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**Digital Information Sources As Part of Library Collection Development**

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**Abstract**

The research paper attempts to describe the importance of digital information sources in library collection development. Collection development in higher education libraries are transiting more in digital collection than conventional collection development likes print materials. Because, the digital information resources are part of the library collection development. Hence, the need arises of requirement of digital information sources among library collection development in higher education institutions. Especially to support today's learning and research in higher educational institutions there is requirement of digital resources among the library collection. Digital resources are aiding in providing nascent information to the learners and researchers faster than print media. The changed situation necessitates use of digitally enabled information resources for learning and research work. This research paper will also portray how and what are the various components of digitally enabled information sources to play a collective role in library collection development in libraries of higher educational institutions more efficiently. Overall, this research paper also tries to look in to various related aspects of digitally enabled information resources more effectively.

**Key Words:** Digital information sources, Digital library collection,

**Introduction:**

The library collection development of information resources is ongoing process with addition of new information sources as required by its users in every academic year. The role played by the digital information resources in library collection development is paramount one in the context of the study as well as it is need of the day. The major objective of any library is to include various type of information sources in its collection from time to time in order to upkeep the information requirement of its users. Day by day the library collection development will increase with addition of the new information storage materials in its collection. As per the fifth law of library science stipulates “ Library is growing organism” given by Dr. S R Ranganathan in 1931 has been proven by the growth of information sources in libraries from time to time. Because, it will become need of the day for the libraries to include digital sources among the collection development from time to time. Library users

will utilize the library digital sources for their learning and research needs in order to find more efficient and authoritative information for their work. Transformation of more and more information sources in digital form compelled libraries to include in their collection development. It is to be considered as a revolutionary step. It is a step to prepare a libraries to move with the time. Emergence of the Internet and with information revolution have caused the birth of digital sources will be considered a benchmark step in the education sector. The effect of ICT and the Internet has changed the facets of information sources in libraries in digital form because ICT gives rise to more number of digital information sources. Recent study of research suggests that usage of digital information resources by the library users day by day. Thus, it necessitates the libraries to include the digital sources day by day due to emergence of digital resources in more number. Accordingly, there will be a need in changing the method of collection development of library sources.

Digital resources can be helpful for library users in many ways for their learning and research activity specifically by saving their precious time in searching the required information sources for their needs. Scalability of digital information sources are more than conventional information sources in libraries. Digital information sources in libraries were shown significantly saves the library space for stacking and also in reaching out to its users in safer and faster mode with the help of Internet technology. It has also been shown by various studies that increase in proper usage of digital resources by implementing proper and suitable library information literacy programmes to greater extent. Undoubtedly, digital information resources will play a greater role in library collection development by helping the library users in completing their scholastic tasks in time.

**Statement of the Problem:**

Present research study has basically look into the reasons for iclusion of digital sources among library collection development in libraries of higher educational institutions. Also the role played by the digital resources among the library users in aiding the learning and research activity. Hence, the research problem selected for the study has to be stated as “Digital Information Sources As Part of Library Collection Development”.

**Objectives of the Paper:**

The research paper has the following objectives,

1. To know the need of digital information resources in library collection development.
2. To find out the characteristics of digital resources in libraries.
3. To made an effort in analyzing the review of literature published.
4. To draw the findings, suggestions and conclusions based upon the study.

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**Purpose of Research Paper:**

Basic purpose of this research paper is to know the inclusion of digital resources as a part of collection development in libraries.

**Scope of the Research Paper:**

The definition of scope of the study is primarily to know the purposes of including the digital sources among library collection development.

**Research Methodology:**

In adherence to the requirements of the objectives of the research study, research design employed for the study is analytical and descriptive type. This research design is adopted to have greater accuracy and in depth analysis of research study. Present research study has its own limitations.

**Research Questions to be Raised:**

The following research questions will have to be raised in the context of the study are;

- 1) What are the Digital Information Resources ?
- 2) Why there is a need to include these sources in library collection development?
- 3) What are the outcome of the research study?

**Definition of the Digital Information Resources:**

Generally, information resources which are available in digital or electronic form and utilization of these sources with the aid of computer are called digital information sources.

**Digital Resources in Libraries:**

Always library collection development of digital resources in libraries of higher educational institutions consists of sources which are the importance of educational and research work. The nature of these digital sources are of online which can be accessible with the aid of computer. All these digital sources are also remotely accessible. The following table exhibits the components of digital resources in libraries.

**Table 1 Exhibits Digital Resources in Libraries.**

Sr. No.	Digital Source	Accessibility by Paid or Free
1	E – periodicals (Here it is newspapers & magazines)	Both
2	E- books	Both
3	E- journals	Both
4	Databases	Both
5	Shodhganga of INFLIBNET –Portal of full text Ph D theses.	Free
6	NDLI – National Digital Library of India	Free
7	NLIST of INFLIBNET – Portal for colleges in accessing e – books and e-journals	Paid
8	Shodhgangotri of INFLIBNET- Portal of Ph d synopsis	Free
9	Others	Both

It is clear from the table that, accessibility of digital resources for libraries are available through paid or free and some times in both the modes.

#### **Need of Digital Resources in Libraries:**

Various recent studies have outlined that the role of digital resources in supporting the academic needs of higher educational institutions is crucial one. Hence, the emerged situation necessitates the libraries to include digital information resources in library collection development from time to time.

#### **Advantages of Digital Information Resources:**

In the context of the research paper, we can note down few of the benefits of digital information resources as part of the library collection development are as follows,

- 1) Saving the stacking space in libraries.
- 2) Faster and easier to search leads to saving the precious time of the library users.
- 3) Remote accessibility to the resources for the library users.
- 4) It gives a new technological experience to library users in searching the digital resources.
- 5) Promotes the habit of self way of searching among library users.

#### **Disadvantages:**

Few of the disadvantages have to noted down in context of the study.

- 1) Most of the digital resources are costlier to procure for all the libraries. Hence it can become major barrier.
- 2) Always needs the availability of the proper bandwidth Internet facility.
- 3) Always needs uninterrupted electricity supply.
- 4) Always one has to sit in front of the computers or similar devices.
- 5) Sitting longer time in front of the electronic devices emits radiation. It affects health of the users.
- 6) Maintenance problem with non-availability of technicians in need of time and escalating costs for the same.

#### **Tools Used for Gathering Information:**

Useful information for the study has been gathered from secondary resources. Available information from secondary sources from the journal article and from the Internet are used. Further, all the information collected from different sources has been collated and presented herewith.

#### **Review of Literature:**

Few selected works of the researchers in the field have to be reviewed herewith as part of the research study

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**Agrey K & others (2021):** Elaborated on the development, awareness, adoption, and usage of digital library (DL) resources at the university level.

**Dukare D A (2020):** Analyzed the basic concepts of digital libraries with more emphasis on digital resources also.

**Kotur, M & Mulimani, M. (2019):** Described a brief introduction to digital library resources. Kinds of Digital library resources, merits and issues are discussed.

**Anyim, W O (2018):** Presented a results of the study conducted on use e - resources for research Activities in University E-libraries in Kogi State Nigeria.

**Kaur, R & Gaur, R (2017):** Discussed about the collection development in academic libraries with special reference to digital era.

### **Findings of the Study:**

We can note down few of the important findings of the research study are as follows,

- 1) Benefits of including digital information resources as part of collection development in libraries are many.
- 2) Various researchers are published papers on many issues related to advantages of including digital resources in library collection development, which is based upon outcomes of the review of literature published worldwide.
- 3) Digital information resources are providing new technological experience to library users.

### **Suggestions:**

A few important suggestions have been noted down as a part of the discussion have been made herewith. The few suggestions are as follows,

- 1) Libraries should go for procuring the more number of various types of digital resources which will be helpful for library users in many ways. Because, it helps to serve library users in a better way.
- 2) Sources in digital form in libraries will help in easing stress among library space. Because physical resources require a lot of space for stacking in proper manner.
- 3) Conduct of digital information literacy to library users in using the digitalized sources provided by the libraries is a must. Because it will make them self-reliant of their information requirements.
- 4) Properly structured digital information literacy skills will play a beneficial role among library users in using digitalized sources to the fuller extent.

### **Conclusion:**

It is evident from the research study that, the benefits of including digital information sources as part of the library collection development are many. Collection development of

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information sources is ongoing process in libraries. Emerged situation necessitates to procure more number of digital information resources in libraries. Because, digital resources are fact of the day for library collection development. Hence, it is hoped that, study addressed issues related to theme of the article to some or wider extent.

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