The Concept of Digital Library: An Overview

Renu

Research Scholar

Department of Library & Information Science

M.D. University, Rohtak (HR.)

Abstract: It is the era of digital knowledge. Therefore digitization of library services has become very important in recent years. Today it is a reality of knowledge world to provide improved access to information resources in the perspective of library services. It is also a well-known fact that all the gamut of information is available in digital format and we can present all type of information in digital form including text, pictures, musical work, computer programmes, databases, models and designs, video programmes and compound works combining many type of such information. That is why; digitization of the library services has become a need of hour. But it requires a huge amount of budget to covert traditional form of knowledge into digital form. Nevertheless, the rapid changes and development regarding the reduction in cost and improved facility of digitization of library services has attracted the scholar world to adopt the path of digitization of information. The present research paper highlights the concept of digital library in the changing global knowledge world.

Keywords: ICT, Digitization, Digital Information, Digital Library, Electronic Devices.

Introduction: The recent changes and development in the information and communication technology (ICT) has played a crucial role in the digitization of library services. Consequently the concept of 'Digital Library' has emerged in the recent years. The main objective of digital library is to fulfill the demand of library users with relevant, updated and accurate information at economic cost and at universal norms. It is the process of converting a physical object into electronic viewed through its main tool MARC. However, the concept of digital library is new for India, but this trend had started five decades ago in advanced countries. Basically this concept is keenly related to the world 'Digitization', which makes material available electronically for use. It refers to conversion of non-digital material to digital form. In general, it is the process of translating the printed information contained in books, articles, reports, pictures etc. into electronic storage format in computers and in such other devices. Moreover, it implies the conversion of hard material into digital images or formats.

The Concept of Digital Library: Today due to revolutionary changes in the field of technology, the library services are not aloof and untouched from this change. In fact, the frequent uses and application of information and communication technology can be observed in the field of library services. Nowadays, library services have become more efficient and effective than before. Nevertheless, the emerging trends in digital technology have also created some challenges to the knowledge world for providing quality services in libraries. Keeping the fact in view, digital libraries are set and maintained by using the internet services and by developing library software. Due to use of new software or technology, the library services have been improved and today all information is easily accessible for users.

Digital library offers a platform where database management of library services is maintained. Moreover, digital library is said to be a collection of controlled and accessible information through the electronic device, system and format by adopting universal pattern and modes. Lynch Clifford has defined digital library – "The Digital Library not just one entity, but multiple sources seamlessly integrated". The use of ICT in the field of library services has reduced the growing cost of cataloging, preserving and making accessible of readable material in any form. Now after the revolutionary changes in the field of technology and due to frequent use of ICT in library services, it is very easy to maintain the vast collection of readable material in digital form. Therefore, digital library is termed as supplementary facility to tradition library for better retrieval and faster communication in the changing scenario of knowledge world.

Likewise, Digital library can be defined as paperless library totally based on electronic computer technology in which all library functions and activities or services can be activated without the help of any specific knowledge of librarianship as a profession. However, digital libraries have a long way to become as a global universal digital library, but there has been much significant development in the field of library services due to ICT and it would be very helpful to reach the digital library services at their destination with full potential.

The Process of Digital Library: The main objective and aim behind the digital library requires a specific management skill in which specialist in IT, electronics, internet administrators and librarians are employed. The cordial and expertise efforts of all these experts make the mission successful. The managers of digitization job have to keep in mind these experts and their point of view must be global and universal. It is very careful issue for the success of digitization process. For efficient management, it is essential to have high speed local server with fast connectivity to internet, full text searches engine with efficient indexing facilities, web servers

and FTP servers and electronic documents management facility. The process basically involves converting a physical object into digital form. Therefore the whole process is called digitization. To facilitate and to complete the whole process of creating digital information resources, it is basically required that all the library functions must be computerized with scanners, CD Writers and internet connection. Networking facilities like LAN and WAN must be available in Library. CD-ROM and Multimedia stations should be installed. To make the best use of this process a separate web page may be created for library highlighting its servicing. For the successful process of digitization of library well-developed software is urgently required. The most important features of the software should be capable to handle unlimited numbers of databases and users should be free to design according to their requirement. The effective process of digitization includes the following tools:

- **MARC:** Its stand for a machine readily cataloging which helps to standardize the library function at one common and agreed standard to the used by all libraries by exchanging bibliographies information's among computerized library system. It can be saw well interpreted cataloging record of data. Actually MARC records are developed by library congress and the standing of MARC is more than 35 years in the US. It was produced first in Oct. 1966 and after that UK, France, Germany, Canada and Australia have also devised separate MARC formats. Today more than 60 countries are using bibliographies format based on MARC which is very important to provide a standard format for the global exchange of bibliographic information available in machine readable format in the knowledge world of library science.

- **Internet Resources & Searching:** The internet is a collection of network based on server models which store and provide the information required by the client. It is based on web technology and it is necessary to have a search engine for it. Due to advancement in technology we have faster access than before. The search use software programme search for robots, spiders, or crawlers. Therefore, here it is a large number of useful information available in the library. Through computer, internet recount, modem and simple communication software we can reach to library resources on internet. That is why; the utility of internet resources is very crucial to technological world.

- **Developing Digital Library:** This library is based on digital computing, storage and communication machinery together with the software needed to reproduce emulate and extend the resources provided by conditional library. The concept of digital library is not merely equivalent to a digitized collection with information management tools. Moreover a digital library provides more enterable access anywhere and anytime. The main tool of developing a digital library is based on the system of recording, storing

transmission and communication of information records, computer keyboards, web search engines and the internet system through which we can get authentic and well-evaluated information due to this system. Therefore, the concept of digital library has become more effective and efficient in the modern time and it is a boon for library services.

Advantages of Digital Library: The digital library is a library in which all information are stored in digital format. Its basic advantages or benefits are:

- It is accessible for all, at anytime and anywhere.
- It helps in accessing information virtually from anywhere without any restrictions.
- It enhances the excess for current and future users.
- It is beneficial for multiple users at the same time for the same information.
- It is more structured and systematic.
- The user is able to use and to get any information with the retrieval in digital form.
- It provides exact copy in original form without any degradation in quality.
- It is more convenient to the traditional Library.
- The maintenance of a digital library is much lower cost than the traditional library.

Conclusion: Thus it can be concluded that a digital library is a library in which collections of material are stored in digital format and accessible in computers. It offers many technology enabled functions and services that support users, both as information producers and information users. Today in the era of digitalization, it ultimately affects the library services because digitizing information makes it easier to preserve access and share the information. Moreover, the maintaining of the digital library is much lower cost than that of a traditional library. In case of India the process of transformation of library services, started two decades ago and thereafter a wave spread over in the country with its faster speed and now at least eight hundred libraries in India have been changed into Digital Libraries. Nevertheless, India needs to work out on all well-planned and systematic efforts in this regard.

References:

- T. Ashok Babu, **Library Information Technology in Modern Era,** Commonwealth Publishers, New Delhi, 1999.

- B.T. Laloo, **Information Needs, Information Seeking Behavior and Users,** Ess Ess Publication, New Delhi. 2002.

- Astraf Tariq, **Library Services in Electronic Environment: Changes, Challenges Issues and Strategies,** Kaveri Books, New Delhi, 2004.

- V. Ramana, **Information Technology Application in Libraries,** Ess Ess Publication, New Delhi. 2004.

- G. Devaranjan, **Applied Research in Library and Information Science,** Ess Ess Publication, New Delhi. 2005.

- H.K. Kaul and Others, (ed.), **Knowledge, Library and Information Networking,** DLN, New Delhi, 2007.

- M.Seadle and E. Greifender, **Defining a Digital Library,** Humboldt University, Berlin, 2007.

- Kusum Verma, **Digital Library and Information Developments,** Vista International Publishing House, Delhi, 2008.

- J. McIntosh, (ed.), **Library and Information Science: Parameters and Perspective**, Apple Academic Press, Canada, 2011.

- Vaishali, Khaparde, Advancement in Library and Information Science, Ess Ess Publication, New Delhi. 2012.

- Neelam Sharma, "Automation and Digitization in University Libraries", **International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology,** Vol. 2(2) , 2012, pp. 150-152.

- Vivek Goyal, **Digital Library and Its Issues,** Ankit Publishing House, Delhi, 2012.

- D.L. Davies, **Library and Information Science,** Random Exports, New Delhi, 2013.

- M.Muthu, "E-Journals: An Overview", **International Research and Reviews**, Vol. 2, (2), April-June 2013, pp.42-46.

- Mange Ram, (ed.), **Automation and Digitization Software of Library: Open Source and Commercial,** Y.K. Publishers, Agra, 2015.