

## E- PUBLISHING – A NEED OF TOMORROWS ACADEMIC LIBRARY

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**Abstract:** - Paper emphasizes the development of digital/virtual or e-libraries in general and India in particular. Reviews the e-resources available globally and their increasing role in disseminating information. Paper provides the meaning and definition of digital library. It further discusses on selection criteria and various factors of digital components viz; e-books and e-journals. Provides brief description about types of e-books, their reading habits and tools for browsing etc. evaluates overall concept of e-journals their service providers and the various services like J-Gate and Ingenta.

**Introduction:** The development in Information Technology has created revolutionary changes in all fields of knowledge. Libraries being the reservoirs of knowledge are no exception to this development. People seek information for their research, education, reference and guidance from libraries. The media of communication is developing and the format of information delivery and exchange is also undergoing rapid change. People require most up-to-date information from libraries. Hence, the technological developments have to be adopted in libraries to meet the needs of users. The invention of internet the World Wide Web has almost brought the world very

closer and shorter. The recent developments or an invention made in any part of the world is available to the user almost immediately. This has increased the responsibilities of the library to provide up-to-date and latest information to the users. Now the development of e-books, e-journals have changed the library from information stackers or consumers to owners of electronic resources.

### 1. E-Documents :-

The term e-Document came in usage during late 1980s and is used by means of contrast with paper documents. It is text that is presented with

or without multimedia content on a computer screen. They include books, periodicals, newspapers, manuals etc. Unlike the more general hypertext systems, the development of online books and documents is often undertaken to enhance their existing print counterparts with access and presentation tools. E-Documents may contain and organize many forms of interactive media, including text, still photographs, drawings, animation, audio-visual materials etc, e-Documents need to be interactive with the developments taking place in the IT. Unless users can perceive a real advantage to e-documents, where they can do better than they do with paper, users would be reluctant to use them extensively

#### **Features :-**

1. Integrated access to multiple collections
2. Display and interaction
3. Value-added content
4. Related works
5. Collaboration between the users
6. User help function
7. Interaction with multimedia objects
8. **Use of E-resources in libraries :-**

The electronic resources are becoming more and more available in the libraries. The print media is now being digitized, which

increases the availability of books and journals in the electronic format. The electronic books are helpful because of their portability and its feature of incorporating more than one book in a single hand held device. The published material is also available on open access. This helps the poorer people also to get the information required free of cost. They need not worry for licensing and usage of the information.

The government is also undertaking various steps to introduce this facility in academic institutions for the benefit of research scholars. The university and colleges avails this facility and gain access to e-resources. UGC-INFONET is a programme that provides electronic access to scholarly literature in all areas of learning to the Universities and colleges in India. This programme is wholly funded by the UGC and administered and monitored by INFLIBNET. Universities and colleges which are always short of funds, are greatly benefited by this facility.

#### **9. E-books :-**

Eminent story writer Stephen King was the first person who published his book in the form of an e-book. Electronic books, or e-books, are books in computer file format and read on all types of computers, including hand held devices designed specifically for reading e-books. E-books are preferred by the users for their features like portability, upgradability, note making, citation, changeable font size, references, links to

other relevant sites, searching etc. The libraries purchase the e-books and view them on monitor or some specific e-book readers. E-books can also be circulated as printed books. They can be transferred from libraries catalogue to users e-book readers for a fixed loan period and after which it is automatically taken back.

E-books help the readers by giving more possibility of access and media of learning. They can be accessed from anywhere at any time and are free from time lag. The books need not go out-of-print. They can also create a personal book library from the collections they hold. The content, however, needs to be compatible to all hardware devices. They need to support any formats to make it easy to transfer and read.

The e-books have great advantage and

#### Benefits

1. Their portability gives a new chance of learning, eg., Distance learning.
2. Can be carried and transferred anywhere.
3. Their feature like changeable font size makes it easy for use.
4. Searchable and navigable through links are provided.
1. E-Books can store multiple books for the weight and space of one print book. Storing e-books on computer drives or diskettes and CD-ROMs takes up much less shelf space than print books.

2. Dedicated handheld reading devices weigh in starting at 17 ounces and can store up to twenty books—more if the memory is upgraded.
3. E-Books can update and download documents immediately. E-Books can contain the latest, most current information.
4. E-Books can be enhanced with live hyperlinks, sound, animation and simulation capabilities.
5. A simple font size change will turn e-book into a large print edition.
6. With e-book reading software allows bookmarks, annotations and search through the e-book.
7. Desktop computer users can read an e-book anytime they're at the computer.
8. E-Books can be moved anywhere using portable computer, PDA (personal digital assistant) or e-book reading device.
9. Business and recreational travellers can load e-books on their portable computers without adding weight or taking up space in their luggage.
10. Storage capabilities and the ability to update and download documents immediately make e-book reading devices appealing to businesses, government personnel, colleges, universities and schools. Many professionals such as doctors, lawyers and pharmacists are

already using e-books and e-book reading devices.

11. Schools, colleges and universities hope to use e-books to get students the most current textbooks. Schools and libraries are piloting programs using e-book reading devices 3 and portable and desktop computers, so that students can access e-textbooks and digital libraries.
12. For physically challenged or sight-impaired, e-books can fill special reading needs. A simple font size change will turn e-book into a large print edition, and e-books are less tiring on the hands. Some file formats are compatible with screen reading technology. People with special reading needs have more books and magazines available to them than ever before with e-books.
13. Improved on-screen reading quality, portability, storage capabilities, more current content and speedy deliveries are just a few benefits of the e-books.

#### 14. E-Journals :-

Electronic journals, also known as e-journals, e-journals, and electronic serials, are scholarly journals or intellectual magazines that can be accessed via electronic transmission. Some journals are 'born digital' in that they are solely published on the web and in a digital format, but most electronic journals originated as print journals, which

subsequently evolved to have an electronic version, while still maintaining a print component. As academic research habits have changed in line with the growth of the internet, the e-journal has come to dominate the journals world.

The E-Journals have great advantage and Benefits

1. E-journals have been penetrating library in one way, although the percentage varies.
2. The concept of having separate budget for e-journals or allocating certain percentage out of library / journal budget is yet to pickup.
3. E-journals enhance the access of required information satisfying both recall and precision
4. E-journal costs will come down
5. While e-journals have already emerged as preferred way of access, if one looks at overall picture taking into psycho-infrastructural factors print + online is better for another five years in the Indian context
6. "E-journals will be totally free" and "print journals will be phased out" are a myth.
7. There is no universally accepted pricing policy either evolved by publishers or accepted / suggested by consumers.
8. Pricing based on FTE, although is a well accepted model elsewhere; this model is not even understood by many participating members of the consortia in India due to the confusion of defining FTE clearly.

9. Majority of consortia participating libraries in India are already clear about advantages / disadvantages of e-journals subscription directly from publishers / their representatives and negotiated through consortia task force. The aggregator subscriptions, unless cover important publishers both commercial / society and bring down / totally remove embargo period may find market mostly in humanities and social sciences and not in STM market.
10. Certain percentage of users will continue to use print versions also for few more years. If consortia and participating members adopt e-only model, then situation may force users to use e-journals to a large extent. Still some prefer downloading and printing articles of interest rather than reading on the computer screen.
11. IP enabled access is most preferred one, although few prefer both IP enabled and Login-Password access. The reason for latter choice is mainly because some users feel like accessing the resources from their home. Few institution may have distant small campuses, experimental stations and satellite PG centres, where setting up of LAN is not feasible economically. It is general observation that most of the users use browsing articles through selection of journals by titles. However the culture of searching database is becoming popular in order to get articles of interest across different journal titles and different publishers. Different kind of membership or

becoming member of different consortia may result in varied access level of resources.

E-journals facilitate documentation in many ways. They help for getting the most recent publications even before they are published in hard copy. The e-journals provide closer link with a wider variety of publicizing and publishing by bringing informal and supplementary information into the closer proximity with formal, peer-reviewed material. The libraries can help the users by:

1. Creating a subject wise list and linking to all resources under the subject.
2. Creating search for journal title and locating the sites that provides access.
3. Maintaining the list of websites that provided e-journals and checking for access at frequent intervals. The users appreciate the ways of online searching, browsing, scanning, retrieval and even submission of articles as it saves their time and make them more productive in their work.

#### **4. E-Document Reading Software :-**

E-Books and E-Journals come in many file formats, such as HTML, PDF, RTF, Palm OS, Windows CE, or files formatted for reading software. E-Books and E-Journals reading software is often available as a free download. The advantages of e-book reading software are:

1. Better on-screen reading quality.

2. Library management of books.
3. Book marking
4. Annotation
5. Adjustable font sizes.
6. Searches
7. Publishing software is also available to make your own files.

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## 8. **Conclusion**

The technology helps the reader to get the information in various other formats than the traditional means. The e-books as well as the e-books have made changes in the way the information is delivered to the readers. They help them to get up-to-date and latest information that is updated frequently. The hardware required for the use of e-books has to be considered before creation of the content. Continued success of web based e books and e-journals seem likely, particularly in the area of academic or scientific institutions.

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