Chapter 5
Impact of E-Resources and Web Technology on Reading Habits

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this chapter is to study and explore the impact of digital media and Internet on reading habits. Traditional reading habits of library users have now changed with the changing environment and working culture. People are now looking for an opportunity to read content in electronic mode via Internet, mail, etc. It reduces the burden for people to stay inside the library, and now people can even read content while travelling or while moving around the world. Traditional libraries and digital libraries supplement each other to meet the needs of various kinds of readers. Younger generation students sometimes prefer reading through the Internet or following up book reviews as such opportunities can be thought of as effective means for fostering reading habits. Reading is influenced by many factors like environment, subject, background, age, etc. Libraries are under the influence of modern technologies, which have converted the functional activities in all walks of life.

INTRODUCTION

Library is the storehouse of human knowledge, which play vital role in increasing human knowledge constantly in rapidly changes era. With the advancement of technology in every field in every second the formal knowledge acquired obsolete some point so to move with the changing time library provide wide scope to update the intellectual knowledge through advance form of electronic resource like e-Books, e-Journals, e-Magazines, e-Databases, etc. even though library is the traditional information institution it has survived in technology era with the digital resources. With the availability of more digital resources users have started utilizing in other forms besides reading. The increased use of computers has led to some modifications in the methods of academic work, such as undertaking research, writing articles, and producing teaching materials. The use of e-mail has become so popular that it is almost ubiquitous and researchers are finding it important that all

such materials and sources should also exist in digital format. Both before and after developing a digital library, the systems are modern with the time and user is fully satisfied (Beixin & Fan, 1996).

E-RESOURCES AND WEB TECHNOLOGY

E-Resources

Electronic resources are now becoming very popular in users. E-Resources are helping in various fields like teaching, increasing relevance in research and creativity in finding etc. "E re-sources term used to describe all of the informa-tion products that a library provides through a computer network. This includes electronic books and journals, bibliographic databases, and library Website pages etc." AACR defines an electronic resource as material encoded for manipulation by a computerized device. "E-resources are those resources which include documents in electronic or e-format that can be accessed via Internet in digital library environment. E-resources are that electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text, image collection, other multime-dia products like numerical, graphical mode for commercially available for library and information centre's. These may be delivered on CD-ROM/DVD, over the Internet and so on" (Prasanta Kumar Deka, 2007).

- **E-book**s**:** Electronic-books are advance version of printed book which is provided by electronic device like computers and Internet. It can be read at any time through computer, ipad, mobile etc.
- **E-journals:** An Electronic Journal (known as e-Journal) is that journal which pub-lished online. According to *School of ori-ental and African studies University of London* "An electronic journal is a periodi-cal publication which is published in elec-

tronic text (e.g. PDF) or hypertext format and is available for access in electronic for-mat e.g. on the Internet or on a CD-ROM" (Davis, 1997)

- **Electronic Pre-prints and E-Prints:** Electronic pre-print are research articles that are made available for distribution through the network in electronic format before they go through the process of peer reviewing whereas E-print is term general-ly used to describe electronically mounted copies of the final, peer-reviewed versions of journal articles.
- **E-database:** HKIEd Library online Tutorial has defined "An e-database is an organized collection of information, of a particular subject or multi-disciplinary subject areas. The information of an e-da-tabase can be searched and retrieved elec-tronically." (Sharma, 2005) Another defi-nition given by *Bangor University Library & Archives Using Library E-databases* "E-databases are online collections of re-sources, for example:
  ○ A collection of journal articles.
  ○ A collection of abstracts (short de-scriptions of articles and other resources).
  ○ A collection of newspaper articles.
  ○ A collection of books.
  ○ A collection of maps.
  ○ And many other online resource collection.

Web Technology and Internet

The Internet and its related technology have resulted in the rapid proliferation of electronic information. The Web has witnessed tremendous growth in the quantity of all type of publication. It has grown to encompass a variety of informa-tion sources like electronic journals, electronic pre-prints, e-prints, technical reports, databases, library catalogue, and information on organiza-

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