

E-learning, e-searching and e-resource management in the libraries

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Abstract

With the advent of the World Wide Web, internet has become integral part of the library and it facilitated libraries as global platform for knowledge sharing. Powerful searching tools and techniques have emerged in this sector, such as internet search engines, information portals, multi format publishers and online content integrators etc. Google itself provides enough opportunities to become library a global player for the access of scholarly information, this article focuses on few general aspects e-learning with a modern digital library in the context of the changing role of librarians. E-searching offers new opportunities for library professionals, staff, users and researchers. Finally it emphasizes the impact of libraries by the way of providing easy library access, information retrieval and management of e-resources in digital environment.

Keywords: Internet, Search engine, Google, E-Learning, E-resources, Searching techniques.

Introduction

Unlike the traditional information search and retrieval system in the library, e-searching have made possible to provide a free and fast access opportunity to researchers on the internet. This open search approach is especially useful in digging out data, information and resources from the universe of knowledge for learning and research purpose and e-resource management in digital environment, therefore library and information centre has been hub for providing centralised access of internet based information products and library services since the use of computers is increased in libraries for information processing, storage, retrieval of Information, and management of digital asset in the libraries.

Libraries act as centre for information exchange for their users, especially at academic or research institutions. Today's library portals offer variety of e-services and information products for their users as resource discovery platform in digital environment. E-resources include online library catalogues, electronic journals and e-books, CD/DVDs, digitally converted print materials etc. Databases have also been well known e-resources for the libraries. Research content is generally delivered through well-established service channels by publishers, book-houses or subscription agencies through library portals. Libraries could be open institutions that can become spaces of discovery and learning, allowing users to dig out information from the universe of knowledge of their interest areas. E-learning is an emerging trend to help our dynamic young users, it allow them to fill the gaps left by the education system. The approaches described here include library based integrated research facility and e-resource management in the libraries.

Objectives of the Study

This study has been carried out keeping following points in mind:

1. To understand prospects of e-learning in the libraries;
2. To maximise use of Internet in library and information centres;
3. To explore the innovative information searching tools and techniques
4. To identify useful e-resources and their management;
5. To understand challenges ahead while using ICT applications;
6. To find out possibilities for new initiatives.

Methodology

The article is based upon the personal experience for the use of internet in the libraries in information searching and sharing for the purpose study, research and education that help in meeting our information requirements. Evaluation of several library website have also been made to collect knowledge substances for this study, no previous studies were reported on integrated approach of the e-learning, e-searching and e-resource management pertaining to impact of information technology on library activities, it is first attempt being made to understand and evaluate the wide use of internet in libraries as an information resource in open access environment at global level.

E-Learning Concept: E-learning can be simply defined as learning with the help of electronic resources is known as e-learning. The use of computers and the Internet constitute the major component of e-learning. It can also be termed as an internet enabled sharing of skills and knowledge, and the transfer of knowledge is made possible to a large number of recipients at the same or different times. It is equally important to

understand the importance and effectiveness of technology-based e-learning with the concept of formal teaching and learning through the books and classroom lectures.

E-Learning in the Libraries: E-learning in the libraries is to focus on the user education and training programme, extension lectures series conducted in the libraries, about how to use e-resources available in the libraries. It also describes the role and responsibilities of librarian to cater user's information need. E-learning is learning about how to share latest knowledge among users, utilize electronic resources to access educational study material out of a traditional classroom. Library being an open institution is important part of online education in context of changing role of libraries.

Benefits of e-learning in the Libraries: The benefits of e-learning are almost well-known to its users. It save time and money, access it as often as you need it at all without travelling to the classroom. There are no parking problems or expenses, transportation fees, athletic fees, housing and food service fees etc. As user you can take the class from any location with internet access. There have been many studies showing that e-learning make students smart to retain the study/research material to a significantly greater value than face-to-face instructor led classes. The content dissemination in the library is consistent and can be easily repeated if needed to gain a better understanding.

E-Searching for Online Information Retrieval: Librarians being a knowledge administrator, carryout literature search in more efficient way to harvest knowledge, data, information resources and thus experience an innovative way outside the traditional search platforms. Current prospects for e-search systems and open-source software explored in areas such as peer-to-peer review, information extraction and the distributed search model in context of information retrieval, it consists of four steps: discovering databases, ranking databases by their expected ability to satisfy the query, searching the most relevant databases. The technology applications works on open search, SRU, and OAI-PM model. Open Search and SRU allows a federated search model to enable content providers and search for client communication.

Techniques for Advanced Internet Searching: Search engine particularly Google has become starting point for everyone who is looking information online. E-facilities in the library provide options for simple search and advanced search on the internet. User need to use few techniques to retrieve required information precisely on the particular research topic. Open source discovery tools are available online here is an overview of some of the most useful Google search tricks. Here have a discussion on simple keyword search strategies:

Keyword or Phrase Searching: Suppose we want to search on Google for content about drug development. Instead of just typing drug development into the Google search box, it will give better search result on putting keyword/phrase within the double quotes.

For Example: "alternative medicine"

Exclude Keyword in Search: Suppose, if we want to search for content about drug development, but we want to exclude any result that contain the term generic. To do this, simply use the - sign in front of the word we want to exclude.

For Example: drug development-generic

This or That: When we conduct a simple keyword search, Google will include all the terms specified in the search term. If we are looking for any one of one or more keyword to match, then we can use the OR operator. (Note: The OR needs to be capitalized).

For Example: drug development or generic

Search for Keyword in the Text: When we want to find out a webpage where all the terms we are searching for it should appear in the text of that particular web page, just type as allintext: followed immediately by keywords or phrases.

For Example: allintext: healthcare services

Search for Keyword in the Text + Title, URL etc.: When we want to search out a webpage where one term would appears in the text of that page and another term appears elsewhere on the page, like the title or URL, then type in that first term followed by intext: followed immediately by the other term.

For Example: disease control intext: cancer

Search for Keyword in the Title: When we want to find out a webpage with certain keywords contained in the title just type in allintitle: followed immediately by keywords or phrases.

For Example: allintitle: pharmaceutical drug

Search for Keyword in the URL: If we want to find out pages with search query mentioned in the URL, type allinurl: immediately followed by your search query.

For Example: allinurl: drug safety

How to search within a Website: When we want to search within specific website for content that matches a certain phrase, simply can use the site: somesite.com modifier.

For Example: site: www.hindustantimes.com "Rahul Gandhi"

Similar Words and Synonyms: When we want to include a word in search term, but also want to include

results that contain similar words or synonyms. To do this, use the ~ sign in front of the word.

For Example: "disease control" ~Tuberculosis

Searching for News at Specific Location: If we are looking for particular news related to specific location, then we can use the location: command to search Google News for stories coming online from that location.

For Example: medical negligence location: Kolkata

Searching for Specific Document/File Type: When we are looking to find out results that are of a specific file type, just use the modifier file type: For example, we might want to find out only PowerPoint presentations related to generic drugs.

For Example: "generic drugs" filetype:ppt

E-Resource Management in the Libraries: Electronic resource management (ERM) is the practices and techniques used by librarians and library staff to track the selection, subscription, licensing, access, maintenance, usage, evaluation, retention, and rectification of library's electronic information resources. These resources include electronic journals, electronic books, digital media, research databases, CD-ROMs, and computer software etc.

There are two types of e-resources in the library, subscription based and open access. Computer application in the libraries being used to manage the huge number of electronic resources particularly electronic journals, their subscription and fair use. This article focuses on various aspects of management of e-resources in the libraries, technology has made it possible to bring all the resources together at single platform, e-resources are easily accessible in remote areas. Application of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the libraries has revolutionized the scope of library and information centres and their e-services.

With the provision of open access there have been huge numbers of online databases, open access journals, digital libraries, institutional repositories that have emerged for the literature access on the internet. In view of the tremendous growth and flow of scholarly information, scientific knowledge, library professional face the challenges in handling of huge information resources. In this study an attempt has been made to assess the integrated approach of internet and infrastructure with respect to online library services. This paper presents an overview of the e-resources, their utilisation in research and learning.

Conclusion

Utilization of internet in the library for search and retrieval of knowledge substances has changed knowledge sharing prospects for learning and research purpose especially in research and development

organisation. Since the search engine like Google came into existence, it has become easy to search data and information across all the web resources. This brings quality to our research output. This paper is focused on impact of internet on various library activities, processes, services and products. The internet has integrated library with research activities. Librarian can explore the role library to bring innovative information products and e-services in the changing digital environment, where everyone has huge knowledge will power; libraries can be much-needed hubs of information exchange and free access. Libraries with well developed infrastructure, freely accessible computers, and good reading spaces could help dynamic users and allow them to fill the gaps left by the education system. Libraries can be vibrant, exciting, open institutions that can become spaces of e-discovery and e-learning, allowing users to harvest their talent from the universe of knowledge of their interest areas that provide that much-needed infrastructure and access.

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