Electronic Information Resources-I

-Dr.Ranjana Srivastava

The current evolution in Information technology brings major changes in the way of Information communication. Information Communication technology developments opened up new avenues to e-resources, publishing in a big way. The E - resource is distribution of information in any electronic form such as CD- ROM, Floppy Disk or Magnetic tape or across a computer network like e-journals, E-Books, ETD etc. An electronic resource is defined as a resource which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and so on.

According to AACR2, 2005 Update, an electronic resource is: "Material (data and/or program(s)) encoded for manipulation by a computerized device. This material may require the use of a peripheral directly connected to a computerized device (e.g., CD-ROM drive) or a connection to a computer network (e.g., the Internet)." This definition does not include electronic resources that do not require the use of a computer, for example, music compact discs and videodiscs. According to Library and Information Technology Glossary "Term used to describe all of the information products that a library provides through a computer net..."

1.**Need of E-Resources**

E-Resources enable the librarian to provide better service to the user community. The few considerable points are mentioned bellow;

- To get access to an information source by the more than one users.
- E-Resources can be searched quickly.
- These can be found easily by the user.
- These resources can be stored in huge amount.

- Amount of time spent on the E-Resources use.
- Analyses the purpose of using e-resources by respondent
- Know different types of e-resources commonly used by respondents
- To collect, store, organize information in digital form.
- To promote efficient delivery of information economically to all the users.
- To encourage co-operative efforts to save and share the investments in research resources, computing and communication network.

2. Types of e-Resources

2.1 E-Book

Electronic-Book is characterized as any Book, which can be downloaded and read on a computer or personal devices. Sometimes E-Books are the electronic versions of Print Books and it has easy search facility which reader can see visually and it can be saved on a pen drive, CD etc and transferred to CD-ROM. The content is indistinguishable with the exception that there are additional features such as, bookmark and link between issues and solutions. E-books also offers the convenience of portability since, it can be stored on personal library of E-book on Computer, laptop and on other handheld gadgets. E- books is in many formats including Adobe PDF, Microsoft Reader, eReader, Mobipocket Reader, Kindle and iPad etc.

2.2 E-Journal

An e-journal is very important part of every library collection. E-journals (electronic journals) are scholarly journals or intellectual magazines that can be accessed via electronic transmission. Some journals are "born digital" in that they are solely published on the web and in a digital format, but most electronic journals originated as print journals which subsequently evolved to have an electronic version, while still maintaining a print component. Online journal articles are a specialized form of electronic document, they have

the purpose of providing material for academic research and study, and they are formatted approximately like journal articles in traditional printed journals.

2.2.1Advantages of E-journals

- The contents of pages and/or the full text of journals can be easily found out and articles related to any certain subject can be easily searched.
- Journal articles are on your desktop; you don't have to be in the Library.
- It can be very easy to email articles to yourself or download them for printing.
- The article that you want to read will always be available, even when the Library is closed.
- Hypertext links allow you to move to different sections within individual journals or articles and can link you to related resources on the Internet.
- Journals can include more images and audio-visual material.
- Journals can be interactive you can e-mail the author or editor with your comments.
- Access to E-Journals: There are two kinds of e-journals are available

✓ Paid E-Journals

✓ Free E-Journals

2.2.2Disadvantages of E-Journals

- Difficulty in reading.
- Highly expensive resource.
- Needed High Infrastructure.
- Needed User Training to access.
- Excessive Printing of documents.

2.2.3 E-Newspaper

An E- newspaper is also known as online newspaper or web newspaper that exists on the World Wide Web or internet.

2.2.4 E-Magazines

An E-Magazine is very important part of every library collection. E-Magazines are one application of information technology.

2.3Databases

The Macmillan dictionary of information technology defines `a database as collection of interrelated data stored so that it may be accessed by authorised users with simpler user-friendly dialogues'.Databases are store large quantities of information. The larger the mass of information, the bigger the benefit of using a database. Databases make it easy to retrieve information quickly and flexibly. Databases help to organize and reorganize information. User can quickly switch between schemes. Databases provide facilities to print and distribute information in a variety of ways.

2.3.1Bibliographic database

Bibliographic Database provides a descriptive record of an item such as author, title, subject, publisher etc. Rather than complete monograph, bibliographic database generally contain rich description in the form of short summary or abstract and keyword etc. in electronic format. There are many Dictionaries, Almanacs, and Encyclopaedias, which are available on reference database.

2.3.2 Full-text database

Full-text database are either free or with charges. E-databases is an organized collection of information of a particular subject or multidisciplinary subject areas, information within e-databases can be searched and retrieved electronically. A full-text Database is a compilation of documents or other information in the form of a database in which the complete text of each referenced documents are available for online viewing, printing and downloading. For instance, IEEE-Xplore, not only provides index, citation and reference to journals articles, but also provides entire text of the article and paper on computer science, electrical, and electronic engineering etc

2.3.3 Statistical database

These databases contain the numerical data useful for the mass community.

2.3.4 Image

Due to adventure of e- collection images facility this type of databases is developed.

2.4 Multimedia products

These include audio visual, text, etc.

2.5 E-Thesis

These databases contain PhD thesis and Dissertation published through e-format. The Oxford English Dictionary defines a thesis as "a long essay or dissertation involving personal research, written as part of a university degree" (OED). Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a thesis as "a position or proposition that a person (as a candidate for scholastic honors) advances and offers to maintain by argument" as well as "a dissertation embodying results of original research and especially substantiating a specific view; especially one written by candidate for an academic degree."

2.6E-Clipping The main objective of e-clipping is retrospective search and comprehensive analysis of new items.

2.7 E-Patents

E-patents is the exclusive right granted by the government to make use of an invention for a specific period of time. Patent protection for invention cannot be commercially made, used, distributed or sold without the owner's consent. Usually, patent rights are enforced in a court, which, provide facilities to hold the authority to stop patent infringement. Conversely, a court can also declare a patent invalid upon a successful challenge by third party. The owner of a patent has the right to decide about who may or may not use the invention. Owner may give permission or license to other parties to use inventions on mutually agreed terms or may also sell the right to other parties, who will then, become a

new owner of the patent. But, once a patent expires, the invention will enter the public domain. It means the owner cannot hold exclusive right to the invention for longer time.

2.8E-Standards-Written definition, limit rule, approved and monitored for complains by authoritative agency. A standard is a document that provides requirements, specifications, guidelines or characteristics that can be used consistently to ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their purpose (www.iso.org). Standards are based on industrial, scientificand consumer experience and they cover everything from consumer product to energy, environment, water and many more. Standards are regularly reviewed to keep pace with advance technologies.There are three kinds of standards: international, regional, and national.

2.8.1 International standards

Developed by ISO, IEC(International Electro-technical Commission), and ITU (International Telecommunication Union). Countries can adopt these standards directly for their national use.

2.8.2 Regional Standards

Prepared by a specific region, such as the European Union, which develops EN standards. Similarly, joint Australian/New Zealand standards can be considered Regional Standards.

2.8.3 National Standards

These can be developed by a National Standards body (like Standards India) or other accredited bodies

3. Utilities of E-Resources

- E-publishing may be less costly than paper.
- E- Resources are created in any file format like text, audio, video and images.
- E-resources are available for 24 hours of a day and save library space.
- The E-resources search is easy because of user friendly interface.

- They provide users faster, more convenient and anytime access from home, campus or library.
- E-resources can be accessed by the support of advanced search and retrieval system.
- The content can be reproduced, forwarded, modified and leading to problem with copyright protection and preserving authenticity.
- The electronic environment enables to library to integrate with other libraries and make use of their resources also.
- Those who have limited time to access to the libraries can effectively access to the libraries by dialing up process.
- The libraries provide access to very large amount of information resources.
- Libraries are focused on providing access to primary information.

4.Issues of E-Resources

- Licensing: E-Resources need the license from the published to the library for making use of it.
- IPR: E-Resources can be easily copied and forwarded to the another person so librarian should be alert about IPR(Intellectual Property Rights)
- Standards of metadata: There are standards for metadata description like MARC21 but the available e-resources in the market are not standardizing by MARC21.
- Low budget: Libraries are non-profit organization so they cannot purchase and afford the costly electronic resources.
- Skill manpower: to handle the electronic collection the proper skills are required among the staff but libraries are lacking of skill manpower.
- Lack of infrastructure: Electronic collection is supported by Information and communication Technology components.

5. Nature of E-Resources

These electronic resources could be of varied nature. Broadly, we could categorise them as follows:

- Primary Sources of Information: These include electronic conferences, electronic journals, electronic pre-prints and e-prints, electronic theses and dissertations, patents,standards, technical reports, project reports including status reports of current ongoing projects, news, software courseware, tutorials, manuals and the like.
- Databases, Data sets and other Collections: These include abstracting and indexing databases; digital collections comprising images, audio, video; scientific data sets comprising numeric, properties, structural databases; library catalogues; virtual libraries; museums and archives, etc.
- Electronic Books: Such as NetLibrary (http://www.netlibrary.com/); Ebrary (http://www.ebrary.com/), etc. Generally online book selling and print-on demand features also facilitated. For instance NetLibrary has entered into print-on-demand marketplace. Similarly Amazon.com (termed as the largest library — though not a library in true sense of the word) facilitates online book selling (http://www.amazon.com/)
- Reference Sources such as dictionaries; encyclopaedias; biographies; handbooks; thesauri and the like.
- Organisations and People: Information about organisations and people ranging from funding agencies to libraries; information centres; research institutes; and experts; directories of people of varied nature (scientists; archaeologists, etc.)
- Meta Resources: Resources that facilitate easier access to network based resources in a defined subject area and a plethora of such resources under various names

available on the Internet, such as subject gateways; virtual libraries; clearing house; pathfinders and the like.

References

1. Abbas Khan, A. A., Minhaj F. & Ayesha, S. (2007), E-resources: E-books and E-journals In E-Libraries: Problems and perspectives, Ed. by Ramiah, Sankara Reddy and Hemant Kumar. Allied, New Delhi.
2. Barman Badan,(2012), Library and Information Science: UGC NET guide , DVS Publishers, Guwahati. 125-126.
3. Bhat, Ishwar. (2009). Increasing the Discovery and use of e-resources in University Libraries. 7th International CALIBER-2009,
4. Ganski, Kate L. (2008). An Evaluation of the Accessibility of E-resources from Theological Library Websites. Theological Librarianship: An Online Journal of the American Theological Library Association, 1 (1). 38-45.
5. Girish Kumar H., Vasant R. & Praveen J.K., (2005), Use of electronic resources by research scholars in CFTRI, Mysore: A study. ILA Bulletin, 41(3), 16-20.
6. Gowda, Vasappa and Shivalingaiah, D. Training needs of researchers in the changing information environment: a case study of university libraries in Karnataka
7. Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition (2002). Retrieved on 15/7/2016 from www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2264
8. Dictionary, O. E. (2007). Oxford English dictionary online.