Collection, Organization and Proper Dissemination of E-Resources and Services: Role of Librarian

Nakul Chandra Mondal*, Pijus Kanti Jana

Department of Library & Information Science, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, India

Abstract

The information need and information seeking behavior of the users have already changed due to massive development of information communication technology. In the modern digital era, most of the libraries have not only changed their library collection but also changed their services pattern. Most of the private engineering college libraries have started to subscribe the electronic resources. Libraries provide not only collection of e-resources, and their e-services but also proper dissemination of information, fulfill their knowledge about electronic resources and determine the information values in engineering college libraries. The librarians have to play vital roles for adaptation and continuing this process. This article describes an overview of e-resource collection strategy, source and services in engineering college libraries. It also highlights the role of librarian in disseminating e-resources and their services in digital environment.

Keywords: *E-resources, collection building, dissemination of e-services, role of librarian*

*Author for Correspondence E-mail: mondaln123@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

The resources of library, which are available in electronic or digital forms, are called e-resources. E-resources are defined as those electronic information resources and services that user can access electronically via a computer network from inside or outside library. To meet the user need in the world of digital information, libraries must revise their policies and their way of working.

The collection of the library automatically changes day by day with the change of user's demands. Due to information explosion, we cannot manage information easily within our library. We need a more advance technology by which users can use more and more resources seating on single seat, the facilities user can get by using e-resources. But every user cannot easily use that, they need some knowledge and experience to use e-resources like: their own knowledge about information and to determine about information priorities, they have to have knowledge about language and computer, etc. and a librarian and library staff's role are important for a library and users. If a librarian and all library staffs can fulfill their role then a library user will be fully satisfied from a library.

WHAT IS E-RESOURCE?

E-resources mean the resources, which are available electronically for use. These include e-journals, e-books, e-archives, CD-ROM, microfilms, microfiches and e-content of the documents. The first three resources have only access to libraries with a licenses agreement with the publisher so that users can have access as well as download some papers according to their requirement [1]. But CD-ROM, microfilms and microfiches procured by the libraries or created of its content which is available for access electronically in off line within the library. Its advantage is that searching the resource is easier. E-content of the documents means now content of the document is available along with the bibliographical details of the document, which avoids confusion in titles of the document. With the help of this service, users are able to see the content of documents without physical verifying the document (Figure 1).
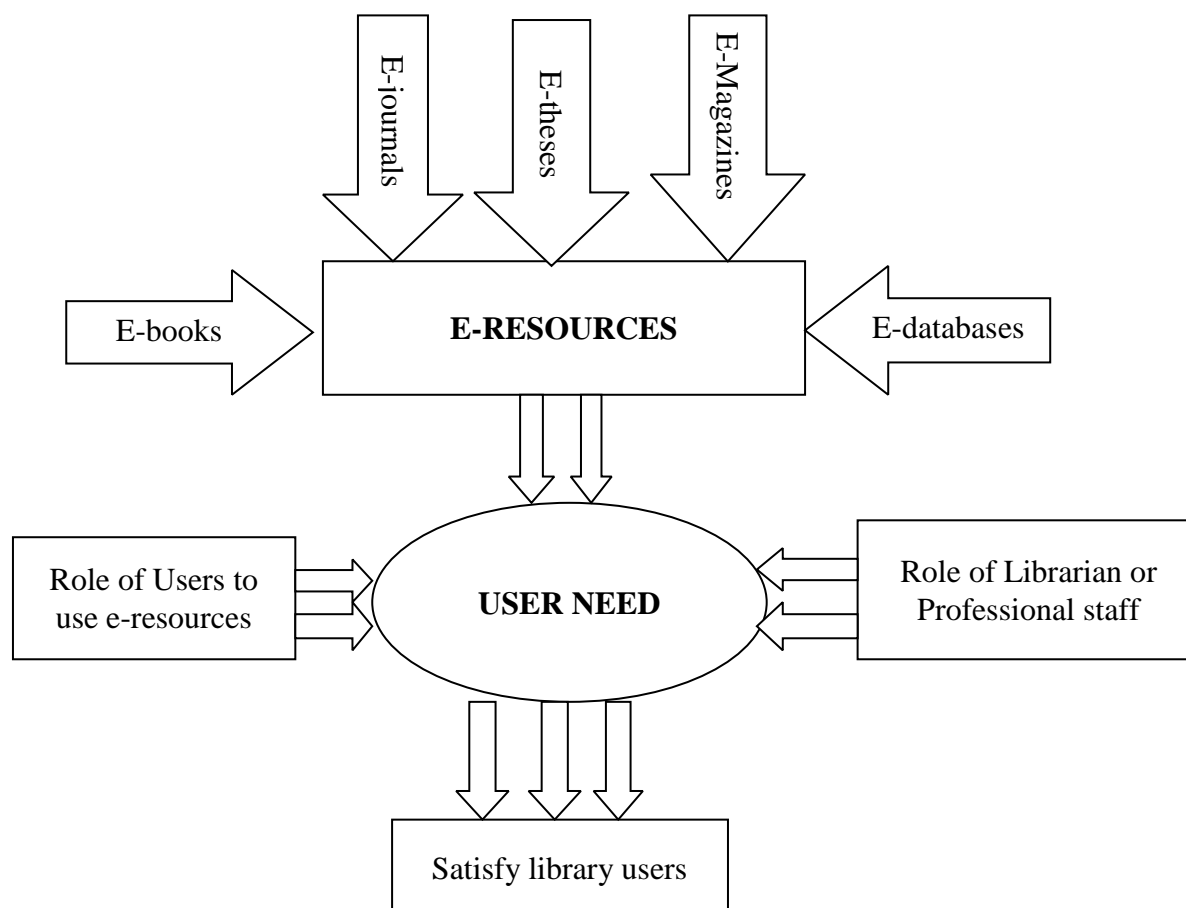
Fig. 1: *E-Resources Life Cycle.*

IMPORTANCE OF E-RESOURCE
Positive points of electronic resources include accessibility, usability, increased communication and collaboration between authors and readers, dissemination, technologic capabilities, facilitation of scholarly work and cost. The electronic resources have the following advantages over print journals:

For the Authors
Unlimited Space
It is no doubt that the storage space on the internet is practically unlimited and very inexpensive. Authors can publish long articles on electronic journals in digital form.

Fast Publication
If the author wants to publish an article in a printed journal, the requirement of time is about four to five months or more. But electronic journals can publish articles within minutes of their formal acceptance.

Correction of Errors
If found any errors in e-articles author can be corrected henceforth.

Colour and Sound
Publishing a colour figure in a traditional journal costs 10 to 15 times more than printing a regular black and while impression. Electronic journals can publish colour figures at no extra cost and can also include suitable sound.

Literature Search
The literature cited in an article published electronically contains link that lead to articles published in other journals. This facility is impossible in print publication.

For the Publishers
Lower Costs
Publishing and activation of journal access costs less than 50% than publishing the same journal in printed format, due to escalation of paper, printing and postage costs

Global Availability
The electronic journal can reach an unlimited number of readers through the internet.

No Inventory
Storage space is required to heap the unsold printed serials to handle back volume orders. The electronic journal eliminates inventories

For the Librarians
Storage Space
The constraints of space in most of the libraries have been removed with the advent of digital resource. Digital resource/electronic journals occupy very little shelf space if stored in compact disk and no space is required at all in accessed through the internet.

Binding Costs
Electronic journal eliminates the binding costs as required for back volume print journals.

Access to the Journal Articles
In case of print journals, access to journal article is possible only when the library is open. Electronic journals can be accessed at any time from a computer within the institute campus or the computer connected to the library server.

Information Storage for Future Reference
The responsibility for archiving electronic journals currently rests with their producers, and organizations such as JSTOR, OCLC, etc.

For the Users
Easy to Access
User can do easy and speedy search by different search engines to get more and more information about e-resource than traditional resource. Users also can access the same topics, having various ways to get them and can get cross-references for further search.

Easy to Download
Users can download, copy, save and print or send by e-mail easily.

Easy to Store
Collected e-resources can be stored in digital device or Cloud space for future archives.

Remote Access
Mainly e-resources can be used from remote access; i.e. convenience of accessing articles, anywhere, any time and any place.

No Physical Processes
Do not require physical processing for e-resources like printed document; which is a vast task and time consuming.

ROLE OF LIBRARIAN
Librarians or professional staff plays a vital role in the e-resource collection and arrangement dissemination and preservation for future access. The role of librarian is follows:

For E-Resource Collection
Librarian is not a subject expert but co-ordinates with the document selectors. Selection of e-resource must be depend on the need of users, subject coverage, content of document and subscription cost. Library collection development means selection, acquisition and disposal of library materials, noting the needs of current and future users as well as the guidelines established by the policy of development of institutional collections [2]. Nowadays, the technical institutions subscribe to web-based resources and a variety of other electronic resources for their library. Modern librarians have to play a massive role for the collection development of e-resource, services and their utilization at various level of users' satisfaction.

For Organization of Electronic Resources
Proper organization of electronic resources is essential for efficient retrieval of information. Digital library system must have powerful searching, attracting interface, facilitating access, and designed network for accessing the content [3]. To provide high quality information services to users, electronic resources have to be properly organized, classified and using metadata. Key word based searching may not retrieve the content what user is looking for. For most effective and efficient search, the support of subject specific thesaurus can be used. Librarian involves many issues such as interoperability

For Own Library Website
Every private engineering college has its own website. By using the college website, librarian provides the service to the user to access e-resources of their own library collection and also beyond. The library

website provides links to its e-databases (e.g. online catalogue, full text articles, indexes or abstracts), circulation module and gateway to the www. Through consortia and other collaborative efforts, more and more information will be available free on the library web. This webpage must be simple, easy to use, fast and efficient [4].

For Infrastructure

Infrastructure is very essential for collection and archives of electronic resources in digital era. Hardware and software infrastructure is very essential for a user to use e-resources. But most of private engineering college authorities are deserved minded and not interested in development of their libraries. Maximum colleges have no sufficient funds for subscription of e-resources, no separate digital library section and they are not providing minimum level of hardware and software facilities to the users [5]. Librarian should motivate the college authority for importance and requirement of infrastructure i.e., sufficient number of computers and internet connectivity with high bandwidth for collection, organization, dissemination and utilization of e-resource.

For Knowledge about E-resource

Librarian and professional staffs must be qualified, experienced and more knowledgeable on handling computer and e-resources available in their library and also they have to have knowledge about the collection of library and users' need.

Understand User' Needs

When a user comes for information and he expresses his expectations then a librarian has to understand his need and has to know how much depth of the information is required. Only then professional staff can help the user exhaustively. By searching e-resource they can get more and more relevant and irrelevant documents, from that they have to identify appropriate needs.

Disseminations of Electronic Information Services

A librarian or professional staff gives the guidelines about the electronic resources and how they can easily search that resource and how to use that appropriate information

without spending more time and money. The information may be in printed form and may be in electronic form. If it is in printed form then it is more tuff for a user to locate on seating in a single place, but if it is in electronic form then they can search a wide number of e-journals, e-books, e-database, webpage etc. by using computer of another electronic instrument seating in a single place. The new role of the librarian is; data filtering, web authoring, mapping and navigation digital information landscapes, handling dynamic resources and contributing to knowledge management in own organizations [6].

Other Library Services Provided to Users

A library also provides CAS (Current Awareness Service) and SDI (Selective Dissemination of Information) service to their users. The aim is to keep users informed about additions to the current literature relative to their own subjects. Nowadays database vendors or publishers are providing tables of contents service free of cost for current issue which librarians can display or can send to scientists, researchers, faculties or other users by e-mail. From this table of contents a user can understand the publication about the particular subject [7]. Anyone can select their current subject topic for research from that table of content. Mostly ready reference services are provided to the users who are outside the campus. Sometimes knowledge born answers are created. So that users automatically get their answer from librarian.

Proper Training to Use Electronic Resources

Training for user, which is called "User Education", is must for every standard library. The user education programs are must be including in library programs schedules for their own advantage. Librarian or professional may not have the subject knowledge of all discipline but they have experience about resource, searching technique of e-resources, classification and location of e-resources [8]. So every library can share the information about the collection, location of e-resources, can trained to search e-resource (e-journal's articles, e-books, e-database) using electronics devices, search the website, download from website, print the file and edit that. Many users did not know that some journals provide free

service from most journal web sites. Library processionals can inform scientists or researchers about institutional subscriptions to alert services of the library. So, if library gives user education once, then so much user gain profit simultaneously professional save their time.

CONCLUSION

In this modern digital era the e-resources provide a new way to think about our user. In a library different types of user are there, their subject interests are different from others; their information needs also vary with in same discipline. The library users can visit the library at regular open hours to meet all their information needs. They can also visit the library website from remote access, they may search the library online catalogue, use a subject guide or database, they can access internet or access full text article from web-based journals, they may browse electronic journals by free service or by consortium programs and also can browse e-books. A modern library provide many different service for user creating their own website for better or easy use of e-resource to provide CAS, SDI and other services using e-resource and inform to user by e-mail.

Nowadays uses of e-resources are not at the anticipated level for lack of awareness about e-resources or due to ineffective channels of communication. The use of e-resource should be enhanced by building collection of e-resource and providing better service and training to user for providing optimum information service.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

REFERENCES

1. *All India Council Technical Education (AICTE)*. Accessed April 2013. www.aicte.eernet.in.
2. Mounissamy P, Kaliammal A, Swaroop Rani BS. Users' Attitude towards Electronic Journals. *IASLIC Bulletin*. 2005; 50(2): 91–95p.
3. Macewan Bonnie. Understanding Users' Needs and Making Collections Choices. *Libr Collect, Acquis & Technical Services*. 1999; 23(3): 315–320p.
4. Natarajan K, Suresh B, Sivaraman P, *et al*. Use and User Perception of Electronic Resources in Annamalia University (India): A Case Study. *Annals of Library & Information Studies (ALIS)*. 2010; 57(1): 59–64p.
5. Chakravarty Rupak, Singh Sukhwinder. E-Resources for Indian Universities: New Initiatives. *SRELS Journal of Information Management*. 2005; 42(1): 57–73p.
6. Sharma PC, Arora Inder Prakash. Building a Digital Library: A Need of Present Environment. *Her Libr Sci*. 2005; 44(1–2): 39–44p.
7. Nandi Atin. E-Book: A Source of Information for Digital Libraries. *Proceedings of the National Conference on Information Management in e-Library (IMeL)*, IIT, Kharagpur. 26–27 Feb 2002; 211–217p.
8. Victor A, Sasireka G, Vijaya Nirmala M. Document Delivery System in the Changing Trends through On Line Service. *Proceedings of the National Conference on Information Management in e-Library (IMeL)*, IIT, Kharagpur. 26–27 Feb 2002; 87–91p.

Cite this Article
Nakul Chandra Mondal, Pijus Kanti Jana. Collection, Organization and Proper Dissemination of E-Resources and Services: Role of Librarian. *Journal of Advancements in Library Sciences*. 2016; 3(1): 1–5p.