



## The future of e-libraries: An Analysis

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**Abstract:** E -Library is a new library service that applies to rapidly advancing data processing and networking technology, and it is considered as a highly convenient, epoch-making mode of service. E Library allows its users to read library books and conduct research at home, in the office, or at school, using the Internet even without entering the library. E library service enables users to effectively employ electronic data by using an in-library network.

**Key words:** e -Libraries, compared benefits, issues of licensing & copyrights

### Introduction

An electronic library is a type of service that allows users, without actually stepping into the library, to read library books and conduct research at home, in the office, or at school, using the Internet. Service which enables users to effectively employ electronic data by using an in-library network is also referred to as an "electronic library service." This is a new library service that applies rapidly advancing data processing technology and networking technology, and it is expected to become a highly convenient, epoch-making mode of service.

### Cost of maintaining an e- resource library

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. As such, the cost of maintaining a digital library can be much lower than that of a traditional library. (Cain, Mark. "Managing Technology: Being a Library of Record in a Digital Age", Journal of Academic Librarianship 29:6 (2003).



**Cost of staff maintaining an e-resource library** a physical library must spend large sums of money paying for staff, book maintenance, rent, and additional books. Digital libraries may reduce or, in some instances, do away with these fees.

#### **Issues relating to cataloguing in an e-resource library**

Both types of library require cataloguing input to allow users to locate and retrieve material. Digital libraries may be more willing to adopt innovations in technology providing users with improvements in electronic and audio book technology as well as presenting new forms of communication such as wikis and blogs; conventional libraries may consider that providing online access to their OP AC catalog is sufficient. 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. (Cain, Mark. "Managing Technology: Being a Library of Record in a Digital Age", *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 29:6 (2003).

#### **Advantages**

1. **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. Hence there is no physical boundary on its usage. (Mark, T. (2007). National and international library collaboration: Necessity, advantages. *Libbers Quarterly: The Journal of European Research Libraries*, 17(3/4), 1-7.).
2. **Advantage of round the clock availability-** A major advantage of digital libraries is that people can gain access 24/7 to the information. IT can be retrieved any time, round the clock without any hassles.
3. **Advantage of Multiple accesses-** E resources help the users as there is the advantage of



multiple accesses. The same resources can be used simultaneously by a number of institutions and patrons. (Mark, T. (2007). National and international library collaboration: Necessity, advantages. *Libbers Quarterly: The Journal of European Research Libraries*, 17(3/4), 1-7.) 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 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). (Mark, T. -National and international library collaboration: Necessity, advantages. *Libbers Quarterly: The Journal of European Research Libraries*, 17(3/4), 1-7.2007).

**4. Advantage of Information retrieval.** The user is able to use any search term (word, phrase, title, name, and subject) to search the entire collection. Digital

libraries can provide very user-friendly interfaces, giving click able access to its resources. Hence it is easy , accessible & supportive to any user irrespective of his academic inputs.

**5. Advantage of 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. (Chetan Sharma-Use and Impact of E-Resources A Case Study Vol 10 No 1, Indraprastha University, Delhi, India, 2009).

**6. Advantage of 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. (Chetan Sharma-Use and Impact of E-Resources A Case Study Vol 10 No 1 , Indraprastha University, Delhi, India , 2009).

**7. Advantage of 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.

**8. Advantage of Easily accessible.** Digitized collections help the users as they are accessible easily across the world.

**The challenges** - It is commonly thought that an electronic library enables anyone, at any time or place, to access a library's enormous book collection by using the Internet. It is even believed that one can use all the books in a library's collection without actually going to the library. ( Chethan Sharma-Use and Impact of E-Resources A Case Study Vol 10 No 1 , Indraprastha University, Delhi, India , 2009)But these notions are only half-truths. It is

true that an electronic library is aimed at making it possible for anyone, at any time or place, to access digitized resources over the Internet. (Cain, Mark. "Managing Technology: Being a Library of Record in a Digital Age", Journal of Academic Librarianship 29:6 (2003).

**Content limitations-** It is only natural, however, that the contents which can be used over an electronic library are limited to those contents which have been digitized at the library so they can be relayed through a network. The process of digitization is a major one, involving much labor and expense. ( Cain, Mark. "Managing Technology: Being a Library of Record in a Digital Age", Journal of Academic Librarianship 29:6 (2003).

**Impractical:** Libraries have huge book collections and it is not possible to digitize all these resources. It is a huge misconception, therefore, to think that anyone, at any time or place, can access any book in a library.



**Copy right policy:** Most of the books in a library's collection are protected by copyright. Electronic libraries are made to respect copyright and in digitizing and providing information, ample attention must be given to this copyright issue. (Cain, Mark. "Managing Technology: Being a Library of Record in a Digital Age", Journal of Academic Librarianship 29:6 (2003).

**The National digital Library:** The National digital Library (NDL) plans to actively promote the electronic library as a new library service in the future. This does not mean that all the books in the NDL's collection can be used over a network. Through consultations with all those concerned, progress will be made step-by-step within the range of practical limits. (Cain, Mark. "Managing Technology: Being a Library of Record in a Digital Age", Journal of Academic Librarianship 29:6 (2003).

**Future considerations:**

1. identify emerging trends relevant to libraries and the communities they serve
2. Promote featuring and innovation techniques to help librarians and library professionals shape their future in this age of e resources
3. Build connections with experts and innovative thinkers to help libraries address emerging issues
4. They are creative spaces, not only for individuals, but also teams.
5. They are economic incubators and learning hubs. Libraries are the entry points to the digital world.
6. They are the way to embrace technology and avoid digital exclusion. Therefore, to improve technological literacy of local communities, libraries should be equipped with relevant technologies.
7. Library drone is not even the close future. It's already happening. Australian start-up Flirty has teamed up with a book rental service Zookal to create – the first in the world –



textbook delivery system. This is a new innovation which has become popular in western countries as well. Indian libraries will also embrace this new innovation.

8. The system is using hexacopters, drones with six rotors, to deliver ordered textbooks. Now, the smart thing is that the drone can find you by the location of your smart phone, so there is no need to give a fixed address.

**Conclusion:** Thus future of e-libraries thus depends on digital libraries re-structuring. Electronic libraries are made to respect copyright and in digitizing and providing information, ample attention must be given to this copyright issue. Digitized collections help the users as they are accessible easily across the world but at the same time there is a threat of handling too many users at the same time. This is a digital era hence electronic gadgets cannot hold multi numbered customers. The future belongs to unmanned flying machines, and just like Amazon drones can deliver the goods to

customers, libraries could deliver the books to patrons.

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