

An Overview of Application of E-Resources as Strategies for Enhancing Effective Library Services in MP Indore Region College Libraries

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Abstract

Without properly utilising e-resources (electronic resources) and ICT facilities to its services, libraries today cannot expand. The introduction of new technologies has fundamentally altered how and in what context information professionals serve their clients. The most recent innovations in the ever-expanding technology era are digital libraries. E-resources are easily accessible outside of the library's borders. This essay focuses on the usage of e-resources as tactics to improve efficient library services. It also takes into account the advantages and difficulties of integrating e-resources with library services. By picking randomly through papers that were relevant to the investigation, the literature review methodology was used in the study. The study revealed that e-resource application is crucial to library services, and as such, As a result, every obstacle to its efficient utilization should be taken into account.

Keywords: Application; e-resources; strategy; library services; College library

1.0 Introduction

Any information source that can be accessed online is considered to be an electronic information resource (or e-resource). It is a structured collection of digital resources or their holdings that can be accessed by a computer on a network using the TCP/IP protocol or another protocol (Hungwa, & Ramatu 2013). Resources are gaining control over a sizable portion of the world's literature. Due to the necessity to act as a middleman for users and the profusion of information, the traditional reader advisor function of the library and its personnel has evolved. The staff of college libraries is learning how to adapt to the increased competition for resources. E-resources have supplanted print resources as an essential component of informational resources for students and researchers. Generally, There is little doubt that the era of print is giving way to the era of electronic information sources (Kelefa, Emmanuel, & Esther, 2017).

Libraries are rapidly accumulating reading materials including printed books and periodicals as well as setting up access to a variety of learning resources in electronic format due to the rapid development of electronic publication. In many spheres of human life, the digitization of information in print media has brought forth a whole new notion. The 21st century library and information services are rapidly evolving. It is now conceivable to imagine completely different methods of organizing the collections and services the library has traditionally offered due to the rapid advent and development of electronic information technologies. The College community has seen significant changes over the past few years as a result of the use of computers to information processing, which has led to the introduction of numerous goods and services. Both the growth of their collection and the organization of their services have undergone significant change in libraries recently. The rapid advancement of communication technologies has had a substantial impact on scholarly communication and information. E-resources including the internet, OPACs, and library catalogues effectively and efficiently meet information needs and retrieval needs.

CD-ROM.

Since research is the main function of college libraries, they must transition to digital e-resources for accessibility. Technology developments have altered how information is gathered, saved, retrieved, and communicated. The delivery of library services has also changed as a result. Books and journals have converted into electronic versions in libraries, which have become virtual libraries. Due to the ease with which remote locations can access e-resources, information is now more widely disseminated worldwide. Print sources are being digitised in order to promote and foster utility, and electronic resources have solved storage issues and controlled the flood of information (Jasper, et al 2016). The most current advancement in information technology, electronic information sources are among the most potent tools for promoting efficient library services. They observed that consumers find electronic resources appealing and use them more frequently than print sources. As a result, libraries are progressively making electronic information resources available through the use of the internet and other digital forms in order to meet the needs of their users. Library employees must adapt to the new environment for new responsibilities in information acquisition, preservation, and transfer with the use and use of e-resources in libraries. They must adapt to the expanding information demand. Beyond the usual library settings, new kinds of abilities, skills, and experiences are needed (Chimah & Nwokocha 2013). The number of institutions that

subscribe to e-resources has significantly increased thanks to a number of efforts, including those like JSTOR, AGORA, and HIRARI that attempt to make it easier for people to adapt to technological developments.

1.1 College Libraries.

Reitz (2004), cited in Emenike, et al. (2014), confirmed that college libraries are managed to satisfy the information and research demands of its students, teachers, and staff. These libraries are a crucial component of any college, university, or other postsecondary educational institution. A particular kind of library found in institutes of higher education is the college library. He continued by saying that the College library's primary goal is to serve the goals of its parent organization in the areas of learning, teaching, research, and services. The role of the college library is fundamentally changing from one of only giving access to scholarly literature to one of helping to create it. Due to the growing importance of user intermediation and aggregation in the face of information fulmination, the library's traditional reader adviser role has been revived (Neal, 2012). College libraries are characterised by ongoing transformation and innovative approaches to managing obligations and assuming new roles within the academic community. The sage at the desk mindset is being replaced by online interactions, planned consultations, and in certain cases, point-of-need tutorials as college libraries develop more varied and responsive service models. College libraries should improve their offerings and deliver high-quality education in the digital age by storing materials in a variety of formats and preserving convenient online accessibility for the College community.

2.0 Statement of the Problem

The development of ICTs has made it possible for people to access electronic resources and has changed how information is provided to consumers. The accessibility and use of a library's materials can be used to gauge how well a traditional or electronic library is. It makes no difference if a library has access to both physical and electronic information resources. While some college libraries are still struggling to wake up, others are working to keep up with the demands of the current digital era in developing nations like Nigeria and other African nations. Despite the substantial resources that are provided in some college libraries, it is found that customers are not fully utilizing them as a result of some factors inadequate quality of their offerings. Due to a shortage of funding, some libraries may not even have enough electronic resources.

Several studies in this field of study demonstrate that researchers, lecturers, and students use e-resources in college libraries in developing nations because college libraries are significant information sources, but none of the studies described how to use e-resources as a strategy to improve efficient library services in college libraries. Therefore, the application of e-resources as a strategy for improving efficient library services in College libraries to the library users in order to meet their informational and academic needs, the advantages of doing so, and the difficulties College libraries face in providing their services are the main topics of this paper.

3.0 Review of Related Literatures

The use of e-resources for library services in various libraries has been the subject of numerous research. Due to the rapid proliferation in information acquisition and dissemination, libraries have adopted new policies for transformation in their collection development and service structures to improve the management of academic material. Nirupma (2015). He pointed out that since research is the main function of university libraries, they must transition to digital resources, which are more convenient and less expensive. An essential component that contributed to the successful and efficient use of electronic resources is the awareness and calibre of the resources that were readily available. Talent and Kundai (2018) they recommended that universities hold awareness lectures on the advantages these facilities can bring to the students as they use them. were of the opinion that the traditional approach, in which a tutor was the only source of information, is quickly becoming obsolete as information continues to change in form. Justina, et al (2016) argued that as technology developed through time, libraries changed as well. Paperless libraries with the ability to store an infinite amount of knowledge in digital formats are replacing traditional libraries that once housed a lot of printed books. Although Africa is thought to be a late adopter of ICTs in education, they stated that digital libraries are gradually becoming a component of school systems in many African nations, and that the continent is making progress to reap the rewards of the ICT-driven education sector. Finding out the difficulties faced by students, who are the main benefactors of technology, is one of the steps.

Hungwa and Ramatu (2013) were of the opinion that libraries in the twenty-first century have evolved from their traditional role as a repository for information items into information hubs where ICTs are used to collect, process, store, retrieve, and disseminate information. With today's high-tech multi-sensory approach to learning, the emphasis on print materials or complete reliance on them is no longer appropriate because print assumes that everyone learns at the same rate and in the same way. As a result, print is insufficient. College libraries have experienced a tremendous amount of pressure to innovate due to the quick changes in the economic, political, social, and technological environments as well as the changes in higher education environments. As a result, they need to make adjustments to current services and develop new services. for addressing issues with managerial efficiencies and competitive advantages in a world that is always changing (Fu-Hsuan & Pao-Nuan 2016).

E-resources play an essential role in libraries by making it easier to deliver library services on a daily basis, assisting the user community in finding the non-print materials they need in libraries, and assisting them in advancing their college preparation by making the most information resources available. (Jasper et al 2016).

Chimah and Nwokocha (2013) Postgraduate students were motivated to use the electronic information resources (EIRs) in their university libraries because they believed that e-resources were more informative, had easy access and use, and also saved time, according to an empirical study on motivation, challenges, and strategies in the use of electronic information resources by postgraduate library users in South-east Nigerian federal universities.

In the Ghanaian context, Maxwell, Edward and Rosemary (2015) believed that there was a substantial positive correlation between user usage and the impact of electronic resources. The study suggested adopting aggressive marketing tactics to boost the use of electronic resources in Ghanaian college institutions.

The literature study revealed that a number of studies were conducted to examine the use of e-resources in library services, but none of them specifically focused on the use of e-resources as a strategy for promoting efficient library services. The current research closes this gap.

4.0 Application and Impact of e-resources in Indore Region College Libraries

Talent and Kundai (2018) characterised e-resources as collections of data in digital or electronic form that may be accessed in a form or version that is electronic, such as databases, e-books, e-journals, encyclopaedias, etc. They mentioned a few e-resource categories that could be used in library operations, such as:

- Online databases
- Institutional repositories
- Advanced search engines and
- Electronic past examination questions.

E-resources can be utilised in a variety of ways, including obtaining and subscribing to information, ordering publications, storing information, using electronic mail services, and buying information items.

The ability of e-resources to assist individuals and society in gaining greater access to information and concepts for the good of humanity constitutes their essential quality. E-resources have improved library and educational services by ensuring that current material is delivered quickly, effectively, and accurately. Vijayakumar and Sudhi (2011) pointed out that information technologies are required to be employed in library services for the collection, processing, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of recorded information and also that they should be applied in areas like:

- Library Automation
- Library Management
- Library Networking
- Audio-video Technology and
- Technical Communication

E-resources are changing both the library system and how we think about information resources. The development of e-resources to improve efficient services is intimately related to the future of libraries and information centres. Libraries are rapidly accumulating reading materials like printed books and periodicals as well as arranging for access to a variety of learning resources in electronic format due to the rapid development of electronic publication. (Anand, 2014).

Kelefa et al (2017) highlighted that the transition from the print to the electronic information age is obvious. They stated that a number of initiatives designed to expand the accessibility of e-resources, including African Journal Online (AJOL), International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), JSTOR, HIRARI, and AGORA, have significantly increased the number of African institutions subscribing to e-resources.

4.1 Benefits of Application of e-resources to College Library Services

Because of the quantity and quality of material they contain as well as the ease with which they may be accessed at any time, anywhere, e-resources are particularly helpful in today's libraries. When appropriate amenities, such reading tables, seats, book shelves, and ICTs, among others, are accessible, library information resources are used more effectively. The accessibility of facilities improved libraries' capacity to provide patrons with the services they require.

Three service categories can be found in libraries: front-line services, fundamental services, and ancillary services. The Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), the library website, and user education initiatives are among the front-line services. The primary services include the collections (both physical and electronic), printing and computer equipment, library book borrowing, and reference schedules. Auxiliary services include facilities for providing light reading materials and indicating routes inside the library. Libraries and information centres have chosen digital information resources over print ones for a variety of reasons, including the ease with which users can store and share information resources, the ability to provide quicker and easier access to information, the ability to save space, and the ability to retrieve information from various sources (Justina et al, 2016). They listed a few advantages that can result from integrating e-resources with library services, including:

- To increase productivity and provide better services to users
- To increase access to resources and facilitate new research
- To aid conservation/preservation and add value to the collection of the parent organization
- To support e-learning and online research
- To supplement traditional print resources and integrate multimedia libraries resources on a common platform
- To offer consistent access, give flexibility, provide enhanced capabilities for analysis and manipulation of information.

Anand (2014) also noted the following benefits of e-resources thus:

- Retrieval of e-resources is quicker than print resources
- Easy to search texts
- The collection available in electronic format can be of any media
- In electronic environment, the interaction between user and librarian is frequent
- E-resources search is easy because of its user friendly interface
- The electronic environment enables a library to integrate with other libraries and make use of their resources also

- Libraries provide access to very large amount of information resources

4.2 Challenges Associated with the Application of e-resources for library services

In some developing countries, there have been numerous issues that have made it difficult for people to use ICT-based library resources, including: a lack of availability and underuse of these resources in libraries, inadequate funding, insufficient ICT infrastructures, donor dependence, poor collections, and expensive postage and delivery fees (Ani et al, 2016). They made it clear that a lack of funding is the main issue. ICT infrastructure cannot be purchased without sufficient funds, and high-quality collections cannot be produced. The library can only make resources available and ensure proper application when funding are made available. We are aware of the difficulties in managing and preserving multimedia and dynamic information, which is increasingly integrated with services and dependent on software for efficient access and use. As we build the digital library of published and licenced content, digitised primary materials, open web resources, and institutional records, these issues are taken into account (Neal,2012). There are various difficulties in applying e-resources. The following issues and difficulties prevent effective use of e-resources:

- Slow internet connectivity
- Inability to access full text articles
- Unreliable power supply
- Inaccessibility of e-resources outside university premises due to IP address limitations
- Inadequate ICT infrastructure and
- Inadequate skills and knowledge (Kelefa et al 2017).

4.3 Strategies for Enhancing Effective Library Services

Modern technology significantly improves the process of creating an efficient information distribution system, which is a crucial part of university teaching and learning. In order to support academic and intellectual activity, libraries have been at the forefront of offering information resources and services to their respective communities of students, teachers, and researchers. College libraries' information resources ought to encourage inquiry-based learning and advance scholars' capacity for critical thought. (Bassey & Odu 2015).

It is impossible to overstate how important it is to incorporate e-resources into library services because it is one of the main ways to improve efficient library services in the twenty-first century. In this digital age, college libraries must plan how to provide effective and efficient library services. To do this, it is important to create a welcoming and comfortable environment for users in the library by making all required e-resources accessible and effectively utilising them. According to Echezona (2005), who was referenced by Ani et al. (2016), the availability and accessibility of library materials will be improved if the following factors are taken into account:

- Provision of online materials in electronic format
- Provision of both printed and electronic information resources
- Updating the skills of library staff to enable them to help users in meeting their informational needs
- Improving the funding of the library to enable it to purchase and maintain needed information technology, books, journal and audio-visual resources.

According to Jacobs (2013) cited by Bassey & Odu (2015), The availability of electronic/digital information, topic depositories, and digital contents is rapidly expanding as a result of ICT innovations. The adoption of ICTs has without a doubt changed the traditional role of College libraries and advanced the delivery of quick, high-quality services. These changes include the evolution of digital library services, online information access, automation of library operations, establishment of library networking, and resource sharing.

Conclusion

This study has offered fundamental insights into the use of e-resources as techniques to improve efficient library services in College libraries. By utilising appropriate e-resources in a suitable way, College libraries can improve many of their operations and services and build more new ones. Therefore, it can be said that e-resources significantly improve both the services provided by college libraries and those of any customer who wants to access a wide range of material in electronic formats. It is important to address the issues of lack of availability, difficulty accessing online materials, inadequate ICT infrastructure, and insufficient funding.

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