

## IMPACT OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES ON EDUCATION: A STUDY CONDUCTED IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OF WEST BENGAL (INDIA)

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### Abstract

Libraries in colleges and universities today have to deal with problems that have been around for a long time as well as new problems. Because every university is moving into the digital age, the library's role and purpose are being changed in a big way. Only with the help of cutting-edge technology and well-trained librarians will libraries be able to properly deliver and present all information material that is accurate, relevant, interesting, up-to-date, and complete for end-users. People will expect that their information needs will be met in a timely and useful way in the future. If library users can get the resources they need quickly and right when they need them, they are more likely to be happy with the services their local library offers. Teachers, students, and researchers are some of the people who really value what a library has to offer. It is important to find out how college and university students in West Bengal think about and use digital libraries (India)

Keywords: Digital Library, Collage And University , West Bengal

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The term "Digital Library" can mean different things depending on the context and the person being talked about. In this Digital Library, kids can use their own laptops to get to a wide range of digital resources, such as books, databases, games, and educational materials. Books and other educational materials are among these resources. Some of the things that might be in web-accessible archives are data from Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and computer-aided design (CAD), satellite imagery, and video displays. A digital library is an example of something that could be in this group for someone who works in space research. The digital library gives the owner of a business access to a wealth of information that is useful for the application. This information is important because it includes huge market deals, stocks and offers, spending numbers, and other important facts. It is very easy to understand what is being said. A "digital library" is a collection of digital resources that can be shared and used by a group of people or a network. This gives people advantages that they can't get in a regular library. For interactive library use, words are used in many different ways, including to hint at activities that aren't directly linked, such as visual and auditory indexing, knowledge processing, knowledge collection, information extraction, online software stores, computer archive, mobile archive, picture files, digital backup, digital text, eBooks, publisher

repositories, electronic journals, and so on. There are also many other ways to use words.

Access and retrieval of digital content are the main goals of digital libraries, which were created by computer scientists, engineers, researchers, and others in the field to deal with these problems. Because of the work of others in the field, digital libraries were made to deal with these problems. The next paragraph will focus on the hard work of library and information professionals who work on the ground level, such as those who work on the collection, affiliation, and management parts of digital libraries.

The Stanford Digital Library does research on digital libraries that can be put into the following groups: When they say "such as planned gathering of services," they mean "bundle defined," which they define as "such as planned gathering of services, that depend on collections of materials, such of which that never be legitimately under the influence of the affiliation giving an assistance in which they assume a role."

It is possible to define a digital library as a "better approach to completing the elements of libraries," which includes "new types of data assets, new ways to handle characterization and listing, serious utilization of electronic frameworks and systems, and sensational moves in scholarly, authoritative, and electronic practices "according to what E.A. (Fox, 2015). (Fox, 2015). According to the definition provided by the 1994 IEEE GALA Workshop on Intelligence Access to Online Digital Libraries, "a digital library is a collection of digital registering, storage, and exchange hardware together with the content and programming required to replicate, imitate, and extend the services provided by conventional libraries reliant on paper and other material methods for gathering, classifying, finding, and disseminating information." A traditional library is one that uses paper and other physical tools to collect, sort, find, and share information. A full-service digital library has all the same parts as a traditional library and also takes advantage of the many benefits of digital document storage, research, and communication.

In the case of a pandemic, like COVID-19, physical access to a number of academic libraries at universities and colleges across the country is temporarily limited. All of West Bengal's different institutions teach and learn completely online. Each institution follows a different set of rules made by its parent institution and the University Grants Commission. As a direct result of this, college libraries are having trouble getting enough books and other resources to help students learn more outside of the classroom. Users can't always get their hands on the papers, so the user community is putting more emphasis on the need for an electronic version of the printed content (also known as e-resources). Every university library in West Bengal is working hard to keep up with the growing demand for digital resources by making their collections available on many different platforms. These platforms include email, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Telegram groups, as well as the university libraries' own websites, blogs, and YouTube channels, among many others. Still, even when everyone works together, it's hard to make everyone happy at the same time, and often the same steps have to be done over and over again. Also, many libraries face problems when they try to share information through the internet. This can be caused by things like not having enough space, not having enough time, money, or labors, not having enough hardware or software, and so on. Because of these problems, a central

database of electronic resources has been made to make up for them. This database has electronic books, electronic contents, audio/video lectures, and other relevant topics. They are all organized according to the Common Book and Content Standard (CBCS) curriculum, which is followed by different undergraduate colleges in West Bengal that are connected to different universities.

Digital libraries are quickly becoming the norm at colleges and universities since they combine technology and information resources to allow remote access to educational content, breaking down the physical barriers. But this is not the only benefit: here are 5 good reasons why teachers and parents should invite children and young learners to use digital libraries.

## **2. THE DEFINITION OF A DIGITAL LIBRARY**

Before we talk about the five most important benefits of digital libraries, let's try to figure out what we mean when we say "digital libraries." A "digital library" is a collection of documents that can be read online or on a CD-ROM. These documents can be things like magazine articles, books, papers, photos, sounds, and videos, but they don't have to be. A collection of these kinds of documents is called a "digital library." One of the best things about online digital libraries compared to CD-ROM collections is that they can be updated regularly. A large numbers of schools and colleges have already started digitising their libraries and other print resources. Some of the data is available online in HTML format, while others can be downloaded in PDF format and printed as needed.

### **a. There are more options to choose from.**

Because of the way these libraries are set up, people who use them have access to almost an infinite number of resources and possible research topics. The size of a typical library is greatly affected by the number of books that must be kept on hand and the fact that customers must physically move through the building to find the information they want. Digital libraries, which are made possible by the Internet and cloud storage, can help get around this problem. Students will have a better time learning because of this. They have access to a lot of information and can quickly share what they know with others.

### **b. As part of our efforts to leave a lasting legacy for future generations,**

The scientific community has a lot to gain from the rise of digital libraries, which store a lot of important research data, information, and findings. Since the beginning of time, there has been a big problem with the physical documents that correspond to scientific inquiries. Most of the time, these materials have been lost or destroyed. But now, with the help of digital libraries, we can store and collect online copies of these studies and researches to build a digital history of knowledge for future generations. This is good for the people who come after us.

### **c. Easy access to different kinds of educational content**

Users can get to digital libraries whenever they want, wherever they are, as long as they have a computer, tablet, or phone that is connected to the internet. Because of this, students no longer have to wait in line at their local library to check out books, photos, movies, and other educational materials. They can do it in a more formal setting, like a classroom, or in a more casual setting, like their own living room, and they will still have instant access to the information they need.

#### **d. The fight against quality going down**

Digital storage gets rid of the risk of quality loss, which is a problem for audio recordings and books in particular. Most of the time, a lot of students use the same audio cassette tapes and vinyl records in traditional libraries. Because of this, records and tapes tend to wear out rather quickly. When a lot of people touch a fragile photo or an old document, the chance of something going wrong goes up. Students now have access to much safer ways to review course materials, and they can do this an unlimited number of times thanks to digitization (mp3, digital photos, online textbooks, etc.).

#### **e. It is easier to get to data that has been saved in the past.**

Students can now do more in-depth research on a wider range of questions because digital libraries offer more and more advanced search options. These features, which include boolean and proximity operators, truncation, and many others, make it easier to get to information and data collections.

Advanced search tools like ranking and automatic keyword expansion make it possible for people of all skill levels to start searching digital libraries in a useful way. Because of these features, keywords can be automatically made longer. The fact that these search tools will get more complicated as digital collections get bigger is probably the most encouraging thing about this new trend.

## **2. DIGITAL LIBRARY STUDY**

1. A central information system for libraries, including cataloguing, acquisitions, circulation, serials, management files, and other services like interlibrary loans and more! At first, people didn't give machines nearly enough credit for how many things they could do. There was a time when bibliographic repositories were the only way to find information. But these days, most free online lists come with a lot of different ways to search. At one time, it was the job of knowledge processing systems to give links to articles and other documents that could be found on the internet.
2. The term "data processing systems" refers to a wide range of technologies, such as web-based directories, electronic databases, the Internet, CD-ROMs, and webpages. Information retrieval systems are made to do a certain job. For example, speech recognition software and handwritten indexes are two examples. In addition to electronic indexes, there are several buildings that store records on microfilm or in print
3. The World Wide Web (also called the Telecom Network Site) lets people connect to a number of computers and servers through its many links to other sites. With the help of

search engines, you can find a huge treasure trove of information that was once hidden. Any of the computers or servers could be a web search engine that points to datasets that have already been looked at. Even though it can't be found online, the directory is available on CD-ROMs that can be bought. There's a chance that businesses and libraries will want to trade CD-ROMs, for example. The CD-ROM has a search function and a tool for retrieving information, which makes it very easy to find specific information in the repository

4. The Internet is the biggest open network in the world, and a big reason for its success is that everyone uses the same set of rules for open frameworks. It makes it possible for different pieces of electronic equipment to talk to each other. It is a cheap way to talk that many countries can use.
5. People Who Make Information Available - The time is getting close when people will once again realise how important information producers are. Open systems are a great way for businesses to connect with the people who make up their customer base. To stay competitive and productive, individuals, businesses, and society as a whole must continue to rely more and more on the effectiveness and efficiency of information processing and the growth of knowledge. In the fast-changing digital world of today, data managers need to be able to quickly change their systems to meet the needs of new problems.
6. How the social, political, and technological parts of the information environment affect markets. One of the most important of these traits is that information is easy to get, and it doesn't matter where you are in the world. As a direct result of the market, there are also effects on politics and society.
7. People talk about the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" when they talk about how the information infrastructure of society is changing.
8. Even though there are many ways to communicate with technology and most people agree that teleconferencing and videoconferencing are good alternatives to face-to-face meetings, a man must have a big impact on how they react to the need to talk. It's possible that getting together with other people and holding meetings and conferences like the ones that have been used for the past 100 years will be replaced by something else in the near future. Most of us can relate to the relief that comes from knowing that this new age will start right away. At this point, we are just starting to understand the effects that data and information technology have had on our society as a whole and on the way we talk to each other.
9. The World's Economy - People can now organize themselves into nations no matter where they live because there are so many new ways for them to talk to each other. It encourages the growth of communities whose members share the same beliefs, goals, and ways of doing things. We think of everyone on Earth as a neighbor in the same global town that we all live in. As the world keeps getting more linked together, it's possible that a truly global economy will start to form. The growth of communication and computer technology has opened the door to a brand-new economic opportunity,

which is being pursued by a large number of skilled people from all over the world in this industry.

10. Possible Alternative Work Sources: At the start of the information age, a lot of people thought that automation would get rid of or make clerical jobs less important all over the world. Even in the middle of the information age, people still thought this way. People worried that as the internet and other computer technologies became more popular, more people would lose their jobs. Clearly, something like this has happened, even if just to a small degree. People from different parts of the world now have to compete with each other because of a change. But these new ways to automate are only useful for experts in their fields. This is because these new ways to automate have been made available.
11. Fear of violating the copyright of written, recorded, or visual works that took time, work, and money to create. One of a producer's goals should be to make money. In real life, it is hard to protect digital copies of content that is protected by intellectual property rights well enough. When digital works are claimed to be original, there are two main things that need to be looked at. Audio and video content from the past can be used by researchers today, along with Internet citations, to look into the present.
12. Some information must always be kept safe and secret. This includes, but is not limited to, information about financial transactions, sensitive economic information, and even national security. Also, our names and addresses could be in databases, along with other personal information about us. In addition to this, it is very important to keep private information, like medical records, secret.
13. Market standards are the norm set by forward-thinking companies and organizations or by developed countries, and others are expected to follow them. In any new technology, it is up to the leader to set the rules. As a result, the same network may face problems or problems between people.

### 3. LITERATURE SURVEY

Because digital libraries are available, their collections can go in new directions. Once information has been turned into a digital format and saved electronically to a digital medium, it can be used and reused in many different ways. They are easy to find when someone asks for data. You can use them to make multimedia applications. You can also use them to share resources in a networked environment and to publish electronically on the World Wide Web. (www). As long as the files, whether they are still images, video files, or audio files, are saved digitally on a web server, they can be accessed almost instantly from anywhere on the planet. This is true no matter what kind of file it is. Users can get information about their own country and the rest of the world right from their computers, thanks to the use of multimedia and the ease of navigation. Books, diaries, and other artifacts from archives just can't keep up with the latest technological advances in this world. Because of this need, digital information resources are becoming more and more important. lists some of the most important reasons to use a digital library: to manage large amounts of digital information; to preserve unique collections by digitizing them; to do searches that would be hard to do by hand; to protect the content owner's

information; to improve access to information; to deal with data from multiple locations; to improve the learning environment for people in different places; and to help people learn from each other.

#### **4. IMPACT OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES ON EDUCATION**

To put it another way, a library is a collection of materials that are well-organized and open to the public. These resources are spread out across the whole media landscape and even help to make society better (e. g., text, video, hyper media). There are three main ways in which libraries help their users learn and grow as a whole. First of all, they are useful because they help support educational programmers and meet the needs of teachers and students by combining limited financial, physical, and human resources. They make better use of the resources they have this way. Second, a big part of the cultural role that libraries play is collecting, organizing, and keeping records and information about the past. Third, libraries have both social and intellectual benefits because they make it easier for people to share information and give students and teachers a neutral place to meet up outside of the classroom. Because of this, people from many different backgrounds can share and learn from each other in a knowledge space that is bigger and more general than one that is defined by a specific field of study or affinity group. Digital libraries make it possible for interdisciplinary learning communities to have access to a lot of information resources that they wouldn't be able to get to otherwise because of their location. One of the best things about digital libraries is that they can bring together students from different backgrounds and with different levels of education. Digital libraries not only have more content than most people or schools have been able to buy and organize, but they also let you access that content in more file formats (e.g., multimedia, simulations). Students can take part in virtual activities like virtual field trips, virtual guest speakers, and access to unique materials when they have remote access in the classroom and at home. Because access to and the quality of information and communication are getting better [10], there is a chance that education will get better.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

Because of digital technology and the Internet, the way digital and written communication works has also changed. Because it brings people and written information together, the library is a great place that has helped reach that goal in a lot of different ways. Humans and all of these things have always been important and necessary parts of libraries, because the bibliothèques of the past only had tried-and-true methods and technology that could be used by people. We put a lot of value on the wisdom that is stored in libraries. The modern user is worried about how to handle a wide range of complex electronic forms that hold information in the best way possible. People are becoming more and more dependent on modern devices and constantly improving technologies because they make things easier and faster. Libraries will have to switch from traditional print collections to dynamic digital collections of multimedia documents to meet the information needs of their users and continue to exist and make money. This will help libraries meet their customers' information needs better. Putting together a digital library is a difficult and time-consuming process. It depends on a number of things, like what the organization's main goal is, how important it is to have up-to-date

information, and how easy it is to get to the infrastructure and resources needed for conversion.

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