

ROLE OF DIGITAL LIBRARY IN THE KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

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Abstract :

A digital library is an organized collection of information a focused collection of digital objects, including text, video and audio, along with methods for access and retrieval and for selection, organization and maintenance of the collection. The perception of digital library as an extension of the functional capacity of the regular library automation system that is merely supplemented by the functions of working with digital documents stems from the traditional notion of library. As a result, the common preference is for the library. Digital Library is still the same as traditional library, only with everything electronic, including the documents, services and Readers. In this paper author discusses the role of Digital library in the knowledge society.

Keywords: Digital Library, Knowledge, Knowledge Society.

Introduction :

The term "Digital Library" has a variety of potential, ranging from a digitized collection of material that one might find in a traditional library through to the collection of all digital information along with the services that make that information useful to all possible users. It is very fruitful; way of managing the knowledge. In this process it is very easy to locate a document without wasting precious time of the users. It also helps to select the right documents for the right users. It is the most practical way to give the better services to the user. In a digital environment librarian should familiar with search engines such as Google, Yahoo etc. and relevant websites according to their user needs. Digital Libraries extend the applications of modern technology in socially.

It is widely accepted that one of the most effective methods of providing the library information services for science, culture and education today is establishing and using the digital libraries (DL). The Digital Library plays a significant role in the knowledge society. It enables reliable accumulation, preservation, and effective use of diverse electronic document collection that are available to users in a convenient form through the global data transfer networks.

Definition of Digital Libraries :

A digital library is an organized collection of information a focused collection of digital objects, including text, video and audio, along with methods for access and retrieval and for selection, organization and maintenance of the collection (Written and Bainbridge, 2002)



At the kickoff meeting of the WG (Working Group) held January 7 - 8 1998 at standard university the following definition was proposed.

The Digital Library is :

- The collection of services.
- And the collection of information objects.
- That support users in dealing with information objects.
- And the organization and presentation of those objects.
- Available directly or indirectly.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam :

"Digital Library is where the past meets present and creates future."

Elements of Digital Libraries :

- The digital Library is not a single entity.
- The digital library requires technology to link the resource of many.
- The linkages between the many digital libraries and information services are transparent to the end users.
- Universal access to digital libraries and information services is a goal.
- Digital Library collections are not limited to document.

Digital libraries are a set of electronic resources and associated technical capabilities for creating, searching and using information. In this sense they are an extension of information storage and retrieval systems that manipulate digital data in any medium (text, images, sound; static or dynamic images) and exist in distributed networks. The content of digital libraries includes data, metadata that describe various aspects of the data, and metadata that consist of links or relationships to other data and metadata, whether internal or external to the digital library (Borgman et al., "Introduction" Par. 4)

"Digital libraries are organizations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer intellectual access to interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities".

The perception of digital library as an extension of the functional capacity of the regular library automation system that is merely supplemented by the functions of working with digital documents stems from the traditional notion of library. As a result, the common preference is for the library. Digital Library is still the same as traditional library, only with everything electronic, including the documents, services and Readers.

Knowledge :

Knowledge is the organized body of information of the comprehension and understanding, consequent on having acquired an organized body of facts, in common usage of the word. A book of knowledge is a document which contains data and information about selected topics which would be useful to students appearing for competitive examination.



Similarly, we often refer to a library as a store house of knowledge, meaning thereby, that a library stores documents which contain information and knowledge. Therefore, in common parlance we use information and knowledge more or less synonymously, without making any distinction them. But we must understand the usage of these words a little more precisely in our professional studies.

Definition :

Webster's new collegiate Dictionary defines knowledge as "The fact or condition of knowing something with familiarity gained through experience of association".

- Data is cotton
- Information is yarn
- Knowledge is cloth.

There are two basic types

1. Explicit Knowledge :

This is a knowledge which has been recorded in a book or document.

2. Tacit Knowledge :

This is complex form of knowledge, which lies most of times as implications. It has two dimensions, technical and cognitive dimension. This is personal knowledge which in human mind.

Knowledge Society :

Broadly speaking the term knowledge Society refers to any society where knowledge is the primary production resource instead of capital and labor. It may also refer to the use a certain society gives to information. A knowledge society "creates shares and uses knowledge for the prosperity and well-being of its people".

Characteristics :

Knowledge societies have the characteristic that knowledge forms a major component of any human activity. Economic, social, cultural and all other human activities become dependent on huge volume of knowledge and information. A knowledge society is one in which knowledge becomes a major creative force.

Knowledge societies are not a new occurrence. For example, fishermen have long shared the knowledge of predicting the weather to their community and this knowledge gets added to the social capital of the community.

Principal Features of the Knowledge Society

- Knowledge and information being major sources of creating value.
- Rapid changes in the technology.
- Creates investment in research and development.
- Greater use of information and Communication Technology.



- Growth of Knowledge-intensive business.
- Increased networking and working together.
- Rising skill requirements.
- In the knowledge society, it is recognized that knowledge is the key to create wealth and improve the quality of life.

Examples of Knowledge Societies

- Teachers teaching the same subject.
- Fans of the same musical group
- Artists with similar interests.
- Engineers talking to scientists about a scientific issue related to their engineering project.
- Researchers of different fields discussing a common research problem.
- Artists interested in fractals getting in touch with programmers.

The knowledge is meaningful and produces active information. That is why the knowledge society cannot develop but grafted on the information society. Likewise, it is more than informational society on account of the major role attributed to the information knowledge in the society. The most appropriate meaning of the knowledge society is that of information and knowledge society. The term of knowledge society is nowadays used across the whole world. This name is an abbreviation from the structure knowledge based society.

If knowledge is raw product and information is a commodity which needs dissemination. Design of knowledge cannot avoid the political influence. Knowledge policy will adjust the volume of the new knowledge that is rapidly increasing within the society and will influence its development.

Role of Digital Library in Knowledge Society :

Digital library plays a vital and significant role in knowledge society to create new knowledge for prosperity and well being of its people.

- Provides anybody requisite information in digitized form within short time on without cost or less cost at world wide space. Original sources remain as it is after use.
- Provides services 24 hours by using internet and browsers.
- Optimum capacity of networking in Digital resources.
- Access to E-Journals, bibliographic database, articles in journals technical reports, patents, available at world wide space.
- Search result oriented easily for creation of new knowledge or information.
- Presentation of information indigitized form easily, speedily within time.
- Access, transfer, retrieval, downloading easily and quickly.
- Provides information to knowledge society i.e. Scientists, Technologist, Researchers, Academicians at a time for development of distributed learning environment.

Conclusion :

The success factors of any organization today depends upon the quality of knowledge



capital available to the organization and how they can leverage them effectively, and operate their critical processes and systems. The final aspect that will be examined includes the questions of significance of the "Digital Librarian" Community activity, positioning digital library as one of the key elements of the information society or knowledge infrastructure. Indeed, the role and functions of digital library, unfortunately, are often under valued similarly to changing types of activity related, for example, to business. The people today do not think much about what shall become with the new content that was originated in digital form and does not exist in traditional format. Those making crucial decisions at the level of corporations, separate regions, and whole countries often underrate the role of digital content, for which the perfect archival mechanism in digital library.

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