

Chapter 4

Digital Resource Management Strategies

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ABSTRACT

Digital technologies have transformed the shape of the libraries in recent years. Digital literacy has grown exponentially, and digital devices have proliferated personal computers, servers, mobile phones, tablets, laptops and mobile wireless devices. Library users, in the new era of information and communication technology environment expects to access traditional print material and more concentrated on digital information resources. So, in order to meet the user demands traditional libraries are vigorously changing their shapes and moving towards digital libraries. Obviously there may be changing in the nature of duties and responsibilities of a library professional. Since, managing of digital resources in the library is entirely different from physical print assets of a traditional library, there is a need of systematic and unique premier framework of strategic planning, innovative policies, establishing, collecting, licensing, sharing, and monitoring of digital information resources and this challenging task is called Digital Resource Management.

INTRODUCTION

With the dawn of internet, has brought revolution in availability and accessibility of scholarly and scientific communication and opened gateway to world literature. Innovations are drastically changing information technology, information resources are migrating from print to electronic form. These days, literature on electronic format is more easily available than the printed versions with added features of search ability and availability. Hence for these two reasons, e-resources keep count over the printed material, though printed materials has its own advantages. There has been an exponential growth in the use as well as number of electronic resources like electronic journals, CD ROM's commercial and free databases, and resources available from the internet and other computer based electronic networks.

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Accessibility of e-resources has considerably changed the interactions between users and library staff. Since flexibility of accessing information resources through internet or web based is easier. User can access digital resources anywhere & everywhere, authorized, authenticated and multiple accessing of same resource simultaneously. This leads to shift of print resources to digitalized resources. Already users have had access to a various research publications on DVD/CD, both paid and free online databases. In the past few years libraries were purchasing individual copies and made access through standalone machines. Now days on expanding serving the digital resources through library web based consortium networking services for digital resources to their users with the help of internet. The innovations of ICT and www bring in new ideas for the institutional library community. The new paradigm started due to the advanced infrastructure of ICT and advanced e-publishing, e-journals. These help to grow digital resources like video, audio, e-books and e-journals. In order to facilitate easy access of information with fast and accurate, many publishers, researchers and academicians' are working towards users interface.

Now a days libraries are more serious towards the management of information resources than in the earlier past, due to information explosion, widespread use of information and communication technology, proliferation of information resources in different formats, like books, journals, CD's, DVD,s newspapers, research reports have contributed top the flow of information. This has led to challenges towards storage, efficient retrieval and effective use of information. So, to establish ICT infrastructure, defining new policies, creation, capturing, organizing of digital collections, budget constraints, staff-training, licensing, practical and trails on digital resources, monitoring, migration from print to digital, fact based report generation etc need a systematic framework and is termed as digital resource management strategies.

DIGITAL RESOURCES/ ELECTRONIC RESOURCES/DIGITAL FORMATS

Digital resources are defined as digital, electronic, streaming video, audio recordings, CDs, DVDs, VHS recordings, and subscription databases. Digital Resources are defined as material (data/or programs) encoded or manipulated by computerized device.(AACR-2000) Electronic resources refer to those materials or services that require a computer for access, manipulation, or reproduction including, but not limited to, numerical, graphical and textual files, electronic journals, bibliographic or full-text databases and Internet resources.

Today the users limit their search only to such resources or databases which are available in full text. Hence these e-resources have become most common medium of scholarly communication. More and more scholarly publications are being made available on-line. According to Barker, there are three types of documents used in digital resources.

1. **Static:** Static are the most basic, they contain fixed information and never change their form(such as traditional online data)
2. **Dynamic:** Dynamic documents also contain fixed information but also able to change their outward form, the way embedded materials if presented to users (such as multimedia CD-ROMS)
3. **Living:** Living documents are able to change their form (outward appearance) and these embedded information. (such as information on the web) Devi and Devi (2004)

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