ELECTRONIC RESOURCES: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT

In ancient time when libraries were established, the material of the library was handwritten and called manuscripts. With the introduction of printing technology, the material acquired in the library was in print form. As time changed by and information communication technology came into the light, it influenced each and every area of the society and libraries were one of them. With the help of information communication technology, libraries started providing advanced services to the users. With this advanced changed the printed material of the library converted into E-resources.

KEYWORDS: *Electronic Resources, E-Databases, E-Book, E-Journal, E-Patent, E-Newspaper, E-Magazines, ETDs*

INTRODUCTION

Electronic resources can be accessed by a computer network, smartphones or any other communicating devices. Due to the explosion of information, libraries are moving towards e-resources. It is not possible to store all information in printed form because printed information take a lot of space and searching is also tough in this type of resources. So to get easy and fast access to information we are usinge-resources. With the help of e-resources, people are getting up to date information in their respective fields so they like to use e-resources more and more. Web and online publishing agencies have completely changed the way of accessing information.

Definition

According to Library & Information Technology Glossary "Term used to describe all of the information products that a library provides through a computer network."

According to Wikipedia, Electronic Resources means "Information (usually a file) which can be stored in the form of electrical signals, usually on a computer; Information available on the Internet."

Need of E-Resources

- 24*7 accessibility

- Problem of storage space

- For getting up to date information

- Easy to access

- Other important resources linking facility

- To collect, organize information in digital form

- Multiple access

- Advanced search strategy

- Access of resources by anyone from anywhere

- E-resources create any file format like text, audio, video, and images

Types of E-Resources

Electronic Dictionaries & Encyclopedias

When we go through the textbooks & other reading material, we need to refer the dictionaries & encyclopedias. Nowadays readersnot only read at home or in the library, but they also read at each & every place. So it is not possible to carry a printed dictionary/ encyclopedia for any reader. For this many dictionaries & encyclopedias are available online. A few of them are given below:

- Oxford English Dictionary (www.oed.com)

- Oxford reference online (www.oxfordreference.com)

E-Databases

Databases are the collection of record in different fields or a particular field. Nowadays many bibliographic databases of books, journals, conference proceedings, etc. are available in different electronic media.

There are a few e-databases that are beneficial for the users e.g.

- AFI Catalog

- Art Full Text

- Berg Fashion Library

- Bloomsburry Design Library

- British Humanities Index

- Early European Books Online

E-Book

An Electronic book is a traditional version of the printed book which can be accessed by using a computer/smartphone or by using electronic book reader. E-Book has the same content as a printed book but the only difference isthat e-bookis digital in nature. Now-a-days e-books are very popular among users due to its prices, up-to-date and comfort. Amazon started a tremendous phenomenon for online availability of the book. There are many websites that all are the hub of online bookselling. Some of them are-

Table 1

Name of Platform	Link
Amazon	https://www.amazon.in/Books/b?ie=UTF8&node=976389031
BookFinder.com	https://www.bookfinder.com/
eFollett.com	https://www.bkstr.com/efollettstore/home
AbeBooks.com	https://www.bkstr.com/efollettstore/home

E-Book Reader and their Formats

Table 2

Reader	E-Resources Formats
Amazon Kindle and Fire tablets	AZW, AZW3, KF8, non-DRM MOBI, PDF, PRC, TXT
Barnes & Noble Nook	EPUB, PDF
PocketBook	EPUB DRM, EPUB, PDF DRM, PDF, FB2, FB2.ZIP, TXT, DJVU, HTM, HTML, DOC, DOCX, RTF, CHM, TCR, PRC (MOBI)
Sony Reader	EPUB, PDF, TXT, RTF, DOC, BBeB
Apple iPad	EPUB, IBA (Multitouch books made via iBooks Author), PDF
Kobo eReader	EPUB, PDF, TXT, RTF, HTML, CBR (comic), CBZ (comic)

E-Journal

The e-Journal is a periodical publication which is published in digital or electronic format. E-Journals are known as different terms such as paperless journal, virtual journal, e-serials and online journal. In the last few years information and communication technology created a new way of using information, E-Journals isone of them. There are many techniques by which e-journals can be accessed such as free based access, exclusive subscription, selective access, consortium access, etc. E-journals can be accessed online and offline and it contains reviews, research papers, scholarly articles, etc. Electronic Journal is developing many exciting opportunities in libraries for promoting research. Due to economic factors of libraries, the librarian should evaluate each journal for subscribing. For promoting and enhancing e-journals, libraries should improve their ICT infrastructure. There are mainly three types of electronic journals available:

- **Online Journals**: Which are basically the online versions of the printjournals.

- **Networked Electronic Journals:** These types of journals are published and distributed with the help of internet.

- **CD-ROM Journals:** These types of the journal published and distributed with the help of CD-ROM media.

There are Three Access Models to E-Journals

- Remote access

- Onsite Access

- Access through databases

Advantages of E-Journals

- Customization

- Full-text searching or navigation

- Speed of access is high

- E-journals can be distributed information more economically

- HyperText links can be obtained

- No physical processing

- Multimedia platform

- Saves a lot of physical storage

- Advanced search

- Multiple access

- 24*7*365 accessibility

Issue and Challenges Associated with E-Journals

- Archiving

- Network traffic

- Hardware and software issues

- Standardization

- Economic factors

- Copy Right

- Training and development

Prominent Online Databases in Science And Technology

- Science Direct

- Wiley-Blackwell

- Web Of Science

- Scopus

- World Scientific community

- Cambridge Journals Online

- American Chemical Society Publications

- American Institute of Physics Publishing

- Nature Publishing Groups

- Springer

E-Patent

It is a form of Intellectual property. The patent document shows that it's the right of the owner for making an invention. Generally, thisright is provided for 20 years after the registration in the patent office. Now in this digital era, the government has provideda facility for the inventor to patent his/her invention by filling a form that is available online. So to visit physically the patent office is not necessary. Anyone can file a patent his/ her own creation. There are some important patent-related websites are given below.

Table 3

Patent Website/ Database	URL
Indian Patent Website	https://ipindiaonline.gov.in/epatentfiling/UserRegistration/NewUser
Canadian Patent Database	http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/cipointernet-internetopic.nsf/eng/Home
United State Patents & Trademark Office	https://www.uspto.gov/
World Intellectual Property	https://www.wipo.int/portal/en/index.html
IBM Intellectual Property Licensing	https://www.ibm.com/ibm/licensing/

E-Newspaper

E-Newspaper is also known as an electronic newspaper, online newspaper or webnewspaper, whichexist on the world wide web. An E-newspaper acquires and holds information electronically which is free-standing, durable and revised version of the traditional newspaper. An online newspaper created by Bruce Parrello in early 1974 on the PLATO system at the University of Illinois. Hundreds of US newspaper were published online by late 1990s but didn't yet get much users to read. But today it has become a huge part of society. Some of the electronic newspaper and their websites are listed below:

Table 4

S.No.	Name of E-newspaper	Websites
1.	DainikBhaskar	https://epaper.bhaskar.com/
2.	Amar Ujala	https://epaper.amarujala.com/
3.	DainikJagran	https://epaper.jagran.com/epaper/
4.	Aaj	http://ajhindidaily.com/EpaperView.aspx
5.	NabBharat Times	http://epaper.navbharattimes.com/
6.	The Hindu	https://epaper.thehindu.com/
7.	The Times Of India	https://epaper.timesgroup.com/TOI/Times
8.	The Economic Times	https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/
9.	Employment News	http://employmentnews.gov.in/newemp/EversionMove.aspx
10.	The Indian Express	http://epaper.indianexpress.com/
11.	Hindustan Times	http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx
12.	The Telegraph	https://epaper.telegraphindia.com/
13.	The Assam Tribune	http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/at.asp?id=feb2619/Page1
14.	Daily Mirror	http://epaper.dailymirror.lk/epaper/viewer.aspx

E-Magazines

Reading magazine is the best way to obtain information. The E-magazine is a platform by which anyone can use it with the help of smartphone, PC or any other electronic devices. E-Magazine is divided into different categories such as fashion, education, cooking, business, design, craft, etc. There are many platforms by which anyone can download and view various e-magazines-

Table 5

S.No.	Name	Website
1.	FLIPHTML5	http://fliphtml5.com/
2.	WorldMags	https://worldmags.net/
3.	PDF Magazines	https://pdf-magazines-download.com/
4.	DownMagaz.com	https://downmagaz.com/
5.	PDF Giant	http://pdf-giant.com/
6.	FreeMagSpot	http://www.freemagspot.me/
7.	FREE PDF MAGAZINE	https://freepdfmagazine.wordpress.com/
8.	Storemags	http://storemags.com/
9.	Asian Photography	http://www.asianphotographyindia.com/
10.	Down To Earth	http://www.downtoearth.org.in/

ETDs

In India, UGC has taken an initiative under UGC notification (Minimum standards and Procedure for award of M.Phil/ Ph.D. Degree, Regulation 2016) mandates submission of electronic thesis and dissertations to their universities for fulfilling the objectives of open access. Due to this action of UGC, the quality of research will increase and duplicacy of the work will minimize. Under this regulation the responsibility of maintaining off electronic thesis and dissertations (under Shodhganga project) done by INFLIBNET. Shodhganga project contains 213223 full-text theses, 6400 synopses, and 388 universities are contributing their research work under this project in India.

List of Leading ETD Initiatives at the Institution Level and it's URL

S. No	Institutions	Name of ETDs	URL
1.	Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI),	IR@CECR	http://cecri.csircentral.net/
2.	Central Food Technological Research Institute	eprints@CFTRI	http://ir.cftri.com/
3.	INFLIBNET	Shodhganga@INFLIBNET	http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/
4.	Indian Institute of Technology	Eprint@IIT Delhi	http://eprint.iitd.ac.in/dspace/
5.	Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI)	IR@CECRI	http://cecri.csircentral.net/
6.	Indian Institute of Chemical Biology *(IICB)*	EPrints@IICB	http://www.eprints.iicb.res.in/
7.	National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR)	DRS@nio	http://drs.nio.org/drs/
8.	National Institute of Technology Rourkela,	ethesis@nitr	http://ethesis.nitrkl.ac.in/
9.	Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati	Digital Repository of Lakshminath Bezbaroa Central Library	http://gyan.iitg.ernet.in/

Utilities of E-Resources in Libraries

- Selective Dissemination of information

- Current Awareness Services

- E- Document Delivery Services

- Online Public Access Catalogue
- Mobile Libraries
- Reference Services

Selection of E-Resources

Selection of E-Resources is a very important factor for more use among users. In libraries, each librarian should consider the following factor for selecting or subscribing e-resources-

- To determine the requirement of the user
- To know the scope of that e-newspaper
- To know which type of content present in that e-newspaper
- To maintain cost effectiveness
- To know the copyright
- To know about the documentation and training and support
- To know compatibility factor and technical support
- To know the authority of that e-resources

Issues of E-Resources

- Licensing
- Intellectual Property Right
- Metadata standards
- Budget
- Technical Problem
- Skilled Manpower
- Skilled staff
- Lack of infrastructure

CONCLUSIONS

Libraries always try to provide the information to its users in the way they want it. With the introduction of IT, libraries started acquiring the e-content of information instead of the printed form. E-content of information was comprised of different e-resources. These e-resources are very useful for libraries as well as for users. By e-resources, information is available all over the globe and anyone who is starving to get information can access it from anywhere.

In the above description of paper, the various forms of e-resources have been described and we see that the information we were reading in printed form is available in e- format nowadays. This 24*7 availability of information in e-format made the life of information seekers very easy.

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