

# E-Resources: Definition, Need and Types

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**Abstract:** The traditional functions of libraries had undergone various changes in present century and e-resources have great importance in libraries and amongst the library users, because in today's rapid changing world, information needs of learners and knowledge searchers are met through a plethora of sources. Developments in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have greatly changed the methods of information handling. New technologies have always been of interest for libraries both for the potential of increasing the quality of service and for improving efficiency of operations. This paper discusses the definition and types of E-resources.

**Keywords:** E-Resources, E-Books, E-Journals, E-database, Consortia.

## I. Introduction:

Libraries of all sizes and types are embracing digital collections, although most libraries will continue to offer both printing and digital collections for many years to come. New purchases and purchases of journals, magazines, and abstracting and indexing services are heavily weighted toward digital, while E-books are only beginning to become a presence in library collections for many reasons.

E-resources are those resources which include documents in electronic or e-format that can be accessed via Internet in digital library environment. E-resources are that electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text, image collection, other multimedia products like numerical, graphical mode for commercially available for library and information centers.

These may be delivered on CD-ROM, DVD, over the Internet and so on. Providing access to e-resources is a service to help library users to find e-Databases, e-Journals, e-magazines, e-Books/e-Audio/e-images, Data/GIS, Digital Library Projects, Electronic exhibitions, e-Subject Guide, e- Newsletters, e- Conferences proceedings and web search tools on a range of topic. Many of the e-resources are freely available to anyone over Internet access but some are commercial resources. ICT is one of the important buzzwords of today's world. It has changed the society into information society and is way of life.

The govt. has taken various steps to introduce facility in academic institutions for the benefit of research scholars. Because information resources especially journals are becoming very expensive due to their availability in electronic format. On the other hand libraries are facing financial crunch which has given rise to the birth of library cooperation / resource sharing. Due to rapid escalation in the cost of printed as well as e-resources it is even difficult for the best universities and research organizations in the world to afford expenses for all resources they require for their library users. Due to emergence of many local, regional, national and international resource sharing knowledge network initiatives throughout the world, the universities and institutions of higher learning institutions have stated optimally utilizing the resources amongst themselves via resource sharing over the network available under various consortia like INDEST, DELNET, UGC-INFONET and N-List Programme of MHRD / UGC (INFLIBNET) in India to have 24x7 access to the 6000+ e-journals, 3135000+ e-books, and database by the faculty and researchers working in the areas of higher studies and research.

## II. Definition of E-Resource:

An electronic resource is defined as a resource which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and so on. Over the past few years, a numbers of techniques and related standards have been developed which allow documents to be created and distributed in electronic form. Hence to cope with the present situation, librarians are shifting towards new media, namely electronic resources for their collection developments that the documents of users are better fulfilled. The e-resources on magnetic and optical media have a vast impact on the collections of University Libraries. These are more useful due to inherent capabilities for manipulation and searching, providing information access is cheaper to acquiring information resources, savings in storage and maintenance etc. and sometimes the electronic form is the only alternative. E-resources is that, "Information (usually a file) which can be stored in the form Electrical signal usually, but not necessary on a computer.

"E-Resources are the resources available in electronic form as E-Book, E-Journals, E-Newspaper, and bibliographic database, E-Images, E-Sound and music collection."

"The term E-Resources used to describe all of the information products that a library provides through a computer network. This includes electronic books, Journals, bibliographic database and library websites pages."

## III. Need of E-Resources:

E-Resources play a vital role in the field of library and information centers to provide better services and easy access to library. The few considerable points are mention below.

a. **Multi-access:**

The accessibility of information is made available 24x7 days. Multiple users can use the information at time with their terminals.

**b. Speed:**

E-Resources are quicker to browse or search, extract, integrate information into other material and to cross-search or reference between different publications.

**c. Functionality:**

E-Resource will allow the user to approach the publication by click of the mouse on search mode.

**d. Content:**

E-Resources can contain a vast amount of information, but more importantly the material can consist of mixed media i.e. images, video, audio, and animation which could not be replicated in print.

**e. Storage:**

The ability of store and retrieve large amounts of information.

#### IV. Types of E-Resources:

The e-resources are basically divided in two major types are:

**a. Online e-resources**, which may include:

- E-journal (Full text & bibliographic)
- E-books
- E- databases
- Web sites. etc.

**b. Other electronic resources** may include:

- CD ROM
- Diskettes
- Other portable computer databases. Etc.

“Barker suggested three types of documents used in E-Resources”

**i. Static E-Resources**

Static are the most basic type of E-Resources. They contain fixed information and never change their original form. e.g. Traditional online data.

**ii. Dynamic E-Resources**

Dynamic electronic resources beside contains fixed information, these are able to change their out ward form and the way embedded material is presented to users.

E.g. Multimedia CD-ROMS

**iii. Living E-Resources**

Living E-Resources are able to change both their form and their embedded information.

E.g. Information contain on the web.

**4.1 E-Database:**

An e-database is an organized collection of information, of a particular subject or multidisciplinary subject areas. The information of an e-database can be searched and retrieved electronically. Contents include journals articles, newspapers articles, books reviews and conference proceedings, etc. e-database usually updates on a daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly basis. Full text database contain the whole content of an article such as citation information, text, illustrations, diagrams and tables. Bibliographic database only contain citation information of an article, such as author name, journal title, publication date and page numbers.

**4.2 E-Journals:**

The journals available in electronic format. “A remote access electronic serial is a continuing resource that is accessed via computer networks; it provides easy access, keyword search ability, and accessibility just at publication time, independent of space and time access, interactivity and customization etc. EBSCO databases.

**4.3 E-Books:**

An electronic book is a text and image-based publication in digital form produced on published by and readable on computers, other digital devices. E-books are usually read on dedicated hardware devices known as e-readers or e-book devices. Personal computers and some cell phones can also be used to read e-books. E-books are preferred by the users for their features like portability, upgradeability, note making, citation, changeable font size, links to other relevant sites, searching etc. E-books can be transferred from library catalogue to user's e-book readers for a fixed loan period and after which it is automatically taken back. An e-book can be offered indefinitely without ever going “out of print”.

**4.4 E- Image:**

Due to adventure of E-Images facility image databases are used specifically in subjects such as history, geography, medical science etc. the libraries develop in house digital image collections and also provide access to selected external databases to their clientele.

**4.5 CD-ROM:**

Compact Disc Read Only Memory is a prepressed compact disc that contains data. Accessible to, but not writable by a computer for data storage and music playback.

**4.6 E-Newspapers:**

E-Newspaper resources provide access to collections of online newspapers, as well as selected individual titles within those collections. An online newspaper, also known as a web newspaper. The credibility and strong brand recognition of well-established newspapers, and the close relationships they have with advertisers, are also seen by many in the newspaper industry as strengthening their chances of survival.

#### 4.7 Consortia:

The consortia can play an important role in acquiring licenses and sharing electronic resources by as a platform for promoting activities and programs in the area of electronic resources sharing. A consortia is community two or more information agencies which have formally agreed to co-ordinate or consolidate certain function to achieve mutual objective.

#### 4.8 Internet:

Internet is a network of networks. It is the worldwide collection of multiple computer networks. Internet is a network of thousands of computer network. To accomplish exchange of information all the computers on the internet have to use a common set of rules for communications. It is a capable to transfer information across the geographical boundaries in an electronic format at a very fast speed.

#### 4.9 E-Zine

E-Zine means electronic magazine and it is also called Web-Zine. In this e-zine articles are stored a file server and can be distributed or accessed via internet for global search.

#### 4.10 E-Thesis and Dissertations

An E-Thesis and dissertations is an electronic document that explains the intellectual work of researcher. E-Thesis and Dissertations providing a technologically advanced medium for expressing ideas with less expensive and easy handling with high longevity.

### V. Advantages of E-Resources:

An E-Resource offers enormous benefits.

- a. E-publishing may be less costly than paper.
- b. E-resource available for 24 hours of a day and save library space.
- c. They provide users faster, more convenient and anytime access from home, campus or library.
- d. Online retrieval of information has become popular.
- e. The content can be reproduced, forwarded, modified and leading to problem with copyright protection and preserving authenticity.
- f. By e-resources subject can be searched across a range of titles.
- g. Those who have limited time to access to the libraries is that can effectively access to the libraries by dialing up process.

### VI. Conclusion:

Libraries of all sizes and types are embracing digital collections, although most libraries will continue to offer both print and digital collections for many years to come. An E-Resource is an electronic information resource that one can access on the web, on or off campus. E-publication is the use of computers to design, edit, and distributed material that traditionally would have been produced on printing press. E-publication represents that third stage of a computer-based publishing representing revolution. First came computerized typesetting, in which computers produced printed galleys of text. Second came desktop publishing. E-resources also fit within an emerging international political ethos. The advantages of relying on e-resources are undeniable.

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