



DIGITAL LIBRARY SERVICES IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

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Abstract

Rapid advances in information technologies have revolutionized the role of libraries. Digital Libraries are faced with new opportunity and challenge brought by the latest technological advances – the cross-domain distributed network and heterogeneous data-driven demands. To meet with this challenge, we are perusing a Cross-domain Sharing and Service Support Platform project.

Using a on-demand self-service Internet infrastructure where you pay-as-you-go and use only what you need, all managed by a browser, application or API. As of now, the storage required for the Digital Library is maintained within the LAN Network. This requires constant up gradation of the hardware as the requirement of storage space goes on increasing with the time.

We have entered an era of competition between the restricted-access, for-profit, scholarship-as-property and the open-access, for-knowledge, scholarship-as-shared-resources. Digital Publishing, Digital Repositories, Open Access Journals are all representatives of the alternative models of publications. While many forms of digital repositories exist, this paper intends to provide some insight into the institutional repositories through a discussion of the functions, features, initiatives and progress of the selected four service oriented repositories in the United States in meeting the expectations of the academic community. Digital Libraries come in many forms in academic libraries. They attempt to provide instant access to digitized information and consist of a variety of information.

Keywords: Digital Library, Digital Library Services.

Introduction

With the development of information technology, data are becoming an important factor in driving organizational behaviors. In the networked world, when the amount of data are growing exponentially, it is increasingly important to solve the crucial problems such as how to cross-domain share distributed, heterogeneous, dynamic, and vast amounts of data, and how to provide efficient data services to support organizational activities. Digital Libraries are important data resources in modern society, and their development raise following three new requirements.

Digital Libraries is an umbrella term that encompasses resources, organization of the resources, publishing, retrieval, user communities and their behavior. For researchers it is a one-stop-shop for resources but for librarians it is an institution or a service. The digital revolution has enabled faster and cheaper access to a wide range of information and yet journal prices are spiraling higher resulting in subscription cancellations and restricted access to publicly funded research. We have entered an era of competition between the restricted-access, for-profit, scholarship-as-property and the open-access, for-knowledge, scholarship-as-shared-resources (Royster 2009).

The definition of digital Library.

A digital library is a library in which collections are stored in digital formats 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 a 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.”) In order to effectively manage digital resources, we need a

model to represent relevant information and classify related functions.

Obsolescence being a severe drawback in ICT environment, Libraries should avoid technologies which cater only to today's needs. The pace of change in Library collection and diverse demands of Library users reinforces the need to adopt technologies which are designed to be as versatile as possible.

According to A Neil Yarkey (Yarkey1996). The digital libraries 'as electronic libraries in which large number of geographically distributed users can access the contents of large and diverse repositories of electronic objects. Electronic objects include networked text, images, maps, sounds, videos, catalogues of merchandise, and scientific, business and government gazettes. They also include hypertext, hypermedia and multimedia compositions'.

The digital library (Chowdhury G and Chowdhury S.2003). Introduction to digital libraries. London: Facet Publishing 'as an assemblage of digital computing, storage and communications machinery together with the content and software needed to reproduce, emulate, and extend the services provided by conventional libraries based on paper and other material means of collecting, cataloguing, finding, and disseminating information. A full service digital library must accomplish all essential services of traditional libraries and also exploit the well-known advantages of digital storage, searching and communication'.

Digital Libraries are faced with new opportunity and challenge brought by the latest technological advances – the cross-domain distributed network and heterogeneous data-driven demands. To meet with this challenge, we are perusing a Cross-domain Sharing and Service Support Platform project. The major goals of the project are: (1) to conduct a concrete requirement analysis for the data-driven applications and cross-domain sharing; (2) to extend the Digital Object Model by object decomposing and to form the Digital Services Object Model to support digital library development; and (3) to design an architecture for the cross-domain sharing and service support platform as the data access middleware for building digital libraries conveniently.

Function of Digital Library

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

Advantages of a digital library

- 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 accesses.
- Enhanced information retrieval.
- Preservation for some print material.
- Universal accessibility.

Virtual Learning Environment and Digital Natives

Development of new learning strategies involve the development of student-centered rather than teacher-centered learning activities and seek to develop not just student understanding of content but to also develop their broader interpersonal, communication and intellectual skills (De Lange, Jackling, and Gut, et al.2006). Higher education institutions have realized the importance of virtual space to cater the information needs of digital natives. They have now extended their physical boundaries towards the design of virtual space to support the teaching and learning.

Digital Library Services

- Free online Journals
- Free online E-books
- Free Encyclopedia
- Free Conference proceeding
- Free Newspaper
- Free online Dictionaries
- Free online Sample Copies

- Free online Tables of Content Services
 - Free online Abstract Services
 - Free online Catalogue Service
 - Newspaper Clipping Services
 - Digital Reference Services
 - Enquiry Service Sections
 - Inter Library Loan Services
- Other Services
- Bulletin Board Service
 - File Transport Protocol
 - Remote login (Telnet)
 - World wide web
 - Automated web search(search engines)
 - Catalogue Databases
 - CD-ROM Databases
 - Current Awareness Service
 - Internally Published Newsletters, Reports and Journals

Difficulties of Digital Library Services in Academic Libraries

Peter R. Young: says that the results, of the work done by the V.S. Nationals commission on libraries and information science, considers the general issues about library measurement of electronic media and network services. These issues include the following difficulties in the measurement of these media and services.

Conclusion-

The Indian digital libraries should create an Indian information infrastructure in which the resources of universities, governments, businesses and industry are linked to form a cohesive national digitized information service. The service will provide seamless access to sources across different systems using a variety of formats and thereby achieve cost-effective development of a more competitive Indian research enterprise.

No doubt the future of Digital Libraries is bright because these are the store house of knowledge and knowledge is the power of future. In 1999 British Prime Minister 'Tony Blyer' in a conference, says that "Knowledge Economy is the Economy of future." This statement defines that knowledge is the prime need of future through which a country grow and in this growing part 'Digital Library' is playing a vital role because tomorrow is the day of Technology.

To solve the problem regarding the Digital Library or the Digitization there should

be training programmes like Workshops, Conferences etc through which the proper guidance should be given to the professionals, so that they able to know about the things in a better way.

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