Enhanced information retrieval
- Preservation for some print material Added value
- Universal accessibility

Disadvantages

- There are some disadvantages of digital libraries also, which are as follows:
- User authentication for access to collections
- Digital preservation
- Equity of access
- Interface design
- Interoperability between systems and software

Services of Digital library

After converting a traditional library into a digital library the following services can be provided.

E-mail

- The E-mail stands of electronic mail
- It is a service of Internet as well as Digital library.
- The delivery of E-mail from the sender to the receiver consists of three stages.
- The first stage, the E-mail goes from the user agent to the local server. User agent was SMTP client software and the local server uses SMTP server software.
- The second stage, the E-mail is relayed by the local server, which now acts as the SMTP client, to the remote server, which is the SMTP (Simple mail transfer protocol) server in this stage.
- The third stage, the remote user agent uses E- mail access protocol such as POP3 (Post Office Protocol) or IMAPS to access the mailbox and obtain the mail.

File transfer Protocol (FTP)

- File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is the standard mechanism provided by TCP / IP for copying a file from one host to another.
- Transferring files from one computer to another is one of the most common tasks expected from a network or internetworking environment

- FTP differs from one other client server application in that it established two connections between the hosts.
- One connection is used for data transfer, the other for control information.
- FTP uses two well-known TCP ports: port 21 is used for the control connections and port 20 is used for the data connection.

Remote login

- When a user's wants to access an application programs utility located remote login.
- Here the planet (TELNET) client server programs come into use.
- The users send the keystrokes to the Terminal deliver where the local operating system accepts the characters but does not intercepts them

World Wide Web

- The World Wide Web is a repository of information spread all over the world and linked to other.
- The www has a unique combination of flexibility portability and user-friendly features that distinguish it from other services provided by the Internet,
- www today is client sever service in which of client using a browser can access a service using a server

Automated Web Search (Search engines

- It is technique of document searching

- For document searching the system is used is called search engine.
- The software will help for retrieve the documents of specific information fast by using broken logic operators and truncation of search terms.
- The some main Internet search engines are go phers, google etc.

CONCLUSION

Libraries around the world have been working on this daunting set of challenges for several years now. The library/information center has to overcome the inhibitions and look ahead for the betterment of information services to the user community by successfully adopting the digital technology - the need of the hour and keep pace with world. It seems that the days may not far when the whole world would have digital libraries interconnecting all libraries to meet the academic and research needs within the short time. However, before digital libraries took over the library and information network, the country's archives laws need to be changed to meet the current challenges in the areas of copyright protection

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