

# THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TRADITIONAL LIBRARY AND DIGITAL LIBRARY

SANDEEP KUMAR.G.B.

MSc IN LIBRARY SCIENCE AND INFORMATION SCIENCES  
B.P.COLLEGE FOR ARTS AND COMMERCE  
HOLALKERE CHITHRADURGA DIST-577526

## ABSTRACT

An *e-Library or Digital Library* (both terms often used interchangeably) is a collection of digital objects. These Digital Objects could be classified as text, visuals, video, audio, etc.. Digital Library stores these objects as standardized and customized electronic media formats instead of print, micro form, or other media. Most importantly, a digital library should provide means for organizing, storing, and retrieving the contents. e-Library stores the contents at a central location for providing access on multiple devices.

Traditional libraries are brick-and-mortar buildings containing a mixture of print and online resources. Usually, customers are required to physically visit the library to receive services and use resources. Use of print materials and interaction with staff is limited to the library's hours of operation. In addition to offering users a variety of print resources, many traditional libraries allow customers access to e-books, tablets, online library catalogs, and electronic databases.

The idea of digital libraries once replacing the traditional ones has been around since the very dawn of the digital age. Isn't it more convenient and efficient to keep books in electronic format than to stick to old-fashioned physical libraries with their shelves, repositories and maddeningly complex filing systems? In this article, you'll choose sides due to the information given to you. Besides, don't forget to answer the quiz questions to know exactly which library (an online or traditional one) is the best option for you.

**KEYWORDS- DIGITAL, TRADITIONAL, REFERENCES, INDEX, STAFF, USERS, LINK, MEDIA, PREPARATION.**

## INTRODUCTION

A digital library is a library where you can find digital repositories, or digital collections, online databases of digital objects that may include text, still images, audio, video, digital documents, or other digital media formats. Objects can contain digitized content such as prints or photographs, as well as primarily produced digital content such as word processor files or social media posts.

In addition to storing content, digital libraries provide a way to organize, search, and retrieve the contents of a collection. Whereas traditional libraries emphasize the archive and preservation of physical items especially books and periodicals that were the custodians of the librarian library. Information is physically gathered in one place; Users need to learn what is in the library and use it.

**An e-Library or Digital Library** (both terms often used interchangeably) is a collection of digital objects. These Digital Objects could be classified as text, visuals, video, audio, etc.. Digital Library stores these objects as standardized and customized electronic media formats instead of print, micro form, or other media. Most importantly, a digital library should provide means for organizing, storing, and retrieving the contents. e-Library stores the contents at a central location for providing access on multiple devices.

**Traditional libraries** are brick-and-mortar buildings containing a mixture of print and online resources. Usually, customers are required to physically visit the library to receive services and use resources. Use of print materials and interaction with staff is limited to the library's hours of operation. In addition to offering users a variety of print resources, many traditional libraries allow customers access to e-books, tablets, online library catalogs, and electronic databases.

### **Difference between Traditional and Digital Library:**

#### **TRADITIONAL LIBRARY**

1. Library Staff performs their duties in the acquisition section, cataloguing section, classification section, Periodical section as well as different sections as per need.
2. To Identify and recognize different methods to procure books in library economically and qualitatively.
3. To acquire books periodicals, journals through proper vendors and as recommended by users and the management authorities.
4. To circulate publisher catalogues among the faculties for the recommendations of books based on need.

5. To communicate with the teaching faculty to recommend different titles print journals require for the syllabus.
6. To prepare the budget for the purchase of different resources and types of equipment in libraries.
7. To record properly acquired resources both print and digital
8. Process the material for access by catalogues and classify books and prepare index terms and organize a collection for effective use.
9. To provide indexing, abstracting reference service, information services etc.
10. To provide information from the traditional sources including access to digital resources.
11. To provide current awareness services as well as

#### **DIFITAL LIBRARY**

1. To provide easy access to information to users available in various electronic formats
2. To identify the use needs and procure the information resources for the users
3. To procure e-Books and online journals and other digital publication to the users as per needs.
4. To subscribe to online journals e-books databases and provide facility for the utilization of resources to gain knowledge.
5. To automate the library with library software and provide faster access and reference service to the users.
6. To provide OPAC service with networking facilities to the users and help in resource sharing.
7. To develop library website for getting information from different locations by giving links to resources.
8. Libraries should have digital library software to access the digital contents subscribed and analyzed by the library.
9. To provide access to back issues of online journals to the users.
10. Learn skills to maintain the digital library in addition to technical
11. Library staff has knowledge of hardware and software to provide digital electronic and virtual services using digital collections to the users.

#### **Digital Libraries Vs. Traditional Libraries:**

The idea of digital libraries once replacing the traditional ones has been around since the very dawn of the digital age. Isn't it more convenient and efficient to keep books in electronic format than to stick to old-fashioned physical libraries with their shelves, repositories and maddeningly complex filing systems? In this article, you'll choose sides due to the information given to you. Besides, don't forget to answer the quiz questions to know exactly which library (an online or traditional one) is the best option for you.

However, despite 10 great breakthrough of 2018 in technology, traditional libraries are still around – the British Library in London, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the New York Public Library, the Bavarian State Library and many more which you can find in the list of 25 most famous libraries of the world.

Although they don't shy away from implementing some of the novelties into their structure and organization – all of them have quick access to the Internet. Well, why is it so? Is it going to keep that way? Just like in case with any other topic, making predictions is an ungrateful task, for the world is most likely to develop in the least predictable way – just like it always does. Let's look at the 'battle' between digital and traditional libraries.

#### **Round -1. Digital Library Vs. Traditional Library**

Of course, digital libraries are more convenient, cost-efficient and, truly speaking, less energy-consuming to use – you don't have to go somewhere to find some valuable material, for example, to write a research paper. What do you usually do? You open Google, insert some words to find the necessary information and voila the first search results are relevant to your topic. Right? But if we speak about academic writing, it isn't always helpful to use the same information seeking strategy.

Not all those online sources of information are quite reliable to refer to in an essay or term paper. Mind it! Even if you are used to doing so, check the source reliability on a first-priority basis and only then use it in your writing assignment. In these cases, it is better to use online search engines like **Google Scholar** to find scholarly literature. Alternatively, you can go to a local or university library and... spend hours to find what you are searching for. But you'll find the printed copies of scientific articles containing highly informative data.

The first round is played no sides! A digital library is a place which you can access any type of information quickly. On the other hand, because of the information overload, it may be difficult to find reliable information online which you could use in your essays or research papers like a dissertation or thesis. So you go to a library and what is the result? A huge amount of time planned for the other steps in writing a research paper is spent. As a result, it is time-consuming to attend traditional libraries, but it is more reliable. Go on reading the article to find out which library will win the 'battle'!

#### **Round -2. Digital Library Vs. Traditional Library**

With the majority of the world's population connected to the Internet, it is theoretically possible to create a single repository of all the books humanity has ever generated so that anybody can access any of them at any time within 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

There are such valuable databases but are all they affordable? **“Pay so-and-so much”** is the first note after a short preview of a necessary article. Right? And let's calculate how much time do you need to spend on writing a research paper that is usually based on 5-7 references. There is no guarantee that all of them are in an online database you are going to pay for. And what to do?

You can go to a traditional library and... you need to pay as well. As a rule, a library offers its users to apply for membership of a library. You need to provide all the necessary personal details (your name, address, date of birth), which are underpinned with certain official documents (passport or driver license). You can read more information on how to get a library card to do it right the first time. As we know that every minute is precious for a student, especially when writing a last-minute essay, we recommend you take the necessary documents not to return without the necessary data for your research paper.

Besides, be ready to pay either for library membership or the single use of library services. However, you should know about library fees and fines. For example, at the New York Public Library, a borrower who doesn't return library materials on or before the due date is fined on average \$1 per day for it. Mind it to save your money! Additionally, use a reminder on a phone to remember about all the important dates in your life – they can be paper submission dates or dates when you need to make bill payments.

The second round is played and what we have? There is the necessity to pay for library services both online and traditional ones. So it's up to you which library is better for you. Don't miss the last round between an online and traditional library so that you could make the final decision.

### **Round -3. Digital Library Vs. Traditional Library**

The library system, which allows you to take a book for a period of time, doesn't work well with digital texts. A digital book is not the same as a physical book – you cannot copy the latter without the great expense of time and money while copying the former takes less than a second. There are no limitations as to how many people can use a digital copy of the book. This means that traditional model, in which a writer writes, a publisher publishes and a reader buys and reads doesn't apply well here. Hence all the problems with digital copyright, prosecution of those who share books and other digital items via the Internet and so on.

Humanity still cannot work out an effective way of solving this problem. Let's imagine this worldwide library containing all books in existence and providing unlimited access to all of them free of charge. It may sound nice, but what is the motivation to write new books if the author doesn't get anything out of it? Until this problem is solved we will have to work with what we have now: traditional libraries with physical copies of the books and limited access to digital texts, paid access to books online and illegal e-text libraries.

However, we all probably understand that traditional libraries slowly but steadily become the things of the past. Even now a library is not what it was a couple of decades ago, let alone fifty years or more. Any big library contains video and audio materials, access to the Internet and digital texts, utilizes electronic cataloging systems and so on. It is only a matter of time before humanity thinks of an effective way to use digital libraries that would sit well with both readers and writers. The physical book will sooner or later become a rarity, for it is inconvenient to use, store and carry about.

#### **In creating a digital library the followings are highly needed:**

- 1.Database of digital material that is open to all users over the organization-wide LAN.
- 2.High bandwidth Internet connectivity
- 3.Focus selectively on acquiring digital resources
- 4.Electronic journals, and gradual elimination of print subscriptions
- 5.Licensed databases
- 6.Creation of local digital content available within the establishment
- 7.Electronic materials within the field of study.

#### **Advantages of a Digital library over a Traditional library**

- 1.Nearly unlimited storage space at a much lower cost
- 2.Re-allocate funds from some staff, collection maintenance, and additional books.
- 3.No physical boundary
- 4.Round the clock availability
- 5.Multiple access
- 6.Enhanced information retrieval.
- 7.Preservation for some print material
- 8.Added value

9. Universal accessibility

### **Shortcomings of a Digital Library**

1. Lack of constant and consistent power supply and Internet facilities
2. Lack of preservation of a fixed copy (for the record and for duplicating scientific research)
3. Lack of preservation of "best in class"
4. Difficulty in knowing and locating everything that is available, and differentiating valuable from useless information.
5. Job loss for traditional publishers and librarians
6. Costs are spread and many become hidden.
7. Lack of screening or validation.

### **CONCLUSION**

From the foregoing, it has been abundantly cleared that digital library or E library operation is far better than the traditional system, especially at this auspicious period when hardcopy documents or paper based materials are gradually facing out in all fares of human sectors. Though, E library is not without its own shortcomings, for instance, in Nigeria or any other African countries where epileptic power supply and poor Internet technology Architecture or unstable Telecommunication Infrastructure are evident, digital operations cannot thrive.

Therefore, Governments in all the tiers of governance including the Federal and State legislative houses respectively should make policies and legislate bills that can improve on the power supplies and the Internet Architecture Infrastructures in the Country, because this is the platform and bane through which Nigeria can meet up with the developed Nations of the world technologically in the 21st century.

### **REFERENCES**

1. Isah, Abdulmumin; Serema, Batlang Comma; Mutshewa, Athulang; Kenosi, Lekoko (2013). "Digital Libraries: Analysis of Delos Reference Model and 5S Theory". *Journal of Information Science Theory and Practice*. **1** (4): 38–47. doi:10.1633/JISTaP.2013.1.4.3.
2. Fox, Edward A. (1999). "The Digital Libraries Initiative: Update and Discussion". *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science*. **26** (1). ISSN 2373-9223. Archived from the original on 3 April 2018. Retrieved 30 April 2018.
3. "digital libraries, electronic libraries and virtual libraries". www2.hawaii.edu. Archived from the original on 2016-03-07. Retrieved 2016-01-18.
4. Yi, Esther, Inside the Quest to Put the World's Libraries Online Archived 2016-11-19 at the Wayback Machine, *The Atlantic*, July 26, 2012.
5. Castagné, Michel (2013). Institutional repository software comparison: DSpace, EPrints, Digital Commons, Islandora and Hydra (Report). University of British Columbia. doi:10.14288/1.0075768. Retrieved 2016-04-25.
6. "What is legal deposit?". National Library of Australia. 17 February 2016. Retrieved 3 May 2020.
7. "Legal deposit in Australia". National and State Libraries Australia. 1 June 2019. Retrieved 3 May 2020.
8. "Statute Law Revision Act (No. 1) 2016". Federal Register of Legislation. 12 February 2016. Retrieved 3 May 2020.
9. Lemon, Barbara; Blinco, Kerry; Somes, Brendan (8 April 2020). "Building NED: Open Access to Australia's Digital Documentary Heritage". *Publications*. **8** (2): 19. doi:10.3390/publications8020019. ISSN 2304-6775. Special Issue 14th International Conference on Open Repositories 2019 – All The User Needs