

Chapter 9

Digital Library Education: India and Abroad

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ABSTRACT

This chapter talks about the meaning of digital library and covers the various features of digital libraries. A brief overview of digital library education through various mediums like online education and formal education is given in this chapter. The chapter provides a list of Indian universities that conduct PG Diploma in digital library with its duration and admission eligibility, etc. Some of the foreign universities that provide digital library education are discussed. The whole chapter revolves around digital library education. The chapter highlights the various course curriculums adopted in Indian as well as foreign universities. A list of projects carried out in digital libraries around the globe with all details such as purpose of project, funding agency, and period of project are represented in this chapter. It also covers the latest issues and challenges in digital library education.

INTRODUCTION

We are continuously progressing by inventing new technologies. Learning and research includes innovation and applying new technology. Therefore, digital library education and research should be a priority for all of us. The digital library is the solution to many emerging problems in information acquisition, storage, retrieval, and dissemination. Virtual libraries contain audio, video, and image files. Digital libraries are developed in different ways depending on the need. Digital libraries like D-Space, Greenstone, Invenio Digital Library, and

e-prints at IISc are used by most of the librarians around the world for meeting the information needs of the users. Digital libraries provide current awareness, learning and teaching facilitation, acquisition, cataloguing, user training, reference query fulfillment, and information seeking and retrieval search. Therefore, every librarian must know its technical processes to satisfy the users' needs. The e-books are issued online for a fee as well as free of cost by most of the databases. Therefore, this advantage must be taken by library professionals. The best universities in the world are trying to provide the best education in digital libraries by taking online as well as formal classes.

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MEANING AND DEFINITION

The digital library is a set of electronic resources and associated technical capabilities for creating, searching, information storage, and retrieval systems to manipulate digital data in many mediums. It exists in distributed networks. It combines all the benefits of the multimedia, digital coding, and Internet. It acts as a set of tools to locate, search, and retrieve information. It is regarded as the digital face of traditional libraries.

FEATURES OF THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

The various features of digital libraries are given below:

- Usable anywhere, anytime.
- Interactive.
- Access national and international journals in different formats.
- Helpful for physically disabled users as they can hear audible e-resources.
- Provide background music and animations.
- Save human efforts for shelving, rectification, bindery, and repair.
- User cannot misplace e-books.
- In buying e-resources, the overhead charges are ruled out.

DIGITAL LIBRARY EDUCATION IN INDIA

Various Indian universities are offering one/two-year postgraduate diplomas in digital library and information to provide the latest skills of the digital world to their students effectively. These universities have somewhat the same eligibility criteria and course curriculum. Table 1 provides the same information in brief. A study is being done to identify the number of universities and

institutes that provide digital library education in the form of short-term training programs to diploma or degree with its duration and eligibility in India. The information given in the table is validated and fully authentic to day-to-day use for students. The postgraduate diploma in digital library management is very new in India (see Figure 1).

Table 2 presents a list of universities and institutions teaching the digital library for one full semester of 6 months while pursuing Masters Degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS). The National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources carries out short-term training programs in digital library for one week's time.

DIGITAL LIBRARY EDUCATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Table 3 presents details of degrees and diplomas in digital libraries provided by foreign universities outside India with their duration, eligibility for admission, and Uniform Resource Locator (URL). The table shows 17 universities are providing digital library education of 1 or 2 years duration. In this table, one of the best program is the DILL program. In the DILL program three universities of Europe, Oslo Univ. – Norway,

Figure 1. Symbol of degree and knowledge in DL



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