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Research Papers

Issues And Challenges Of Digital Libraries: In Modern Period

V. S. Gadagi
Librarian, Santosh Bhimrao Patil Collage of Arts and Science, Mandrup, Tal-S.Solapur,
Dist-Solapur (Maharashtra)

Abstract

Research and development in digital libraries are becoming operational systems and services. This paper study some of the challenges required for that evolution. Digital libraries as systems are converging with digital libraries as institutions, mainly as we believe the service aspects. Modern Period has seen several digital libraries development initiatives in India. The study reveals that most articles focus on developing digital libraries and digital collections except for a few studies on and digital libraries. No studies have touched upon issues such as information and digital library. They are enabling technologies for applications such as classroom instruction, information recovery, and electronic commerce. Interoperability and balancing continue to be major issues, but the problems are better understood. The role of information has institutions such as libraries and archives.

Keywords: Digital library, Digital collection, Digitization, issues and challenges

INTRODUCTION

Digital Library of India today has scanned over 289,000 books composed of approximately 105 million pages in the Indian and English languages. Digital representation and storage mechanisms is developed for Indian languages, and a large number of applications are being built to store, process, retrieve, and present the Indian language content. The Digital Library of India fosters a large number of research activities pertaining to language technologies for Indian languages, and acts as a test bed for developments made in areas such as text summarization, information retrieval, machine translation and transliteration, optical character recognition, handwriting recognition, and natural language parsing and morphological analyses. (Balakrishnan, N.) Considering that India has been a late entrant into the arena of digital library creation and also considering that the pace at which digital libraries are being created is less than desirable, it is evident that there are problems in digital library development in India. While many papers have cursorily discussed the problems, Jeevan and Dhawan (2002)

The recent advance in computer, storage and communication technologies are so stunning that it prompted. The idea of easy, fingertip access to information what we conceptualize as digital libraries today began with Vannenar Bush's Memex machine (Bush, 1945) and has continued to evolve with each advance in information technology. The issues and challenges in creating them, Moreover, what are the issues involved in creating a coordinated scheme of digital libraries, It has been suggested that digital libraries will only be viable within such a scheme (Chapman and Kenny, 1996). When computers were connected into large networks forming the Internet, the concept evolved again, and research turned to creating libraries of digital information that could be accessed by anyone from anywhere in the world.

With the arrival of computers, the concept centered on large bibliographic databases, the now familiar online retrieval and public access systems that are part of any contemporary library. Phrases like "virtual library," "electronic library," "library without walls" and, most recently, "digital library," all have been used interchangeably to describe this broad concept. This paper provides digital libraries and temporarily outlines each of these questions in turn.

CONCEPTS OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

There is much confusion surrounding this phrase, stemming from three factors. First, the library community has used several different phrases over the years to denote this concept-electronic library, virtual library, library without walls and it never was quite clear what each of these different phrases meant. "Digital library" is simply the most current and most widely accepted term and is used almost exclusively at conferences, online, and in the literature. Another factor adding to the confusion is that digital libraries are at the focal point of many different areas of research, and what constitutes a digital library differs depending upon the research community that is describing it (Nurnberg, et al, 1995)

Digital libraries are the digital face of traditional libraries that include both digital collections and traditional, fixed media collections. Therefore, they encompass both electronic and paper materials.

Digital libraries are including digital materials that exist outside the physical and administrative bounds of any one digital library.
Digital libraries are including all the processes and services that are the backbone and nervous system of libraries. However, such traditional processes, though forming the basis digital library work, will have to be revised and enhanced to accommodate the differences between new digital media and traditional fixed media.
Digital libraries ideally provide a coherent view of all of the information contained within a library, no matter its form or format.
Digital libraries will serve particular communities or constituencies, as traditional libraries do now, though those communities may be widely dispersed throughout the network.
Digital libraries will require both the skills of librarians and well as those of computer scientists to be viable.

As information sources are increasingly available in digital form, it is natural that any digital library would have different kinds of digital formats and sources. The various constituents that contribute to the making of a digital library at the central library, IIT Delhi, include, in addition to the network infrastructure, a variety of digital collections (Arora 2004). These include e-journals, in-house born digital collections such as theses, scanned books, CD-ROM databases, the library OPAC, and courseware.

DIGITIZATION

The digital library stores digital objects representing different types of information. Older collections are digitized through a conversion process where documents in paper format are converted to electronic format, i.e. analogue to digital conversion. Converting texts in different languages requires careful consideration of character sets. Unicode provides a standard scheme for world's languages. Chandrakar (2004) discusses Unicode and the related technologies available for localizing Indian language materials.

Gaur's (2003) entitled "Rethinking the Indian Digital Divide: The present state of digitization in Indian management libraries" focuses more on library automation and its facets rather than on digitization or digital libraries. The paper highlights the status of library automation in the Indian management institutes' libraries and there is only a passing mention of digital library initiatives by these libraries; in fact, the study found these initiatives dismal. Murthy (2005), however, shares the practical experience of digitization at the National Tuberculosis Institute, Bangalore.

CHALLENGES AND ISSUES FOR DIGITAL LIBRARIES:

It is that with the advancement in the ICT, the digital libraries are growing up. At one hand, they are providing us information just in a fraction of minutes: on they are posing many problems in front of us. The following are some of the major problems which have to be sorted out for further strengthening of digital libraries, Ghole A. (2011)

QUALITY PROBLEM:

How can we establish and control the currency the accuracy and integrity of information sources. This is a serious question in front of libraries and librarians.

INTEROPERABILITY:

Interoperability is the ability to store and retrieve material across diverse content collection administration independently. It brings an inter-relationship between information services related discipline like library management, knowledge management and e-commerce management.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS:

Managing intellectual property rights is another challenging problem that the digital libraries have to face. Libraries need flexible licenses that enable them to legally create archival collections and to transfer content to newer storage technologies for preservation.

PRIVACY:

\a related set of challenges for digital libraries in the ability or in some cases the requirement to protect digital contents from unauthorized access or from unauthorized or uncontrolled use of that content such as replicating and transmitting it to other.

HUMAN USE:

Usability has always been a difficult problem in networked software system. It is a key issue in the design and operations of globe scale networked digital libraries.

PRESERVATION PROBLEM:

As more and more of the activities in our lives are captured, represented and stored in digital form, the question of how we organize, manage, share and preserve these digital representations will become increasingly crucial.

INTERGRATION:

We are running parallel with many traditional libraries. In next coming 40 to 50 years, traditional libraries are not going to be abolished, they will survive.

CONCLUSION

Digital library development in India has been skewed. Most developments have been in S&T libraries. Even among these libraries, focus has been on developing digital libraries without focus on issues such as education and training, copyright, management and promotion (marketing). There is a need to amend copyright legislation to suit the electronic environment. Few institutions have taken initiatives to hold workshops on digital libraries and digital technologies. Other important areas on which Indian studies have been few or missing are digital rights management, digital library security,

content management, business, and pricing model and policy studies. At present, a pricing model does not exist in India. With several digital library initiatives reported, it will be useful to have a survey of the digital libraries in India to understand the present status of the digital library initiatives. This assumes importance because the few studies on Indian digital library initiatives are primarily based on information available on websites or from other published sources. A survey would help not only in understanding the present situation but will help in drawing up an action plan for focused digital library development in India. Further, use and user studies of digital libraries in India are lacking. This area is also of paramount importance for assessing the existing digital libraries and creating highly user-centric digital libraries in India.

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