A DESCRIPTION OF ONLINE PORTALS AND LIBRARIES BENEFITS

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Abstract:

This essay seeks to present an overview of online portals and their impact on libraries, with a particular emphasis on the problems with library portals and the significance of portals in a library setting. The review includes works that have been published in widely used library and information science journals. The review covered articles that were written and published in LIS journals that were both scholarly and professional. This evaluation demonstrates that there are primarily seven categories of research conducted on library portals is library portal evolution, the role of librarians in library gateways, library portal design Web 2.0 applications and portal and web-enabled library services round out the list, library portal usability, and a review of the portals. This study primarily aims to resolve disputes between librarians and patrons by providing recommendations for the best layout and services for libraries in the current period. However, relatively little study is done to evaluate the effectiveness of library portals.

Keyword: - Library Portal, Progress of Web Portals, Portals in Higher Education, Role of Librarians in Library Portals and Libraries Benefit etc.

Introduction: -

Due to the growth of the digital revolution, the education system and the knowledge market have experienced a fast transition during the past ten years.

The discipline of library and information science is experiencing the transition. A recent breakthrough, portal technology, is significant in the fields of knowledge management and education. One of the essential services provided by all libraries and information centres in the digital age is library portal service. Library professionals must consider the design and development of library portals in order to offer excellent portal services. For their activities in many facets of life, humans have a tremendous affinity to and want to create automatic systems.Libraries are keeping up with the times when it comes to giving its patrons access to automated systems for a variety of library functions. Library experts have dedicated their efforts to planning and developing technologies for online library services due to the information explosion and the progress of ICT in libraries. Without the danger of the WWW and the availability of information resources on the web, library portals assist in efficiently offering library services around-the-clock.The successful distribution of e-resources on digital platforms is facilitated by library portals, which also aid in locating precise information. For a while now, LIS experts have been researching ICT in libraries, Digital Library Services, OPAC, and Web OPAC. More recently, Library Portal concepts have emerged. This essay covers the literature on portal technology and the evolution of the library portal idea. The major goal of this research is to determine the amount of material that is available on portal technology and how it is used in libraries. It also seeks to point out areas that scholars in this field have overlooked.

Methodology: This survey of portal technology literature has a special emphasis on how to conduct research in a library setting. The literature on the subject was initially researched by looking through journal articles, books, theses, and other types of papers. For this aim, only works of literature that were published in English were taken into account.No time constraint was used to cover the material in this review in order to include as much of it as possible. Obviously, after 1998, when Cornell University created the first library portal,

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the majority of the literature on this subject was published. This evaluation includes both printed and electronic publications of literature. The majority of the literature in library and information science is available online, much like in most other fields. Multiple internet sources were searched to get material on the design and development of library portals while keeping this fact in mind and to guarantee maximum coverage. The two main databases for the majority of library and information science publications are LISA and LISTA. As a result, these two databases' literature searches were conducted.Since a significant portion of literature is now published in open access journals, which Google Scholar covers in great detail, this review's literature search was conducted using this database. Additionally, the researcher has looked through several books and research articles that are pertinent to the current topic, searching databases like Science Direct, Emerald Insight, EBSCO, and Project Muse, among others. Key keywords included University Library Portal, Progress of Web Portals, Portals in Higher Education, Role of Librarians in Library Portals and Libraries Benefit etc.

Design and development of a University Library Portal are Required: -

a) **Consolidated Access to Resources**: A library portal offers students, instructors, and researchers a consolidated platform to access a variety of academic resources, including books, journals, databases, multimedia content, and research manuals. This makes finding and accessing resources easier.

b) **Resource**: discovery is improved because to effective portal design and development, which improve search capabilities and make it simpler for users to find pertinent materials. The discoverability of library resources may be considerably enhanced through search engines, metadata, and user-friendly interfaces.

c) **24/7 Access**: Regardless of the actual library's hours, a library portal makes sure that users may access its materials and services at any time.

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Researchers, distance learners, and students in other time zones can all benefit greatly from this.

d) Remote access to library resources is essential in the age of digital resources. Users of the portal may access resources from off-campus locations, making it easier to do research and complete coursework from any location with an internet connection.

e) Personalization: Contemporary library portals can include personalized features like stored searches, customized reading lists, and user-based suggestions. The user experience is improved by personalization, which also encourages resource involvement.

f) Multimedia Integration: To provide a more engaging learning environment, library portals can combine multimedia resources such as e-books, movies, audio files, and interactive information.

g) Support for Research: University library websites frequently include services for supporting research, such as access to citation management software, research guides, and help from librarians. These services are beneficial for faculty members and students conducting academic research.

h) Information Literacy and Tutorials: Portals may offer tutorials and guidance to users in an effort to assist them develop their information literacy. This is crucial for students navigating the complexity of academic research, who often face many challenges.

Progress of Web Portals: -Early Online Catalogs (1990s): Libraries started developing online catalogues in the 1990s to make their collections available through web browsers. Users may look for and access books, journals, and other items using these catalogues.Libraries created simple websites, frequently with static HTML pages, to offer facts about their physical locations, opening times, and contact information. Most of these early websites focused on providing information.Online databases and e-journals were first made available by libraries in the late 1990s and early 2000s. These resources could be accessed

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through library websites. Beyond physical collections, these databases increased access to intellectual information.

Data Analytics and User Behavior Analysis (2010s to Present): Libraries utilize data analytics to comprehend user behavior, enhance the functionality of the portal, and make defensible choices about the procurement of resources and the provision of services.Open Access and Institutional Repositories (2010s–Present): Library portals encourage open access programs and offer access to institutional repositories, improving the visibility of the university's intellectual work.Interoperability and Linked Data (2010s to Present): Linked data and semantic web technologies have made it possible for library systems to communicate with one another more easily, which has improved resource discovery. Cloud-based Solutions (2010s–Present): Many libraries are using scalable, adaptable, and economical cloud-based solutions for their online portals.

Portals in Higher Education: -Customization: Users frequently have the option to arrange widgets and other elements on their portal dashboards in accordance with their preferences and requirements. This personalization enables a unique experience.

a) Academic Information Access:

b) scheduling and registration for courses.

c) Transcripts and grades are available.

d) resources and homework for the course.

e) dates and deadlines for academic work.

f) Administrative Services Access:

g) Information about billing and financial aid.

h) enrolment in classes.

i) lodging on campus and food arrangements.

j) sources in the library.

Role of Librarians in Library Portals: -

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Library portal design and development: Librarians are frequently involved in these processes. They offer suggestions on user interface layout, usability, and user experience to make sure the portal satisfies the requirements of the library's users.

a) **Resource Management**: E-books, academic journals, databases, and multimedia assets are among the digital resources that may be accessed through the portal. Librarians are in charge of collecting and maintaining these resources. They guarantee the availability and accurate cataloguing of these materials.

b) **Metadata and cataloguing**: To improve resource discoverability within the portal, librarians concentrate on creating metadata and cataloguing. To enhance search results, they create metadata entries and employ standards like MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloguing).

c) Support and training for users: Librarians guide users in using and navigating the library portal. They offer advice on efficient search techniques, citation management applications, and other elements of resource finding. Workshops and training sessions can be led by librarians.

Libraries Benefit: -

a. **Enhanced User Experience**: Library portals offer a user-friendly and centralized access point for library resources and services, simplifying the process of finding and using materials for users and enhancing their overall experience.

b. Improved resource discovery and user interface design may lead to increased resource utilization rates for libraries, guaranteeing that their collections are used more frequently.

c. **Extended Reach**: Through the use of online library portals, libraries are able to make resources and services available to distant learners, remote researchers, and the general public.

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d. **Personalization:** A lot of library portals let users customize their experience by allowing them to store searches, make reading lists, and get suggestions. This creates a more customized experience for users.

e. **Streamlined Administrative Processes**: Self-service options are frequently included in portals for tasks like account maintenance, interlibrary loan requests, and resource renewals, which lessens the administrative workload on library employees.

f. **Making Data**-Driven Decisions: Library portals produce insightful data and analytics that help libraries decide how to expand their collections, enhance their services, and buy resources.

g. **Visibility of Resources**: Portals may make library resources, such as special collections and institutional repositories, more noticeable, which encourages usage and appreciation of them.

h. **Cost savings**: For libraries, simplified procedures, lessening administrative duties, and better resource usage can result in cost savings.

i. Support for Learning and Research: Portals give students and researchers access to academic resources, research aids, and reference services, which is crucial support.

j. Building Community: Through forums, events, and social features, libraries may use portals to create a feeling of community among their users.

k. Accessibility: To guarantee that all users, including those with impairments, can access and make use of resources and services, library portals can be created with accessibility features.

l. Connection with Learning Management Systems (LMS): Easy access to library resources inside classes may be achieved by seamless connection with the university's LMS, which will make it simpler for students to access course-related information.

m. Engagement of Alumni: Library portals can provide alumni services, encouraging ongoing involvement and support for the library community.

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n. Support for Open Access Initiatives: Libraries may utilize portals to advertise open access programs, increasing the visibility and use of open access materials among academics.

o. Emergency Notifications: In times of crisis or emergency, portals frequently have emergency alert systems that may be utilized to communicate vital information to the library community.

p. Assistance for developing Technologies: To improve user assistance and interaction, libraries may use portals to incorporate developing technologies like AI, chatbots, and virtual assistants.

q. Collaboration: Portals can promote information exchange and the sharing of best practices across academic departments, library consortia, and libraries.

Conclusion: -

A wide range of advantages that go beyond standard library services are provided via library portals. They increase user engagement, allow libraries to adapt to changing user demands and technology developments, and offer simple access to a plethora of information and services. These advantages help libraries remain successful and relevant in the digital era.The creation and use of well-designed library portals will be beneficial to libraries in many ways. These advantages include a wide range of areas, such as improved user experience, higher resource utilization, broader reach, and simplified administrative procedures. Additionally, library portals help save costs, promote data-driven decision-making, and provide crucial services for study and research. They support the development of communities, place a high value on accessibility, and interact with learning management systems, allowing libraries to adapt their services to meet the changing demands of its users.Additionally, library portals make it easier to promote alumni involvement and open access activities, continuously supporting the library community. In times of disaster, their emergency alerting systems improve communication and safety, and they allow libraries to take use of cutting-edge

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technologies for better user assistance and engagement. Libraries may improve their roles as centres of information dissemination and community involvement by collaborating with colleagues and academic departments to exchange knowledge, best practices, and resources.In the end, library portals act as a flexible and dynamic instrument that enables libraries to thrive in the digital era. They help libraries in their ongoing efforts to facilitate study and research, provide access to information, and develop a feeling of community among its users. They contribute to the changing face of libraries.

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