

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN THE DIGITAL ERA: A PRACTICAL STUDY AT SREENIDHI INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, GHATKESAR, R.R. DIST – HYDERABAD

Dr. M. Suresh Babu

Librarian,

Sreenidhi Institute of Science & Technology,
Ghatkesar, R.R. Dist, Hyderabad

E-mail: drsureshsvu@gmail.com

Introduction

With the advancement of information technology, information explosions, availability of large number of documents in electronic forms, the traditional library collections are gradually replaced by e-documents. In this context the libraries have no other option than to build collection of e-resources. Leased electronic resources are made available to users without being acquired for the library. Intangible resources, such as the full text of articles, are provided through “pay per view” arrangements and are used or taken away by users without ever being added to the library permanent collection. It is becoming common for librarians to consider freely available resources are catalogued and appear in the OPAC or are accessible through links on a library Web page.

Explosion of electronic resources for university libraries has changed the information seeking habits of both the students and faculty of university departments. The academic departments in the university have a wealth of material, both past and current, available electronically. The increasing popularity of this digital information has brought great convenience to library users.

Electronic Information Resources

The electronic information resources of a university library basically includes the followings, which should be acquired by library as per its needs. Infrastructure facilities, financial provision etc.

- E- Resources refer to any resources, which is in digitized form.
- Scanned images, images of photographic or printed texts, etc.

- Collections in which complete contents of documents are created or converted into machine readable form for online access.
- Online full text electronic journals, full text electronic books, and other online information products accessible through internet and other networks.
- Computer storage devices such as CD – Rom/ DVDs
- Meta documents

Moving towards Electronic Information Resources.

There are several reasons that contribute for the changing scenario of collections process, which are as follows:

- Evolution and proliferation of information technology
- Growing popularity of internet and overall realization of utility of electronic technology in every sphere of knowledge
- Changes in publishing trend – publishers are inclined towards electronic publishing .
- Information explosion –though improving digital technology.
- Financial constraints on the part of all kinds of libraries.
- Tremendous growth of online information products.

Building Digital Information Resources

- One option in collection of digital resources is digitizing existing important and useful print material,
- Subscribing various online information resources such as e-journals, e-books audio video resources etc
- Links and pointers to resources which are freely available on the internet can be added to the library catalogues databases and networked resources.
- Developing digital repositories in which holding the institute publications course materials, and faculty publications.

Consortia

- The best way for coping with this changing scenario, where the availability of digital resources is growing fast, is through consortium
- Libraries can individually or as a member of the consortium can acquire the digital resources by either purchasing or by entering in to license agreements with the publishers or distributors.

The benefits of the consortia purchase are :

1. It offers libraries low – cost access to information

2. expands the readership of journals by allowing more users access to journals and database.
3. digital collection in the different digital libraries can implement can complement each other for enhanced access.
4. the cost of establishing the digital library can be decreased.

Electronic Information Resources for University Libraries

The digital information resources of a university library should have the followings. It may vary depends upon the user needs, infrastructure facilities financial provision etc.

1. Full Text Journals (e-journals)for various academic disciplines
2. Full Text Books (e-books) for various academic disciplines
3. science and technology databases
4. company and industrial information resources
5. marketing and advertising information resources
6. banking and financial information resources
7. law and IR information resources
8. economic information resources
9. information resources for HR & training
10. abstracting and indexing resources
11. E- contents, E-clipping
12. institute repositories
13. open access information resources
14. subject information gateways

Digital Information Resources @SNIST, Hyderabad

Sreenidhi Institute of Science and Technology, since its inception in 1997, with over 250 students and 5 streams of engineering has blossomed into a giant administering quality education that is technically sound. Currently, Sreenidhi stands as one of the foremost engineering colleges with autonomous scheme which was ascribed to the Institution in 2010. The college has emerged as a leading centre for technical education producing professionally competent and socially sensitive engineers capable of working in multi-cultural and global setting. Despite the prerequisites Sreenidhi has succeeded to be at the forefront in producing IAS and IPS cadre students. Sreenidhi has also been awarded a couple of records in the Limca Book of World Records. Credit is to be given to the Management, the Executive Director and the Faculty for the many challenges that they have overcome and the many successes that they have achieved in the realm of technical education. The success of SREENIDHI is not without hard work nor is it a combination of management and administration but diligence in strategically combining all the faculties and facilitators. The SNIST central library has a stock of more than one lakh volumes and subscribes 150 national & international print journals. The aim of the library is to serve the needs of faulty ,students and members of the library. It is the heart of the university and acts as a center for the

collection of literature predominantly related science, engineering , business management and other subjects and develops a comprehensive collection of information that is useful for teaching and reference purpose.

User satisfaction is the current day approach to library service. To cope with this development, the library scribes the following digital information resources.

- IEEE
- Springer
- ACME
- Wiley – Blackwell
- ASCE
- J-Gate
- Elsevier
- ASTM
- Gale Cengage Learning
- EBSCO
- Pro Quest

Advantages of Electronic Information Resources

There are number of advantages in accessing digital resources such as :

1. it allows remote access
2. simultaneous access by multi purpose
3. provides various search options
4. eliminates printing and postage cost
5. it do not require physical processing
6. it can easily merge with altering service

Disadvantages of Electronic Information Resources

The following are the disadvantages of e-resources :

- 1 initial high infrastructure and installation cost
- 2 need special equipments to access
- 3 lack of compatibility among different publishers
- 4 hardware and software compatibility issues between publishers and users
- 5 difficulty inherent in relating to a large amount of data on a screen
- 6 causes more concern about copy right

Electronic Information Resources : Issues

Several issues are to be taken in to consideration for digital information resources building as discussed below:

1. **Procurement Issues** : procurement and installation of hardware, software , communication and networking etc. involve and require guidance of experts in the concerned areas.
2. **Financial Issues** : initial expense to develop necessary intrastate for digital resource building is quite high. Further it requires recurring expenditure for maintenance and continuation of such related services
3. **Security** : it is associated with the issues pertain the articles, copying, downloading under IPR rules and regulation

Conclusion

In the present age of information technology, academic and research libraries have no other option but to resort to digital resources as most of the scientific and technical resource journals are now switching over to digital formats. All these factors make it inevitable for a present day university library to acquire digital resources. Therefore as per the requirement of users, every organizations should take initiative in this regard otherwise library will have no role in the domain of IT and its role will be restricted to a store house of books and journals.

Reference

1. Greogory, V.L. (2006) *Selecting and Managing Electronic Resources*. London: Neal Schuman Publisher, 2006
2. Quint, B (2002). *The Digital Library of the Future*. *Information Today*. 19,7;2002.
3. Satpathy, S.K. (2008) *Modernisation of Libraries: A Challenge in Digital Era*. New Delhi: Mahamaya, Publishing House. 2008.