

OPEN ACCESS E-RESOURCE COLLECTION IN THE INTERNET AGE

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ABSTRACT :

The proliferation of freely accessible online journals, the development of subject specific pre- and e-print archives and collections of learning objects provides a very valuable supplement of scientific knowledge to the existing types of published scientific information (books, journals, databases etc.). However these valuable collections are difficult to overview and integrate in the library and information services provided by libraries for their user constituency. Collection of such E-resources from open sources available on internet has been discussed in the paper. Importance of E-resources in library and information centre has also been enunciated.

Keywords : Collection development, Electronic Resources, Open and Free electronic resources

INTRODUCTION :

Libraries are important resources for individual as well as for communities and organizations. The goal of the Libraries is to provide an effective combination of print, non-print and electronic resources. It also integrates the use of these resources in support of teaching, learning and research at the Institution. Electronic resources, however, pose challenges not encountered with the acquisitions of traditional library materials, such as access, interface, technical support and licensing. The Libraries therefore need to formulate a separate Electronic Resources Collection Development Policy to address these issues. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines in choosing appropriate electronic resources and to establish consistency and priorities in managing this important part of the Libraries' collection.

Internet and World Wide Web resources are part of the challenge for modern libraries. How do we incorporate a vast, constantly changing, largely unstructured and unregulated conglomeration of information into our understanding of library services? Considering the extraordinary number and scope of Internet resources, and the exponential growth of the Internet and the Web, it can be difficult to find quality Internet resources and to structure access to them so that they can be easily

used by our patrons without requiring undo labor on the part of the library staff.

To say that keeping up with changes and new sites can be challenging is a huge understatement. Actual reviews of Web pages are getting hard to come but The Internet Library can provide useful links to Pathfinders that provide summaries and links to a wide range of possibly appropriate websites across a range of subjects and disciplines. In general pathfinders are research guides on the web with URL links and some organization and discussion of the resources to be found through the links. They are usually organized for a discipline or specific subject area. Individual libraries sometimes create such pathfinders for their patrons.

1. COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT :

Collections are developed by library through buying or otherwise acquiring materials over a period of time, based on assessment of the information needs of the library's users. In addition to ongoing materials acquisition, library collection development includes:

- the creation of policies to guide material selection
- replacement of worn or lost materials
- removal (weeding) of materials no longer needed in the collection
- planning for new collections or collection areas
- cooperative decision-making with other libraries or within library consortia

It is the process of planning and acquiring a balanced collection of library materials in any form and format and in all disciplines. The introduction of ICT had a wider impact on libraries. The attitude of user is changing rapidly. So the collections are flexible as per the changing trends and management policies of the institution.

A collection development policy is a written statement of library's intentions for building its collection. It describes the collection's strengths and weaknesses and provides guidelines for the staff. Producing one is a commitment; it takes time and careful consideration to develop a useful and relevant document.

A collection development policy should be a living document, adaptable to change and growth. It provides guidelines that can be modified as our library's collection needs change. This section discusses the importance of collection development policies, outlines the basic elements of these policies, and identifies the steps involved in writing a policy for your library. It should be noted, that as libraries put important policy and other documents on their websites, it is possible to link from one document to another without the need to duplicate information that once had to be included in more than one document. Use your common sense to determine when a section of the collection development policy might be excluded by linking to the same information in another official document also on the Web.

2. ONLINE ELECTRONIC RESOURCES :

Due to the emergence of Internet and Web technology, individuals, organizations and institutions are publishing their scholarly papers and publications on the Internet and the publishers are also changing their publication mode from print version to online electronic version. Vast resources are available on Internet which we can access in our library and information centers and provide the information to our users.

The types of the E-Resources are classified as formal as well as informal. The formal are indexing and abstracting databases, full text (aggregated) database, E-journals, E-books, Reference databases (directories, dictionaries, encyclopedia etc.) Numeric and statistical database. The informal channels are Blogs, E-mail, Discussion forum, News groups etc.

E-Resources are very important for library access and services to users because of multi-access, speed, functionality, content and storage capacity.

3 PROBLEMS OF LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES TO ACCESS

Though the Internet provides an open global networked environment for seamless publishing and access to information, yet, it is very difficult for small and medium sized libraries in India to procure and access these online sources, like, online e-journals, e-books, e-databases etc. due to their financial crunch. Moreover, some of the university libraries in India are not having sufficient fund to subscribe the core journals which are urgently necessary for research activities. In this situation the Library and Information professionals should take their own initiative to exploit the Internet for free available online resources. The place for exploitation of Internet by the Library and Information Centres are unlimited and endless. Internet provides a wealth of information to Library and Information Centres. It also provides free access to variety of information sources such as online e-books, e-journals both full text, abstracts and contents depending on the publisher's policy, e-newsletters and so on.

4 OPEN ACCESS ONLINE E-RESOURCES :

Online e-resources are referred to be free when access to the sources is not dependent on a subscription or membership in an organization or a publisher.

4.1 ELECTRONIC BOOKS

Following are the freely available online resources with their URL names.

4.1.1 Free Books (<http://www.e-book.com.au/freebooks.htm>): There are many books in the public domain available here to be accessed freely as well as some other books specified under certain conditions. Apart from the info about copy right laws of various countries has been provided over here.

4.1.2 Questia (<http://www.questia.com/>): It is the World's largest online library of Books that provides twenty four hour access to the world's largest online collection of books and journal articles in the humanities and social sciences.

4.1.3 Online Books Page (<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/news.html>) This is a website that provides access to books which are provided for easy reading over internet. The primary objective of this website is to encourage development of those types of online books for the benefit and edification of all people.

4.1.4 Read Easily (<http://www.readeasily.com/>): This free e-books online library is for everyone. This is an online library that provides opportunity to everyone to read and learn something over the course of life.

4.1.5 The Free Library (www.thefreelibrary.com/) : It is a collection of freely offered, full text versions of classic literary work as collected from hundreds of celebrated authors, biographies, images and famous quotations and that has been linked on to the site for the purpose of reading and learning.

4.1.6 Bibliomania(www.bibliomania.com/): It provides free online literature including 2000 classic texts.

4.1.7 The Electronic Text Center (www2.lib.virginia.edu/etext/index.html): It is also known by the name of "Etext" as it serves university communities teaching and research needs in the areas of humanities and text coding for over fifteen years.

4.1.8 Digital Book Index (www.digitalbookindex.org/about.htm): It provides links to more than 148,000 full-text digital books from more than 1800 commercial and non-commercial publishers, universities, and various private sites. More than 120,000 of these books, texts, and documents are available free.

4.1.9 eBooksread (www.ebooksread.com/): It offers nearly 250,000 free e-books! You can either download the books in either in PDF format or in plain text.

4.1.10 Classic Reader(www.classicreader.com/): At this free online library you can have thousands of free classic books and short stories for the purpose of online reading by authors ranging from Andy Adams to Emile Zola. Here book are divided into categories of fiction, nonfiction, young readers, poetry, short stories, drama and classical.

4.2 OPEN ACCESS ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

Budapest Open access initiative is to accelerate the progress in the international effort to make research articles in all academic fields freely available on the internet.

The web is a host to loads of free journals. A few of these links are given here:

4.2.1 Directory of Open access Journals (DOAJ) (www.doaj.org/): At the First Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication in Lund/Copenhagen (<http://www.lub.lu.se/ncsc2002>) the idea of

creating a comprehensive directory of Open Access Journals was discussed. The conclusion was that it would be a valuable service for the global research and education community. Open Society Institute (OSI) supported the initial project work. Available technologies make it possible to collect and organize these resources in a way that allow libraries worldwide to integrate these resources in existing services thus offering added value both for the service providers of these resources and for the global research and education community. The aim of the Directory of Open Access Journals was to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals thereby promoting their increased usage and impact. The Directory aims to be comprehensive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that use a quality control system to guarantee the content. In short a one stop shop for users to Open Access Journals. There are now 5952 journals in the directory. Currently 2503 journals are searchable at article level. As of today 493456 articles are included in the DOAJ service.

4.2.2 Open J-gate (www.openj-gate.com/) : Open J-Gate is an electronic gateway to global journal literature in open access domain. Launched in 2006, Open J-Gate is the contribution of Informatics (India) Ltd to promote OAI. Open J-Gate provides seamless access to millions of journal articles available online. Open J-Gate is also a database of journal literature, indexed from 8115 open access journals, with links to full text at Publisher sites.

4.2.3 Scholarly Electronic Journals (<http://www.library.msu.ac.th/arec/e-journal/nid.html>): This is a list of scholarly electronic journals available FREE on the Internet selected as per subjects. The Academic Resource Center Mahasarakham University, Thailand has compiled this list. Journals can be selected, subject wise or by alphabetically.

4.2.4 Scholarly E-journals (<http://info.lib.uh.edu/wj/webjour.htm>): The University of Houston Library maintains directories with links to online scholarly journals are available free.

4.2.5 Free Medical Journals Site (<http://www.freemedicaljournals.com/>) : The Free Medical Journals Site is dedicated to the promotion of free access to medical journals over the Internet. Created basically to promote the popularity of free journals on the web. The site also includes links to Medical Journals, whose archives are available free, trail period journals. It mentions that within the next three years, the most important medical journals will be available online, free and in full-text, else they will lose their popularity.

4.2.6 NISCAIR Online Free E-Resources (<http://nopr.niscair.res.in>)

We can access full text articles from research journals published by NISCAIR. Presently full text

facility is provided for all of the seventeen research journals including Annals of LIS, Indian Journal of Chemistry Section A and B, Engineering, Biology, Physics and IPR etc.

4.3 DATABASES :

4.3.1 Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org):

Wikipedia is a multilingual, web-based, free-content encyclopedia project based on an openly editable model. Wikipedia's articles provide links to guide the user to related pages with additional information. Wikipedia is written collaboratively by largely anonymous Internet volunteers who write without pay. Since its creation in 2001, Wikipedia has grown rapidly into one of the largest reference websites, attracting nearly 78 million visitors monthly as of January 2010. There are more than 91,000 active contributors working on more than 17,000,000 articles in more than 270 languages. As of today, there are 3,522,257 articles in English. Every day, hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world collectively make tens of thousands of edits and create thousands of new articles to augment the knowledge held by the Wikipedia encyclopedia.

4.3.2 ERIC DATABASE (<http://ericir.sys.edu/Eric>) :

This database is produced with Public funding by the U.S. Department of Education. Citations found in the database are, therefore, public domain and may be freely copied and redistributed. This includes posting citations on Web sites created by individuals or agencies. The Document citations represent papers, reports, government documents and other materials published outside the journal environment. The database provides both Simple and Advanced Search facilities.

4.3.3 INDIA CODE Text Base (<http://indiacode.nic.in/>) : This database is on Legislations in India. This Text Base consists of all the Central Acts of Parliament as on Date right from 1836 onwards. This includes all the Sections, Schedules, Short Title, Enactment Date and also very significant Foot-Notes in every act. It is very user friendly and easy accessible on internet.

4.4 ELECTRONIC THESIS AND DISSERTATIONS :

4.4.1 Vidyanidhi (<http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in>) :

Vidyanidhi is India's premier Digital library initiative to facilitate the creation, archiving and accessing of doctoral theses in India. Vidyanidhi is envisioned to evolve as a national repository and a consortium for e-theses through participation and partnership with universities, academic institutions and other stake holders. Vidyanidhi enhances access to Indian theses and enlarges the reach and audience for Indian doctoral research works. Vidyanidhi is a multilingual database, you can access kannada theses in Kannada and Hindi theses in Hindi. Currently it have 15,000 records in

Hindi and 600 records in Kannada It is having a 5480 titles of thesis of Pure science, Applied science, Humanities and Social science. More than 156 universities have submitted their Collections to vidyanidhi.

4.4.2 The Shodhganga@INFLIBNET (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/#>) :

The Shodhganga@INFLIBNET is set-up by using DSpace. The Shodhganga@INFLIBNET provides a platform for research students to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access. Nearly 1178 Thesis and dissertations have been collected till date. DSpace supports "Open Archives Initiative's Protocol for Metadata Harvesting" (OAI-PMH) and uses a qualified version of the Dublin Core schema.

4.4.3 Other ETDs

- MG University Theses (Nitya) (<http://www.mgutheses.org/>)
- ETD@IISc (<http://etd.ncsi.iisc.ernet.in/>)
- Dyuthi@CUSAT (<http://dyuthi.cusat.ac.in/xmlui>)
- ETDs@Pondicherry University (<http://210.212.229.234:8080/jspui/>)

4.5 OTHER FREE ONLINE RESOURCES :

Below is the list of some other free e-Resources which are available to all.

Title	URL
ABC Chemistry	http://www.abc.chemistry.bsu.by/current/fulltext.htm
African Index Medicus	http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/
Arab Portal for media and communic. studies	http://www.eifl.net/
Bioline International	http://www.bioline.org.br/
CiteSeer	http://citeseer.ist.psu.edu/
DLIST-Digital Library of Information Science and Technology	http://dlist.sir.arizona.edu/arizona/
Digital Book Index	http://www.digitalbookindex.org/about.htm
Digital Library of the Commons	http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/dlc/
E-LIS	http://eprints.rclis.org/
E-books directory	http://www.ebookdirectory.com/
EBSCO Green FILE	http://www.ebscohost.com/public/greenfile
Electronic Journal of Biotechnology	http://www.ejbiotechnology.info/
Environmental Health Perspectives	http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/home.action

Free Electronic Math Journals	www.stat.berkeley.edu/users/mathsurv/ejournals.html
Free Medical Journals	http://www.freemedicaljournals.com/
Free e-Books	http://www.free-ebooks.net/
FreeFullText.com	http://www.freefulltext.com/
Freebooks4doctors!	www.freebooks4doctors.com/
Global Health Library (GHL)	http://www.globalhealthlibrary.net/php/index.php
INDIACLEN	http://www.indiaclen.org/
INFOMINE	http://www.infomine.com/
INTUTE	http://www.intute.ac.uk/
Ibiblio	http://www.ibiblio.org/
Internet Archive	http://www.archive.org/
Internet Public Library	http://www.ipl.org/
Los Alamos ePrint Archive	http://arxiv.org/
Online Access to Research in the Environment	www.oaresciences.org/
Open Humanities Press	http://openhumanitiespress.org/
OpenLearn	http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/
PLOL, The Public Library of Law	www.plol.org/
Pandora, Australia's Web Archive	www.pandora.nla.gov.au
Project Gutenberg	http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page
Quantiki	http://www.quantiki.org/
Qwiki	http://www.qwiki.com/
RePEC	http://www.repec.org/
SIGNETS	http://www.signets.com/
The Electronic Journals Library	http://www.e-journals.org/
The Online Book Page	http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/
The Ptolemy project	http://ptolemy.eecs.berkeley.edu/
The World Bank Documents & Reports	www-wds.worldbank.org/
The new HighWire Press	http://highwire.stanford.edu/news/aspnet.dtl
TropIKA.net	http://www.tropika.net/
UNESCO Open Training Platform	http://opentraining.unesco-ci.org/cgi-bin/page.cgi?d=1

VIBES - International Business & Economic	http://library.uncc.edu/vibes/
WorldWideScience. org	http://worldwidescience.org/
arXiv.org	http://arxiv.org/
e! Science News	http://esciencenews.com/
e-Math for Africa	http://math.golonka.se/
freedocumentaries.org	http://freedocumentaries.org/

5. IMPACT ON COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT :

There is a huge amount of material freely available on internet and can be used to support library collection. It reduces the space requirements of the library. It reduces the financial crunch of the library, as there is no financial involvement to procure such freely available resources, except the nominal cost of internet connectivity and surfing. At the same time it reduces the cost of maintenance of resources. The users can access their required document and can download the same.

CONCLUSION :

Identifying appropriate websites as well as finding other free electronic resources requires the same skills as other collection development work. It needs individuals who are alert at all times to the possibility of finding good resources. It requires a true understanding of who our users are and what they want and need from us and it requires a degree of intellectual curiosity that makes finding the answer or the resource fun or at least interesting. Without curiosity and the concomitant spirit of exploration there is little chance of being able to successfully identifying the appropriate resources regardless of format.

Collection development represents the needs of the library functions, the library services and the communities of library users. So when we decide the collection development policy, we can never ignore e-resources which make information search fast, easy and useful for the user. Mutual exchange of information and resource sharing will be the objective of our professional ethics and it has to be nourished in future for growth and healthy development of our library and information centers. In this situation of limited factors like space, money, manpower and materials etc. there is a need for Inter library cooperation and resource sharing and along with that it is duty of the library and information professionals to find out, which of the sources are useful to their users and to integrate their resources and provide better service to the users. There is no doubt that this type of compilation of freely available online information sources will be more relevant and effective to save the space, time money and manpower of any Library and Information Centre.

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