

Digital Library and its Importance

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Abstract

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview on digital library and its Importance in library services. Digital library simply means documents available in digital form.

Keywords: *Digital library, E -Collections*

Introduction:

Digital library or digital collection is online database, which includes texts, images, figures and other digital formats. Digital library vary in size as is depend upon the organization and institution wants to build up it accordingly. The digital content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely via computer networks. These information retrieval systems are able to exchange information with each other through [interoperability](#) and [sustainability](#).

Digital Library: An Overview

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.^[19]

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 it.^[20] As such, the cost of maintaining a digital library can be much lower than that of a traditional library. A physical library must spend large sums of money paying for staff, book maintenance, rent, and additional books.

Features of Digital library: these are the following features are as follows

- **No physical boundary.** The user of a digital library need not to go to the library physically; people from all over the world can gain access to the same information, as long as an Internet connection is available.
- **Round the clock availability** A major advantage of digital libraries is that people can gain access 24/7 to the information.
- **Multiple access.** The same resources can be used simultaneously by a number of institutions and patrons. This may not be the case for copyrighted material: a library may have a license for "lending out" only one copy at a time; this is achieved with a system of [digital rights management](#) where a resource can become inaccessible after expiration of the lending period or after the lender chooses to make it inaccessible (equivalent to returning the resource).
- **Information retrieval.** The user is able to use any search term (word, phrase, title, name, subject) to search the entire collection. Digital libraries can provide very user-friendly interfaces, giving click able access to its resources.
- **Preservation and conservation.** Digitization is not a long-term preservation solution for physical collections, but does succeed in providing access copies for materials that would otherwise fall to degradation from repeated use. Digitized collections and born-digital objects pose many preservation and conservation concerns that analog materials do not. Please see the following "Problems" section of this page for examples.
- **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 and media storage technologies are more affordable than ever before.
- **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.^[21]
- **Easily accessible.**

Searching:

Digital library provides search interface, which helps to locate the resources easily and quickly. There are various search engine which are used to locate the resources such as Google scholars, OPAC, yahoo etc.

Services of Digital library: these are following services laid down by digital library

- 1.E-Mail
- 2.FTP
- 3.Remote Login
- 4.www
- 5.Search Engine

Importance of digital library:

1.speed: the speed is the most important attribute of digital library as speed helps in retrieving information fast and rapidly.

2.Space power: Digital library more emphasis on making portable materials so the space less covered such as DVD, CD ROM, CD etc. Which takes less space and easily movable.

3.Accessing power: Digital library helps in accessing the data more easily and fast. This helps in accessing the latest information and also provides updated information.

4. Online references: digital library also provides online books and journals which helps in academic growth. It also helps in availing the reference sources online as well. It provides e-Portal for online resources, which includes e-books, e-journals and much more.

Digital Library –Limitations

1. Required Skill Person.
2. Law Effects
3. Security problem.
4. High cost required at initial stage.

Conclusion:

Digital library not going to replace the physical documents completely but no doubt to meet the present demand of users and fulfill the needs of the users in less time and in more Satisfy way.

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