

Chapter 11

Challenges and Innovations in Indian Digital Libraries: Leveraging Technology for Inclusivity

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ABSTRACT

The future of libraries, in India has gained a lot of attention due to the impact of technology. This book chapter aims to explore the status of libraries in India and investigate the factors that influence their adoption and acceptance. The study focuses on four objectives; firstly, assessing people's awareness of libraries; secondly understanding their preference for digital libraries compared to traditional ones; thirdly analyzing the usage of digital libraries in comparison to traditional libraries; and finally evaluating whether there is enough infrastructure to support the growth of digital libraries. To gather data for this study we conducted a survey using convenience sampling. We then used a Structural Equation Model (SEM) analysis to examine the relationships between aspects and determine their reliability and validity. The findings have been discussed Overall, this research provides valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and library administrators to foster the growth and acceptance of digital libraries in India's dynamic and evolving knowledge ecosystem.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The development of digital technologies is changing the processes involved in creating, storing, accessing, and disseminating information. One example of this shift is the rise of digital libraries, that provide a number of advantages such improved accessibility, preservation, interoperability, and user satisfaction. A digital library is defined as a collection of digital items, such as text, video, and audio, as well as access and retrieval tools and procedures for collection, selection, organization, and upkeep (Borgman 2000). Based on their scope, content, users, and functions, digital libraries can be divided into many types, such as institutional repositories, subject-based repositories, national digital libraries, open access repositories, and so forth. In comparison to traditional libraries, digital libraries provide several benefits, including improved accessibility, interactivity, scalability, preservation, and personalization of information sources (Asif and K. Singh 2019).

India has a rapidly expanding economy and population, as well as a rich and diversified cultural history. The numerous initiatives done by the government, academic institutions, research organizations, and business sectors to develop and preserve digital collections of all kinds demonstrate the necessity for digital libraries in India. The creation and acceptance of digital libraries, however, face a number of obstacles and problems in India, including a lack of infrastructure, standards, legislation, and human resources (Pandey 2014; Sawant 2021; Verma, Deori, and Verma 2023; V.S and Sudhakaran 2023). Determining the gaps and chances for improvement, as well as the status, trends, and future of digital libraries in India, is crucial.

1.1 Significance of the Study

The purpose of this research is to explore the attitude towards and future of digital library in India, with a focus on the following objectives:

- To find the level of awareness among people about digital library
- To find the preference of people for digital library over traditional library
- To find the level of usage for digital library over traditional library
- To find the infrastructure adequacy for digital library

The main research question that guides this study is: What are the factors that influence the adoption and use of digital library in India?

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