

## **Role of Library and Information Centres in the Digital Era**

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### **Abstract:**

Digital libraries are the rich heritage centers of knowledge systems. Since distinct library sectors in India are at various phases of advancement and no one solution or method would be relevant in the Indian situation, the broad spectrum of the Indian library scenario is an important issue to take into consideration while thinking about a vision for the third century. The Indian library and information sector can be categorised into five main areas: public libraries, government libraries, academic libraries, special and scientific libraries, and national libraries. The scientific and special library sector is significantly more advanced and sophisticated than the other four sectors due to a variety of factors.

***Keywords:** Digital Library, Information, E-Library, Online Resources, Automation*

### **1. Introduction:**

Digital libraries are the rich heritage centers of knowledge systems. Librarians have created and implemented several knowledge management strategies on their own while offering academic library services. Reference cataloguing, so augmenting the quantity of scholarly information employed in postsecondary education. Both reference interview questions and catalogue entry points are meant to support the methods via which researchers strive to produce new scholarly knowledge. Nonetheless, there hasn't been much done by libraries to leverage organisational data to generate knowledge that might enhance the efficiency of higher education and library operations. Knowledge management encompasses a lot of the concepts that academic librarians have long explored and used to scholarly material. The organisational information is then used in a way that generates new knowledge to enhance organisational efficiency by utilising these and other concepts. (Shahzad & Khan, 2023).

### **2. Background of Study**

A system in which information is electronically stored and made available through electronic systems and networks is referred to as an electronic library, or "e-library." It uses a variety of media, including optical video disk CD-ROM, digital databases, web-based resources, and more, to deliver accumulation and/or services in e-format. The electronic contents that are contained here are essentially presented in a range of analogous forms. Videotapes, for instance, are in analog format and must be viewed with electrical equipment. But there could also be digital resources available. A library's fundamental operations become mostly electronic in nature. The significant use of electronic media for data preservation, recovery, and distribution is thus a key component of these libraries. An electronic library can be considered more comprehensive since it contains all the content that a digital library can have..

### **3. Significance of Study**

People have higher goals and expectations thanks to digital technology, which will help to not only close the knowledge disparity in the nation between the information wealthy and the information poor, but also raise the standard for growth across the board. Decision-makers, technologists, librarians, educators, therapists, lawyers, publishing industry professionals, and community organizations now bear a great deal of personal accountability for fulfilling their individual roles in providing digital content to the nation's distinct buyers in a form and language that is comprehending and need-based. In order to significantly improve every Indian's quality of life, the Government of India and other agencies are making the required improvements to the communications and other technological infrastructure to make IT-based access to knowledge a reality in the genuine sense. (Fredriksson, 2023).

### **4. Objectives of Study:**

- To examine the job role of library professionals in changing scenarios of digital era in India
- To identify the major challenges while adopting digitalization in library management in India
- To demonstrate the competitive advantages of information centres in digital era in India

### **5. Discussion and Analysis:**

#### **• Digitalization of Library:**

Guo et al. (2023) discussed that opting for digital libraries or physical libraries has always been a controversial topic. Initiating new services and technology has involved research for the improvement of digital libraries and their offerings. The emergence of digital resources in many formats, such as e-books, e-journals, blogs, information on websites, institutional repositories, etc., has made it more difficult for libraries to oversee materials that may be customized to meet user demands. Given the percentage of the population that is literate and aware of the digital world, digital services must be made available as soon as feasible. Let's recap the study paper and discuss how the digitization of libraries has paved the path for cutting-edge services while also causing a plethora of problems with infrastructure, raising awareness, educating the user population, and other areas. Prospective developments indicate that more investigation into digital libraries is important, particularly with regard to the services component and the evolution of libraries into hubs for community knowledge. As research and practice progress, a digital library may now provide a wide range of services.

Both benefits and drawbacks come with digitization for a rising nation like India. Because the nation is divided by urban and rural zones, which are diametrically opposed to one another, moving between them takes you through whole new experiences. The pinnacle of automation occurs in metropolitan areas where everyone has access to technological advances, which is advantageous. metropolitan areas such as Mumbai.

According to Alenezi (2023), Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore face a lot of difficulties to cater to the growing population since the amount of habitable space is the same but the number of habitats is growing in number with every passing day. So the need for a physical library is somehow null as compared to its need in the rural sector. In rural areas, a lot of people are uneducated or do not have access to mobile phones or basic technology so digitalizing libraries in these sectors would make no sense as there would be a thin audience to cater to. In this case, a physical library is a boon or in other words, a digital library is a curse. There is comparatively more amount of space in rural areas where you can afford to build physical libraries for all sorts of people.

Hussain (2023) demonstrated in his research that digitization is an essential task in modern-day libraries. This will enable it to preserve endangered library resources, improve the efficiency of information search mechanisms and enhance access to library resources. The various ways to search and access library content are created. A strong partnership and collaboration through awareness can lead to better digital library. On a global scale, we have developed and developing nations. Countries like the USA, Canada, and Germany can be considered to be developed whereas countries like India, China, Russia are developing. The same analogy of urban and rural areas can be implied here, developed nations being urban areas and developing nations being rural areas.

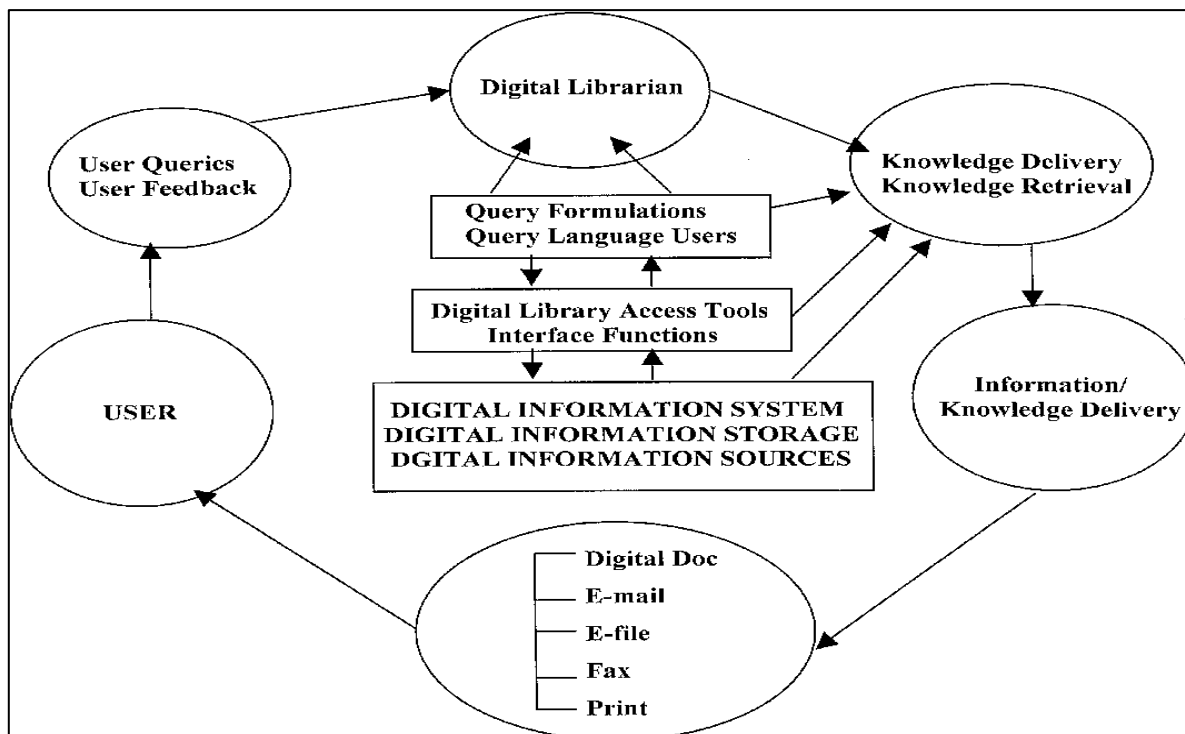
- **Role of Library Professionals in Digital Era:**

Microform, audio, and video formats were added to the list of resources that were now accessible. A second format boom occurred in the last decades of the 20th century, and libraries may now provide material in video, print, audio, microforms, computer programs, numeric and multimedia composites. Providing information in its organized form is the most crucial task for librarians. Users have profited from digital libraries since they may access worldwide knowledge with only one click (Barber & Chandok, 2008).

It is being able to provide information resources to readers – regardless of format. Librarians and patron will no longer be restricted to ‘a single entity where everything is stored’, but will be able to offer “a range of services and collection, link together or made accessible through electronic networks”. The development in electronic access to scholarly journals is a key example of the shift of ownership to access. University and research libraries especially, find the option of providing electronic access to journal subscription to be a means of dealing with complex multi- campus organizations where the client population comprises and increasing mixture of on – and off – campus students (Bart & Budd, 1994).

Electronic access to journal literature was began to use the newly- evolving technologies, hence the beginning of digital library started. The development of electronic reserve collections, demonstrate another way in which librarians are adapting new technologies to deliver services more effectively. Electronic reserve provides the ability to digitize a printed document, video, audio, or data, so that many students can access it simultaneously without the limit of attending a library building within opening hours (Tank et al., 2007). The technology to provide digital access to library reserve collections has been available for some

time. However, the whole sale adoption of this mechanism has been impeded by a lack of clear copyright and intellectual property ownership laws for the digital environment.



(Source: V. Sreenivasulu, 2000)

The above figure indicates that the digital librarian plays a significant role at multiple levels. He is a multi-tasker dealing with people, processes and tools.

- **Challenge of Library Automation:**

The challenges of library automation are concerned with training programmes standards to be selected for the bibliographical formats and records, retrospective conversion of the manual catalogue so that the library users will have access to the machine. Readable catalogue for the entire collection, indexing policy, hardware and software another important challenge facing the profession is the design of automated system, especially in the absence of computer culture and lack of funds. One of the important factors in the design is introducing interactive records', so that transaction in one record automatically causes changes in the other relevant and related records. In designing the system, the factors to be considered are:

- Choice of the System
- Mode of operation (e.g. PC-based, batch mode, LAN-based, online, etc.)
- Method of inputting identification data (of document and borrowers) for acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, etc.
- Available hardware/software.

\*The major issues in evolving a policy on library automation can be summarised as Managing IT resources Data security for trans-border transfer of data, in data- base, etc. Standard (difficult to introduce, because of the rapid growth as well as the changes in the information technology, it is however a necessity.) problems due to the international networks (although there are many advantages, problems are many; for instant, domination for the multinationals, transfer of data in audio form, cultural issues, etc. Manpower development in ' IT sector with end-user point of view at university level to take care of annual maintenance (a mass programme may be required to take care of Am).

## **6. Conclusion:**

Many institutions in India (even individuals) will participate in one or more net- works and then in Internet in the near future. The participation in the internationally well tested and proven networks will enable them to have E-mail facility at a reasonable cost, it will enable access to several 'bulletins' Facsimile transmission (at nearly 1/5th of the present cost) Access to several library catalogues all over the world. Preview of headlines, and reviews from certain papers Video phone calls, movies on demand Access to many CD- ROMs Getting into multimedia since hardware is becoming cheaper.

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