E-Books: A New Trend of Collection in Academic Library

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ABSTRACT:

Academic library and Information centre are marching towards the paperless system in ICT era. Electronic publishing is a revolution in which processing, storage, retrieval, communication; transmission of information is easily possible. It is crystal clear that the use of e-resources is challenge for the academic libraries. To meet these challenges library professional have to put systematic endeavors in developing collection of the e-books. The collection of e-resources in academic libraries helps library staff, students & faculty in terms of accuracy, time, manpower and money to some extent. Though libraries have to face problems in terms of initial cost, limited local content, rapidly changing technology and insufficient trained human resources, academic libraries need to do lot more so that the technology benefit the students and initially the nation also.

Keywords:
ICT application, e-books, development policy for e-resources, selection criteria, licensing, Government view, librarian role, advantages of e-resources, strategic planning.

INTRODUCTION:

The library is the heart of every institute and collection of reading material is the centre point of the library. Library collection contain all types of reading material in print, audio, visual as well as e-resource form. To develop quality and quantity based balanced collection as per users demand, is the main motto of every library. The academic libraries needs to accept changes in education system, curriculum, teaching and learning methods, medium of instruction & examination, changes of publishing world due to ICT, financial realities and users demands. Libraries have to adopt changes in information forms as well as to more sophisticated users needs.(Prakash,2013). Electronic resources create revolutionary changes in Academic library.

ICT applications, tremendous growth in information and cut back in budget, increasing cost of reading material push today's library towards e-books collection. Huge explosion of publication, easily available information on internet create a problem for the user to search exact information he needed. The main challenges to procure e-resources are budget constraints, collection development, strategic planning, well trained technically skilled staff, ever changing versatile technology. (Maddaiah,2013). Network era and Information technology shift the demand of the users from collection based services to information and access based services i.e. e-resources. The significant increase in internet resources, online information & database, e-publications are found in academic libraries. Though many free books are available on the internet, the reader looks for the quality books from the best authors. Techno savvy users are more interested in e-books than the print books as it easy to access and search the information.

Harold libraries glossary defined Collection development as the "Processes of planning a stock acquisition programmed no simply to cater for immediate needs but to build a current & reliable collection over number of years to meet the objectives of the service."

In collection building activities of the libraries E-resources like e-journals, e-books, full text(aggregated) database, indexing & abstracting database, reference database, numerical & statistical database, e-audio/visual resources, open access resources represents as an increasingly important components. Increasing demands of an internet savvy users as well as availability of online & other forms of the digital resources remains a challenge to optimize the collection in the library.

E-book is an electronics copy of the printed book which can access and read by PC or PDA or Web. Users preferred e-books because of search ability, accessibility, availability, flexibility is easy in it and update information can be found through e-books. E-books save time, space & allow multi user access and virtual distribution of the information.

According to **Oxford Dictionary**, "E-book as an electronic version of the printed book which can be read on a computer or specifically designed handheld devices."
    "In 1945, Vannevar Bush for the 1st time mentioned about the concept of e-books in his seminal article 'As we think' published in the Atlantic Monthly" (Ramaiah,2012)

SPECIAL FEATURES OF E-RESOURCES:

There are different types of E-books i.e. e-books on internet, e-books on CD-ROMs, DVD, VCD form. E-books can be access through PC, Laptop & mobile phones too. PC access is affordable for common man as its prices are comparatively low than Laptop & mobile. E-resources have some unique features which differentiate them from the traditional resources. These are as follows:

1. High Compact storage
2. Ease of reproduction, multiplication and manipulation& transmutation etc.
3. Content can be very easily detached from its media or container.
4. Ease of migration of contents from one medium to another.
5. Hypertext & multimedia is the specialty of the e-resources.
6. Seamless integration of print & electronics resources.
7. Sophisticated and multipronged searches through keywords, free text, Boolean operators, lass numbers and natural languages processing.
8. Wall less leading to the vision of multimedia global virtual library(MGVL).
9. Convergence of technology, which is getting more powerful each day. (Maddaiah,2013)

The main e-book distribution channels are Amazon.com, publishers e-commerce sites, Barnes & Noble e-books store, Apple iBookstores Kobo, Borders, Sony e-books store etc." World flash Reader, ACE Reader, e-reader tablet increases the reading speed of electronics text. To read offline version of e-books, different e-books readers like Amazon kindle readers, Sony reader. Pocket books, Ectaco Jet Books etc. available in the market while online e-books library like Net library, Ebrary, Questia etc are offered by the publishers. E-cataloguer software is suitable for easily and quickly developing library database simply

using ISBN. The tool is limited to search locate and download MARC data of printed as well as e-books from LC only.(Joshi,2013)

TYPES OF E-BOOKS

Many types of e-books are mentioned by S.Kumar and Agarwal..et in its paper viz.

1. A print book issued or re-issued in e-format. It can be called e-hybrid book,
2. An e-only book which could just as easily have been issued in print format,
3. A book created through e-feedback and e-revision, but whose formally-issued version is in print format,
4. A print book with URLs directing readers to the web for supplementary material or material that completes the print version,
5. An e-only production that enhances text with images, audio, and video,
6. An e-only production that is primarily focused on images, audio, and video, with text enhancement,
7. An e-reference book with text, images, audio, and video, which is updated continuously, as warranted. It can also be considered as a series combines the excitement of latest information,
8. A web site that is the e-"u¨ ber"-text for an entire topic, gathering text, images, and audio on an ongoing basis,
9. e-book which is available only on Internet in digital form or it may be called on-line book,
10. An e-book available free on-line, and
11. An e-book available under communication common license, etc.
12. An e-invention yet to be imagined."(Kumar S.)

E-BOOK ACCESS MODELS:

Anuradha and Usha (2006) mentioned four models of e-books in their article based on format, content, access and device.

A. **Online access model via the web :** The reading of e-book is possible through web only. It allows to link with dictionaries and other cross references. But without internet connection its access is totally collapsed. Some examples of that are Net library(http://www.netlibrary.com),Ebrary(http://www.ebrary.com), Questia(http://www.questia.com) etc

B. **Offline access model:** It is possible to read downloaded books by using e-books readers on your own PC. The role of offline e-books software is very important to access these books. Amazon(www.amazon.com), ebookmall(www.ebookmalll.com) etc are e-book stores while Adobe reader in PDF format(www.adobe.com/product/ebookreader);

Microsoft reader in LIT format(www.microsoft.com/reader/download/default.asp); Hiebook reader in HI format(www.hiebook.com); Micropocket in PRC format (www.mobipocket.com) etc are e-book software reader available as free downloads from Net.

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NECESSITY OF COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR E-RESOURCES:

Library collection is a continuous growing element. So to manage, operate and to preserve, planning is very essential. Collection development of e-resources meets the information need of the users. For dissemination of e-resources, easy access and service are the necessary factors. Agreements for e-resources access should be strictly followed by the vendors & library too. The payment delay may cause for discontinuity of e-collection. For electronics format standard hardware, software are big issue as it going to be outdated after some time. According to Ellis Weinberger, 'The institution will need to determine the possibility and cost of preserving the object before obtaining it.'(Waydande, 2013) Collection development policy is necessary for academic library as it protect the all services like e-cataloguing, indexing as well as issues like copyright, licensing all are considered under the policy formation. For digital resources consideration of equipments to access and preserve, legal liability, access area, online security should be include in collection development policy. For expensive digital resources the group libraries can decide to form consortia for acquisition, selection & to access e- resources. To form fix strategic planning for the future development & growth of e-collection, policy formation & revision of it at regular and frequent interval is very essential.

The Indian readers are even today far away from e-books. As per the study of **Dr. Ramaiah(2012)** the main hurdle for using e-books are :
1. Prices of E-books, reading software devices are slight high which is unaffordable to common man.
2. Licensing issue of e-books while purchasing it.
3. User is unhappy with restriction of copying, printing and downloading.
4. Eye strain, headache, uncomfortable for long time reading at one sitting.
5. Problem of onscreen reading as the e-reader not eye-friendly.
6. Libraries are not update with current technologies and devices.
7. E-books of readers interest are very less in number available in the library.
8. E-books in science & technology. Computer science are large in number as compared to social science and other areas of language.
9. For quick update, reading device operation common users may have to depends on experts or need training.
10. Users feel most comfortable with print books as it has portable, flexible and readable as compared to e-books.
11. E-books can't read without power and reading devices.
12. Lack of electronics content in Indian language.
13. Unavailability of ICT tools in rural areas.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR E-RESOURCES USING BY IISER , PUNE LIBRARY ARE AS FOLLOWS :

1. **Availability of identical or similar resources**: To avoid duplication of e-resources, the already procured resources have to be check from the available collection. In addition to that free online e-resource also find out by the librarian.

2. **Relevance of E-resource:** Before purchase the e-resources the free trial access and its feedback from the users community have been considered to evaluate the product.

3. **Quality & coverage of the contents :** Quality of the content and authenticity of the publishers, coverage of the content have to be consider before selecting the e-resources.

4. **Perpetual access:** It is provision for electronics resources which is important exercise mainly useful for previously subscribed content.

5. **Archiving:** The permission from the publishers to preserve the collection of the libraries through LOCKSS become a part of the library archival. It is a solution which needs to be managed by libraries. To preserve today's web published material for tomorrow's readers.

6. **Cost:** There is no standard pricing model for e-resources. So the selection of the e-resources in limited budget is a skill of the subject experts. Cost benefit analysis of the selected resource should be calculated by the librarian.

7. **Licensing agreement** : It is a legal contract between publishers and subscribers. It has to be studied well by the librarian for the negotiation. The terms and conditions of the license should be beneficial to the users and organization.

8. **Infrastructure, search and retrieval facility :** The selected e-resources are compatible with the existing library hardware and software so that library can provide the cost beneficial access to its users. E-resources should be user friendly & easy to navigate with flexible search engine.

9. **Users Training** : Library can demand for training programme to its users for understand the subjects, contents coverage of e-resources, easy operating methods, copyright issues, searching methods , usage and other technical terms etc.

10. **Support Service:** Technical support from publishers/Service providers is very essential for smooth access of the e-resources. The authorized users must have access as per their convince by using IP authenticated protocol to access the licensed resources. Technical support from both side must be in good will of the users.

11. **Evaluation of collection:** The usage statistics provided by the publishers present the report of – number of users, number of resources accessed, downloaded etc. Publishers should agree to provide COUNTER/SUSHI complaint usage report. Usage report helps to form strategic planning for future development of e-resource collection considering the finance and usability ratio of it.

ADVANTAGES OF E-BOOKS:

1. E-books can be accessed anywhere anytime as per the users convince. Its create a virtual library for the users as its availability is 24x7.

2. By using password or lease line or through CD-ROM many users at a time access the same books from their desk.

3. Its saves the time of the users and space of the library. Physical maintenance is nil for the e-books.

4. Searching full text, reference linking, multimedia information facility, portability these are the main benefits of the e-books.
5. Cataloguing, Indexing, abstracting, classification and bibliographical statistics can be easily maintained for the e-books.
6. E-books can be resized by adjusting brightness font size, font style annotations and links even some e-publishers give the facility of note down the points below that page.
7. Compared to print books the ordering, retrieving and delivery is very fast for e-books.
8. Students can carry dozens to hundred of e-books at a time in CD Rom or pen drive or accessed through internet.
9. The author can publish his book without a publisher for niche market. He can receive the feedback from the users directly to improve the quality of the book.
10. Information on topic from many books can be find & filter out on a single search. For resource sharing the consortia of many reader is also possible for e-resource.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE E-BOOKS:

1. The user should be depends on the Hardware, software and internet for the access the e-books.
2. As the vendor of e-books provides full package of the particular selected title, there is limitation on reading material or there is no chose to readers.
3. License issue is most prominent for e-books distribution compared to print books, which affects the library services like ILL, resource sharing. Digital Rights is the main hurdle for accessing the e-books.
4. The overall estimate regarding hardware, software, internet connection etc increase the cost of the e-books. Though e-books are the user's choice, budget wise it's very difficult to librarian to procure e-books
5. The library should depend on technical person for any technical problems of the reading devices. It creates the dependence of the users.
6. The policy for continuing access, digital preservation and pricing standard should unavailable even today. So the reliability regarding e-books never developed so the librarian hesitates to recommend the e-books to his parent organization.
7. E-books save the paper but requirements of power supply to read it which is not recyclable.
8. Many publishers are not interested in conversion of their print material into e-resources which causes unavailability of the e material.
9. Software, hardware problems as well as virus issue may causes the damage of the e-books.
10. Authenticity, plagiarism these are very sensitive issue for the e resources.

CHANGING ROLE OF THE LIBRARIAN:

Traditional librarian was just a care taker for the reading material but for e-resources he must be evaluator, collector and distributor of information. Electronic media deal with independent

accessing without any ownership so the librarian has knowledge about: making available electronic form of print material, guidance through web OPAC, serve the users through internet or online facilities of referral of document delivery services. The library professional should have knowledge regarding internet, networking, computer technology, printing, scanning and downloading. He should be well familiar & comfortable with consortia & resource sharing concept. So that he can convince the parents' organization to participate in consortia of the e-resources. In short librarian must be information expert, well communicator, skilled technologist, good instructors, manager, negotiators, planners & evaluators. (Seena 2013)

COPYRIGHT ISSUE FOR E-RESOURCES:

In print era interlibrary loan, resource sharing, making copies for academic use have to be negotiated under the license agreements. The users are not answerable to publishers for the traditional library practice and operations. But in the digital environment the products is customized users have negotiation rights as they can browse, search, copy, download, print & save. (Patnaik, 2013)

"From users' perspective, libraries should seek to achieve from license agreements that permit browsing, saving, copying, emailing, printing and forwarding to peers outside the authorized site known often as scholarly sharing. In digital realm, it is important to sketch the border where licensing terms discontinue and copyright law commences"(Masango,2005)

Today, digital copyright protection control is very necessary as the copying, downloading of e-resources are very easy. Government should also take active part in formation of the copyright law and license issues at national level as well as international level.
1. Government should be discussed on the copyright issues with technology expert of different countries to minimise or stop the copying and piracy.
2. Develop the awareness about e-books and promote copyright laws in school, college & university.
3. Forms the laws against copying books and as well as concentrate to minimise the prices of the e-books.
4. Government of India stringent copyright laws and also enforce them strictly to protect the author's right and to avoid plagiarism.(Hombal,2012)

ICT effects on the overall library operations such as collection, processing, storage, dissemination, retrieving of information. The collection library collection mainly related to curriculum of various courses and its used by the students and faculty for updating their knowledge. So it must be advanced and current information related. So today's library even start to develop licensed electronics resources. The e-resources more prominently accessed by the academicians, students, teachers, researchers for purposeful information to complete course assignments, prepare for classroom discussion, seminars, workshops, conferences or to search references for research reports etc. 'The impact of e-resources on higher education community is already considerable and new ways of learning and teaching are likely to maintain the momentum for the foreseeable future. The role of print is still important but changing, and this needs to be the target of survey in the coming years.'(Kumar,2011)

The Government as well as supportive organization like UCG, AICTE come forward to develop the scenario of the library. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has formulated norms and policy for development of library collection. AICTE mandate some e-resources like e-books, e-journals with print material so that students and libraries should be ready to accept the new challenges of IT based society. UGC through the INFLIBNET centre, has successfully infused a new culture of electronic access among colleges, universities. UGC-INFONET digital library, INDEST AICTE consortia, DRDO E-journals consortia etc. provide the current literature to the users from all over the world in best possible prices. Library association including IFLA need to focus on continuing education on licensing & legal issues pertaining to e-books in library collection.(IFLA)

CONCLUSION:

Advance technology creates a number of challenges, problems and achievements in terms of e-resources procurement, dissemination of services and equipment arrangement for access the e-resources. E-books fulfill the need of the users in more extend but its challenges to librarian to build a hybrid library which balanced the both print and electronic resources. Transformation of print media to electronic and for that develop strategies is not so much easy for any library. E-resources are complex and information is immense, so keeping that information up to date librarian should change their attitude for developing the hybrid collection. They have to explore new strategies, make use of software created under open source and commercial licenses. Librarian should consider the budget limitation, cost of electronic set up for e-resources. The issues like preservation, licensing, archival, should be plan before procure e-resources. To develop the consortia for resource sharing organization will have to plan in advance. For proper collection development of e-resources the policy must be form. To stay relevant about information, library have to make use of new trends in technology like social networking, cloud computing, advance search engines so that they can pursue the best services & information to its users.

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