



## LIBRARY AND LIBRARY PROFESSION IN DIGITAL ERA

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### ABSTRACT

**This Paper focuses on changing technology in the field of Library profession. Nowadays the number of books, magazines, and newspapers published worldwide, there is no any suitable method to calculate, store & retrieve it. In more recent years digitization of information & use of Internet is widely done. Most of the available information can be access through the internet on computer & mobile also. There is major impact of digitalization on Library profession. Digital Library concept is arrived. Librarian have to play vital role in digital format. In this paper a short explanation of role of Library profession in digital era.**

**Keyword: Digital Library, Information Technology (IT), Information Professional, Digital Librarian Cyberarian**

### INTRODUCTIN:

In an era of digital information electronic technology, WWW's growing popularity and the tremendous growth of CD-ROM products, digital libraries offer a huge range of multimedia information, everything from movies, speeches, images and photos to sounds, text and beyond. The amounts of online, CD-ROMs and other digital sources of information are exploding and infrastructure for accessing material improves almost daily. In building the next generation of digital libraries, multimedia and artificial intelligence will play several important roles. Here we see the changing pool of Traditional Library to Digital Library as-

#### **Traditional Library to Digital Library**

In the Digital Era the traditional closed access libraries are changes to open access library. The open access libraries are shifting towards automated library, the automated one towards the electronics, and the electronics to digital..

**Traditional library:** The information or Books of the traditional libraries is mostly in print

media, manuscripts etc. The information searching & retrieving is not easy to user. The traditional libraries are limited within a physical boundary.

**Automated library:** The traditional library with machine-readable catalog, computerized acquisition, circulation and OPAC are called as automated library.

**Electronics library:** In this library information resource available in both print & electronic form. LAN (Local Area Networking) and CD-ROM networking are used for information sharing. 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.

### **Objective**

- ✓ Digital Library makes 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 maintaining standards for the ethical and appropriate use of information.
- ✓ Organized collection of multimedia and other types of resources available in computer process able form
- ✓ Access to the entire collection is globally available directly or indirectly across a network.
- ✓ Support users in dealing with information objects

**Advantages of Digital Library**

- ✓ The advantages of digital libraries as a means of easily and rapidly accessing books, archives and images of various types are now widely recognized by commercial interests and public bodies alike. Both types of library require cataloging input to allow users to locate and retrieve material. An important advantage to digital conversion is increased accessibility to users. They also increase availability to individuals who may not be traditional patrons of a library, due to geographic location or organizational affiliation. 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.
- ✓ **Preservation and conservation:** An exact copy of the original can be made any number of times without any degradation in quality.
- ✓ **Round the clock availability:** Digital libraries can be accessed at any time, 24 hours a day and 365 days of the year.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Multiple accesses:** The same resources can be used at the same time by a number of users.
- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Added value.** Certain characteristics of objects, primarily the quality of images, may be improved. Digitization can enhance legibility and remove visible flaws such as stains and discoloration.
- ✓ **Environmental factor:** The use of digital libraries is the cleanest technologies to fulfill the slogan —Burn a CD-ROM save a tree Hence digital library play a unique role in gathering, organizing and coordinating access to available information sources. Information Professionals have 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.

**Role of Library Professional in Digital Era**

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. 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

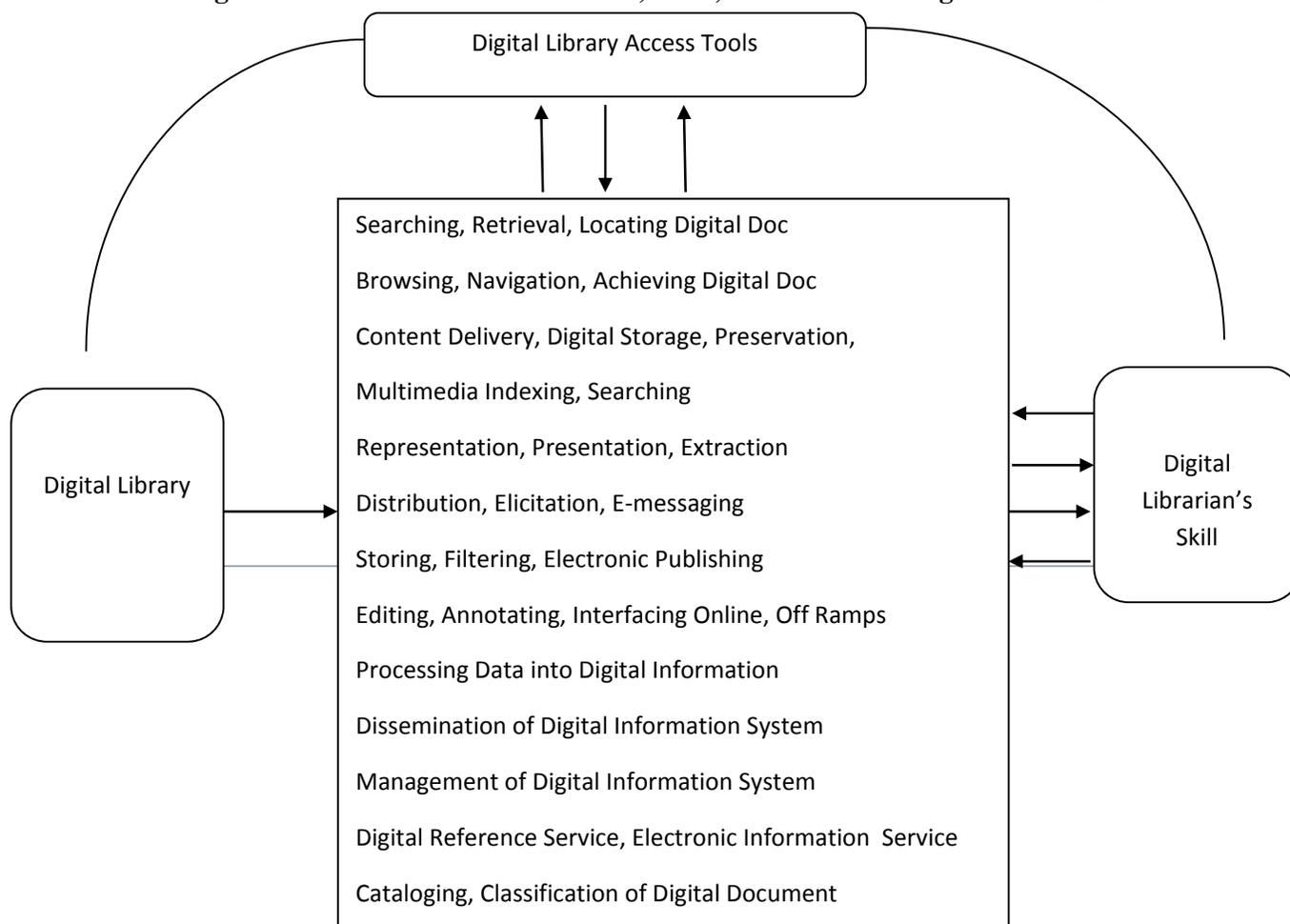
sources, so in information & communication technological era library professional have to change them as information professional. Now information specialists have to work as e-information resources. Librarians obtain professional knowledge through various educational courses, professional and working experiences. 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 participate in the educational process rather than gathering information and disseminate it to the public through workshop, orientations, training etc.

The emerging global digital libraries or world-wide digital information centers generate

the need for creating a new job-title "digital librarian" to manage their digital knowledge resources. The huge digital libraries are emerging as knowledge warehouses. Digital librarians are required to: .

- ✓ Manage the digital libraries; .
- ✓ Organize digital knowledge and information; .
- ✓ Disseminate digital information from the computer-held digital information; .
- ✓ Provide digital reference services and electronic information services; .
- ✓ Provide knowledge mining from the emerging knowledge warehouses; .
- ✓ Handle the tasks of massive digitization, digital storage process, and digital preservation;
- ✓ Provide universal access and retrieval of digital knowledge, ultimately access to all;
- ✓ Catalogue and classify digital documents and digital knowledge.

**Digital librarian's interface functions, skills, roles in the management of DIS**



### Skills & Techniques of a digital librarian in the management of DIS/ digital libraries

The competency of a digital librarian is represented by different sets of skills, attitudes and values that enable a digital librarian to work as a digital information professional or digital knowledge worker and digital knowledge communicator. There are skills and competencies that the digital librarian should develop. One is the ability to manage the digital libraries and digital knowledge in terms of digital knowledge management. The following are the skills and competencies required for a digital librarian in the management of digital information systems and digital libraries:

- ✓ Navigation, browsing, filtering, .retrieving, accessing, digital document analysis;
- ✓ Digital reference services, electronic information services;
- ✓ Searching network databases in a number of digital sources and Web sites;
- ✓ Web authoring.
- ✓ Multimedia indexing, image processing, object-oriented processing;
- ✓ Interactive digital communications and visualization;
- ✓ Cataloguing and classification of digital documents, digital content;
- ✓ Searching and retrieval of text, images and other multimedia objects;
- ✓ Interfacing online and off-ramps, twists and turns of digital knowledge;
- ✓ Development of digital information sources;
- ✓ Digitization of print collections;
- ✓ Competency to manage CD-ROM network station;
- ✓ Development of machine readable catalogue records;
- ✓ Personal networks;
- ✓ Project teams, competence groups,
- ✓ GroupWare;
- ✓ Internal digital knowledge resource;
- ✓ External knowledge resources;
- ✓ External personal networks

### Conclusion

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century a huge amount of information is produced & tremendous development in the field of IT, computer hardware & software tools which made possible the quick retrieval of desired information by the pressing of buttons. This paper aims to study the

change from Traditional Libraries to Digital Library. What actual digital Library means with its advantages & responsibility of Librarian as a Digital Library. Digital libraries are not going to replace the physical existence of document completely but no doubt to meet the present demand of users. 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 the pick time to all informational and library professional that they geared themselves to take the challenge.

It is ironical that all these technologies are under way, but not yet co-ordinated and targeted at the task of creating a digital librarian. Reference librarians, cybrarians or information brokers will be augmented by digital librarians in the digital world. The digital librarian will become the guardian of digital information. The digital librarian's role will be increasingly towards offering consultancy to the users in their efforts in providing digital reference services, electronic information services, navigating, searching and retrieval of digitized information. The digital librarian will be an embodiment of a digital information professional or digital knowledge worker, who will ensure that the digital libraries are used effectively and with ease. Digital librarians add values and can make digital libraries truly useful and user friendly. It can be said that the digital librarian working in the digital knowledge domain is a specialist in the area of digital libraries, digital information systems and digital knowledge sources. Several personal characteristics plus the new skills and competencies are essential for the digital librarians to create and manage digital library collections and services. Practical and advanced skills are needed for digital librarians to manage the digital information system (DIS) in the important areas of imaging technologies, optical character recognition, markup languages, catalogue, multimedia indexing, atabase technology, user interface design, programming, and Web technologies.

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