

# Digital Libraries' Sources and Services in Emerging Environment: A Study

Dr. G S Biradar  
Gulabarga University,  
P.G Centre, Raichur – 584133  
biradargs@gmail.com

**Abstract**— Library and information services are a key element in libraries since the ancient times. Their vital role is increasingly becoming a measure of the library's contribution to the transformation and development of a society and the nation at large. The use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) has caused a transformation in the users' perception from what is being hosted in the library to how and when services are rendered to fulfill their requests. Consequently, libraries are becoming less important for the material they collect or house. Instead, their importance is being measured in respect to the fulfillment of the users' requests. The movement of material from publishers and hosting them for "just in case" some users will need them is being replaced by delivering materials from publishers "just in time" to answer the user's needs. However, this transformation has brought a challenge in the field of library and information services of dealing with the ever-increasing complexity of information, differentiating useful information from misinformation, and upholding the rising needs expectations of the users. This paper will discuss the available technological opportunities that can be used by the library and information services in addressing such challenges.

**Index Terms**— Information Sources, library services, ICT, digital age, library transformation.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Today, there has been a shift in the role of libraries, from the clearing house of products and a service center for printed publications towards becoming an intermediary for traditional materials and for networked service based on digital information resources. Information resources come in various format- printed, audio, video multimedia and electronic. These resources may or may not be owned by the library. Some of these resources may be free and available to users directly, others are available only through libraries that have acquired them.

Libraries are expected to "add value" to the products and services. Adding value to information is part of the core and expertise of libraries. Value is added to information by facilitating access through indexing and bibliographic description, and through the creation of systems, which make information more logically organized and easier to find. Libraries themselves add value to the collection (both traditional and networked) by helping users navigate the universe of information through content development, instructions, search services, and reference assistance.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To reveal the present status of Resources in the libraries.
- To find out collection development policies of Resources adopted by the libraries and evaluate such policies and practices.
- To explore the current practices of selection and evaluation of Resources.
- To recommend practicable guidelines for improved collection development programme.
- To study the emerging new information environment that affects the collection development activities in libraries.
- To make an overview of the existing collection development policies and strategies and their application to Indian University library environment.

## III. THE DIGITAL AGE

We are in the digital age; the primary role of information in this age is in many digital cases. The primary means of sharing information is the digital network. With the digital technology, information in various formats- text, audio, video and electronic can be created, stored, organized, accessed and transmitted with relative ease, and in forms that we could not have thought of earlier.

The digital age has brought about many changes to libraries, some of these changes having been taking place before the introduction of the Internet in the mid 1990s. The 1980s and early 1990 saw much discussion in libraries on issues such as print versus electronic; "access versus ownership", "mediated versus unlimited online searching" and professional concerns not gradually widened to include electronic licensing and consortia collection development. Today the digital age has brought many aspects of library services. The card catalog has been replaced with OPAC in many libraries, users now search for information from their desktop; users download e-books on to their PDAs, full text retrieval of information sources is becoming common place and services are increasingly becoming personalized and pay as use.

## IV. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Many sources of information that are traditionally found in paper format are now also available digitally. You will therefore find e-books, e-journals and newspapers available online. Not everything is duplicated online so you will find you have to use a mixture of both.

In all areas of study, information empowers you by helping you to become knowledgeable about and understand issues that affect everyday life. Information gives you the power to make informed decisions.

*Information comes in different formats*



Fig.1. Information Sources

## V. INFORMATION SERVICES

Generally speaking library user services can be divided into two categories: library public user services and library technical user services. Library public user services refer to circulation, bibliographic instructions, distance learning, government documentation, reference and special collection. Library and information user services focuses on procedures and operations of maintaining, developing and supporting library collection and services behind the scene such as acquisition, cataloguing, classification, inter library loan, document delivery and serial systems.

In the 1990s, the Internet became the primary platform for libraries to build and deliver information resources, services and instructions. Lately library user information services, also called library user public service became evolving into two sections: traditional library user information services and electronic library user information services.



Figure.2. Information architecture for learning

In the digital age, the most common library user information services starts from the personal oral or written communications between librarians and library users: Traditional library user information services have the following major features:

- Face to face, this face-to-face personal communication includes eye contact, facial expression, oral communication, and written communication.
- Onsite, this includes, campus outreach coordination and collaboration, library tour, ready reference, user technical support and virtual reference
- Electronic library user services include the Internet and the worldwide web, computerized library catalogs, digital libraries, distance learning services, e-databases, government, instant message services, interlibrary loan and virtual references.

## VI. TECHNOLOGY TRENDS CHANGE IN LIBRARY SERVICES

Since the 1980 each new step in library automation has changed library services. In hindsight we can see a number of trends, among them: access from multiple locations, making more resources available; making information available in raw forms and diminishment in the role of intermediaries. All these trends have been enabled by technological developments in the area of networking, file storage, and more graphic user interface) they have also been enabled by agreements on standards and protocols (such as Z39.50) that permit the linking together of resources from disparate sources.

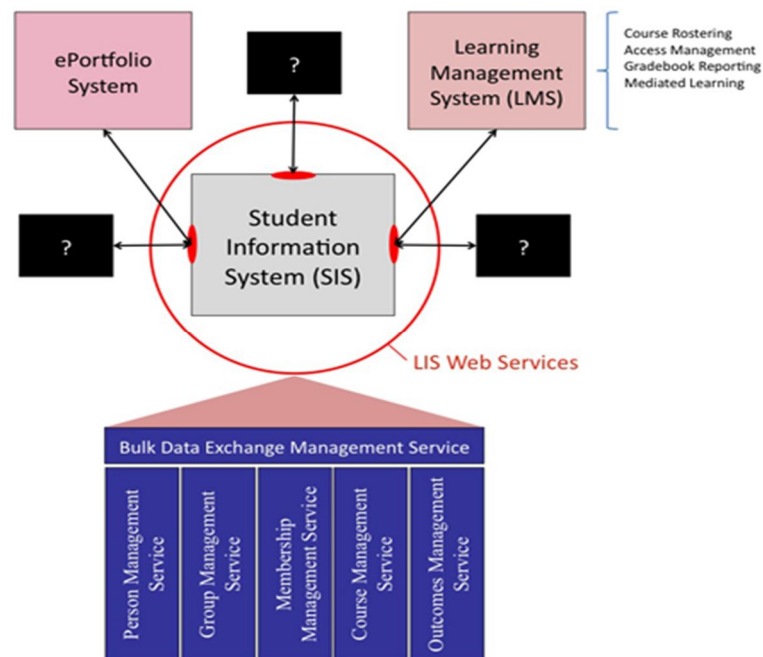


Fig. 3 Overview of Learning Information Services

## VII. CONCLUSION

Libraries are an integral part of the society that surrounds it. Librarians need to recognize the changes that have already taken place in libraries, and to be aware of the ways in which broader societal change are affecting Libraries. Many library functions are migrating to other environments (and because libraries are affected by the society around them) Librarians must resist the type of changes that threatens basic principles such as equal access to information and fair use. They need to realize the advantages of the mass delivery of library information services in the digital age. And they need to be concerned about issues such as pay per – use, privacy cultural diversity and the consolidation of electronic content owners and distribution.

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