EMBRACING THE NEED OF PRINT LIBRARIES: A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THEIR IMPORTANCE OVER E-LIBRARIES

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Prefatory
In this digital age, the world is witnessing a revolutionary shift towards e-libraries, where vast amounts of knowledge and literature are readily accessible at our fingertips. The convenience and efficiency of e-libraries have undoubtedly made them popular. However, it is crucial to remember the unique and invaluable benefits that printed libraries provide. Printed libraries offer a tangible and sensory connection to knowledge that e-libraries cannot replicate. Printed libraries serve as guardians of cultural heritage, housing centuries of accumulated knowledge in the form of rare manuscripts, ancient texts, and historical documents. These repositories of human history carry with them the essence of their time, offering an irreplaceable insight into the evolution of society, language, and thought. Preserving such artifacts in printed form ensures their longevity and accessibility for generations to come, guarding against the potential hazards of technological obsolescence and data loss. Print libraries were the only repositories of information, which was primarily in print before the emergence of information and communication technology (ICT). New information packing made adjustments necessary, which ICT brought about.

In this article, we will delve into the multifaceted importance of printed libraries over e-libraries, exploring their benefits, preservation of cultural heritage, role in promoting serendipitous discoveries, technology independence, and the aesthetic and collectible appeal that makes them an indispensable part of our intellectual and cultural landscape.

Academic Libraries in the Digital Age
Any academic institution must have a strong library. It is anticipated to offer common information resources as a hub for instruction, study, and research. Academic libraries are currently fighting to maintain their position as the primary source of research in the face of developing digital technology. The packaging, processing, storing, and dissemination of information, as well as how consumers look for and access information, have all been transformed by digital technology. Any academic institution must have a strong library.1 It is anticipated to offer common information resources as a hub for instruction, study, and research. Academic libraries are currently fighting to maintain their position as the primary source of research in the face of developing digital technology.2 The packaging, processing, storing, and dissemination of information, as well as how consumers look for and access information, have all been transformed by digital technology.3 Academic libraries now focus on interdisciplinary concepts, computer software and hardware, and telecommunication engineering and technology instead of just providing print services like collection development, cataloguing and classification, circulation and reference services, current awareness, selective dissemination, and other bibliographic services. Academic libraries currently have to choose which books and journals to buy to please faculty and students as well as how to stay relevant in the digital age while taking into account tight finances and institutional officials’ dissatisfaction.

Cultural importance of Print Libraries
The ability of printed libraries to conserve cultural history is one of their most important accomplishments. Humanity has produced an enormous amount of literature, art, and knowledge throughout history, which has been captured in numerous printed works. Libraries contain centuries’ worth of accumulated knowledge, including historic literary works and antiquated manuscripts. These relics are protected from potential technical obsolescence and data loss through physical preservation, ensuring their longevity and accessibility for future generations. As the custodians of human history, printed libraries provide a glimpse into the past and help us comprehend how cultures, languages, and ideas have changed over time.4 Printed libraries help us keep a strong link to our cultural heritage and the advancement of human civilization by conserving and curating these historical documents. E-library cannot entirely match the unsurpassed tangible link to knowledge that printed books provide. One can develop a stronger connection to the content by holding a real book in their hands, feeling the pages' texture, and enjoying the satisfaction of flipping each page. This tactile interaction helps people grasp the material more deeply and appreciate the work that went into making the tangible artifact. Reading a printed book stimulates a variety of senses, enhancing immersion and enhancing recall. Additionally, academic libraries give people the chance to develop a deep and personal connection with their books. Many voracious readers establish personal

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1 Dr. Chinwe V. Anunobi, Library Philosophy and Practice 2008, The Role of Academic Libraries in Universal Access to Print and Electronic Resources in the Developing Countries
libraries, where the accumulation of real books becomes an extension of their identity symbolizing their hobbies, interests, and intellectual pursuits.

**Distraction-Free Environment**

Printed libraries provide a calm and distraction-free atmosphere for reading and learning, in contrast to electronic libraries, which frequently expose users to digital distractions. The physical distance from the digital world fosters an environment good for concentrated and reflective reading. The temptation to check notifications, use social media, or partake in other digital distractions is greatly diminished in a printed library, promoting a more in-depth and immersive reading experience. This distraction-free setting is especially beneficial for students, researchers, and scholars who need to focus intensely to fully comprehend complex material and develop novel ideas. Printed libraries provide a platform for anyone looking for intellectual development and quiet investigation of ideas in a world overrun with digital temptations. The feel of turning a physical page, the distinct aroma of aging books, and the sense of accomplishment as you peruse through the stacks are experiences that engage multiple senses and create a lasting impression. These sensory connections foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the texts, making reading a truly immersive and enriching experience.5

**Serendipitous Discoveries**

E-libraries undoubtedly excel in their efficiency in locating specific information, thanks to advanced search algorithms and extensive metadata. However, this very efficiency may inadvertently hinder the process of serendipitous discoveries – stumbling upon unexpected gems while meandering through the shelves of a printed library. In a printed library, the physical arrangement of books and the exploration of diverse sections allow for chance encounters with materials that users may not have actively sought out. This element of serendipity encourages intellectual curiosity, sparks creativity, and fosters a more well-rounded approach to learning. It is in these unplanned encounters that readers often make delightful discoveries, uncovering knowledge and perspectives they might have otherwise overlooked.

**Technology Independence of Print Libraries**

The tremendous independence from technical limitations displayed by printed libraries is impressive. They can operate efficiently without the aid of energy, internet access, or digital infrastructure. Even in the event of power outages, internet outages, or server disasters, printed libraries remain accessible due to their intrinsic resilience. Additionally, printed books are not afflicted by problems like device compatibility or software bugs that occasionally trouble e-libraries. With printed libraries, readers can feel secure knowing that their access to knowledge is independent of technological whims, providing a dependable and steadfast source for information and study. Beyond their informational value, printed books possess an intrinsic aesthetic appeal that digital counterparts cannot replicate. The artistry of book covers, the typography choices, and the craftsmanship of bookbinding contribute to the allure of printed libraries.6 A well-designed and visually appealing book can enhance the reading experience, evoking emotions and creating a more profound connection with the content. Furthermore, printed books hold a unique collectible value that appeals to bibliophiles and book enthusiasts. Owning a physical collection of books can be a source of pride and joy, with each book representing a journey of intellectual exploration and cultural significance. The act of building a personal library fosters a sense of identity and ownership, further strengthening the emotional bond between readers and their books.

**Materials online are not always Authenticated**

Studies have cited the growing reliance on Internet research by the public for widely ranging issues from health to current awareness.7 Data can be posted or changed by anybody with access to a computer and a Web server. It also means that anyone with access can change documents and spread incorrect information, acts that are not always visible to the user. This considerably increases accessibility and availability of information on an infinite range of topics. There is no assurance of the legitimacy of the poster or a document. Print items can also be destroyed or defaced, but in those cases, only the copy that the particular library has is harmed; the original text remains unaltered. With e-resources, the original document can be changed just as readily as any copy, without leaving any trace of when, who, or why the modification was done. When print materials are destroyed, a specific volume is removed from a collection; however, when an electronic resource is destroyed, the source document is corrupted, making it difficult for later generations to verify or retrieve the document.8

All websites, either it is free access or ones that charge users a fee, allow for the inclusion and deletion of information without the users’ permission. While this independence is crucial to keep information current, it also makes it easier to remove important documents without warning. Judges and lawmakers continue to face difficulties in addressing issues brought up by internet data, notably in the area of intellectual property law. They have the authority to change users’ present and future rights with regard to digital information. There are no universally acknowledged and applied standards for e-documents. Without standardization, users can access a variety of proprietary and open access formats that have been developed, maintained, and distributed. Lack of a standard will make switching to new formats difficult as technology advances and will also have an influence on accessibility.9

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8 Lila Guterman, Jan. 30, 2004. The Promise and Peril of “Open Access,” CHRON. HIGHER EDUC.,
9 Michelle M. Wu, 2005, Why Print and Electronic Resources Are Essential to the Academic Law Library
Conclusion

In conclusion, the enduring importance of printed libraries over e-libraries lies in their ability to offer a tangible connection to knowledge, preserve cultural heritage, create a distraction-free environment, promote serendipitous discoveries, demonstrate technology independence, and provide an aesthetic and collectible appeal. We all benefit much from libraries throughout our lives. Libraries give kids a highly healthy setting in which to learn, take notes, and finish assignments. The ambiance in the library is quite peaceful and orderly, which aids students in keeping good focus on their studies. Additionally, students can carry reference materials that will aid in the creation of great notes. Since reading is unquestionably a matter of personal preference, libraries are the only spaces where we are unrestricted by any social norms. Readers are free to read whatever they choose and to read the book however they see fit. They wouldn't be examined or disturbed by anyone. Students can learn more in less time since the environment is peaceful and everything is organized. As we navigate the digital age, it is essential to recognize the complementary roles of printed and electronic libraries, each contributing unique strengths to the pursuit of knowledge and intellectual growth. Embracing the significance of printed libraries ensures the preservation of cultural heritage and the enrichment of our lives, fostering a harmonious coexistence between the timeless wisdom of the past and the dynamic possibilities of the future.