Digital Libraries and Its Era of Information Sharing

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ABSTRACT

Digital libraries in future will not be a standalone version. The explosive growth in Networked connectivity and rapid advances in computing power are replacing the older Notions of standalone information utilities with newer notions of integrated digital Libraries. The integrated digital library creates a shared environment linking everything from personal collection, collection of conventional libraries and large databases spread all over the world. In recent years the term 'virtual library' is becoming more popular. It is being used to describe libraries that provide access to digital information using a variety of networks, Specifically the internet and the World Wide Web, irrespective of place and time. In the Present day context virtual library is the convergence of a number of concepts: electronic Browsers, online catalogue and literature bases, and empowerment of the end users.

KEYWORDS: DIGITAL LIBRARIES, INFORMATION SHARING, FUTURE TRENDS
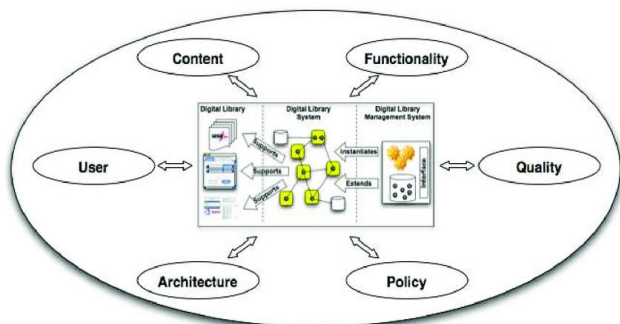
I. INTRODUCTION

Digital age has brought a tremendous change in the way information is stored and accessed. It is marked by three distinct features: abundance, currency and easy access to information. This has brought about a change in the concept of libraries, their collection and services. Many new terms viz., 'digital libraries', 'libraries without walls', 'virtual libraries' are emerging to describe the libraries of the present day age. The term 'digital library' is a shift from the earlier term electronic library which was used for the last two decades to describe the book-less library which relies on telecommunication and computers to provide users with whatever information they need. A digital library is popularly viewed as an electronic version of a library where storage is in digital form,

allowing direct communication to obtain material and copying it from a master version. It combines technology and information resources to allow remote access, breaking down the physical barrier between resources. In Wilensky's view "the digital library will be a collection of distributed information services, producers will make it available, and consumers will find it through the automated agents". In this model it appears that the traditional libraries will have no role to play.

In the early stages of development of digital libraries the main focus was on providing dial up access to Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). The term however evokes different meanings for different people. To some it may simply mean computerization of the traditional library system. To those with library science.

II. DIGITAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

TYPES OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES

Digital libraries can be grouped in different ways. They can be classified according to digital libraries built by individual institutions, digital libraries that are part of national libraries, digital libraries that are part of universities; or by period, by country of origin, and so on. early digital libraries, e.g. ELINOR, Gutenberg

Digital libraries of institutional publications, e.g. ACM, IEL

Digital library developments at national libraries, e.g. the British Library, Library of

Congress (THOMAS), Digital Library of Canada

Digital libraries at universities, e.g. Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE Bodleian Library

Digital Library Projects, California Digital Library, DIGILIB, iGEMS and

SETIS

Digital libraries of special materials, e.g. Alexandria, Informedia, Grainger Engineering Library

Digital libraries as research projects, e.g. GDL, NCSTRL, NDLTD

Digital libraries as hybrid library projects, e.g., HeadLine.

MAJOR DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES

The British Library's Digital Libraries Programme (http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/digi/dom/index.html)

The Digital Libraries Research Programme at British Library Research and Innovation

Centre (BLRIC) is establishing a digital library information service based on the British

library collections.

California Digital Library (http://www.cdlib.orgy)

The California Digital Library was established in 1997 at the University of California.

It supports the University of California libraries in their mission of providing access to the world's knowledge for the UC campuses and the communities they serve. The CDL also maintains its own distinctive programs emphasizing the development and management of digital collections, innovation in scholarly publishing, and the long-term preservation

Google Digital Library of Alexandria

Google announced the library scanning project in December 2004. It has four library partners viz. Stanford University, Oxford University, New York Public Library and University of Michigan. The major publishing houses like McGraw- Hill and Penguin Group have sued Google for scanning books without permission.

Gutenberg (http://promo.net/pgn)

The project Gutenberg began in 1971 at the Materials Research Lab, the University of Illinois. The prime objective of this project was to facilitate the world's great literature to electronic versions for public access.

The IEEE Electronic Library (http://www.ieee.org/portal/innovate/products/research/ieee_ie1.html)

The IEEE digital library is the gateway to valuable, cutting-edge research, standards and educational courses with more than two million articles. It offers 100% full-text searchable content with frill-page PDF images of all IEEE articles, papers and standards

International Children's Digital Library (ICDL) (http://en.childrens1ibrary.org/)

The ICDL was created by an interdisciplinary research team at the University of Maryland in cooperation with the Internet Archives. This was established to create a collection of more than 10,000 books in at least 100 languages that is freely available to children, teachers,1ibrarians, parents, and scholars throughout the world via the Internet.

Digital Library of the Commons (http://d1c.dlib.indiana.edu/)

The Digital Library of the Commons (DLC)is running on Eprints2, which provides free access to an archive of international literature on the commons, common- pool resources and common property..

The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) (http://www.ndltd.org/)

The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations is an international organization dedicated to promoting the adoption, creation, use, dissemination and preservation of electronic analogues to the traditional paper-based theses

and dissertations. This contains information about the initiative, how to set up the Electronic

Thesis and Dissertation(ETD) program, how to create and locate ETDs, and current research in digital libraries related to NDLTD and ETDs. Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (http://www.tkdl.res.in/tkdl/1angdefault/common/home.asp?GL=Eng)

The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library is a well known Indian digital library initiative being implemented by the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR). The major objective is to provide information on the Indian system of medicine such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Yoga, Naturopathy and Tribal Medicine.

The Digital Library of India(DLI) (http://d1i.iiit.ac.in/)

The DigitalLibrary of India is the greatest digital library initiative in the country. DLI is a part of Universal Digital Library (UDL) and Million Books Projects, coordinated by Carnegie Mellon University, USA.

The Archives of Indian Labour (http://www.india1abourarchives.org/)

The Archives of Indian Labour is a collaborative project of V.V.Giri National Labour

Institute and the Association of Indian Labour Historians. The main objective is to preserve and make accessible archival documents on the working class of India.

FUTURE TRENDS

Although the term digital library is used widely in the literature, a new term, 'hybrid Library', appeared in the course of digital library. A hybrid library has been defined as Library where digital and printed information resources co- exists and is brought together In integrated information service accessible locally as well as remotely the hybrid Library is on the continuum between the conventional and digital library, where electronic And paper-based information sources are used alongside each other. A hybrid library Brings a range of technologies from different sources together, and integrates systems and

services in both the electronic and print environments.

SUMMARY

Libraries have always played a significant role in society, and digital libraries with the promise of breaking the barriers of geographical distance,

language and culture, have a potentially even more significant social role. Digital libraries will not only change our reading and information use habits, they are also going to bring major changes in the economic models of information generation, distribution and management functions. A tremendous amount of research and development activity has gone into the study of digital libraries. Many issues have been addressed and problems have been partly or fully resolved. Researchers from a variety of disciplines, such as library and information science, computer science and engineering, social sciences and humanities

are working closely together to look into the myriad of unresolved issues. Three general characteristics of the digital library of the future are: A comprehensive collection of resources important for Scholarship, teaching, and learning Readily accessible to all types of users Managed and maintained by professionals. Digital libraries can be classified broadly into:early digital libraries, e.g. ELINOR, Gutenberg digital libraries of institutional publications, e.g. ACM, IEL Digital library developments at national libraries, e.g. the British Library, Library of

Congress

Digital libraries at universities, e.g. Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE Bodleian Library

Digital Library Projects, California Digital Library, DIGILIB, iGEMS and SETIS

Digital libraries of special materials, e.g. Alexandria, Informedia, Grainger

Engineering Library

Digital libraries as research projects, e.g. GDL, NCSTRL, NDLTD

Digital libraries as hybrid library projects, e.g., HeadLine.

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