A STUDY OF WEB BASED LIBRARY SERVICES IN EDUCATION

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Abstract

The present paper focused on the concept of Web Based Library Services with prime aims: (i) To Understand the concept of Web Based Library Services. (ii) To discuss the Use of Web-Based Library Services. (iii) To analyze the Characteristics of Web Based Library Services. (iv) To Know the Role of Librarian In Web Based Library Services. The emergence of the World Wide Web (WWW) and Internet as a new media of information storage and delivery provide an unparalleled media for delivery of information with greater speed and economy. The web technology and Internet has changed the way of information is stored, retrieved and communicated in the libraries. As more libraries move towards providing their services in a digital environment, the improved access to remote library collections is making the use of electronic information resources more realistic and more attractive. The paper explores what are web based services, why it is necessary and why it is so popular among users, with their advantages and disadvantages. Different web based resources have been highlighted. Future and conclusion have also discussed in the last.

Key word- Web Base, Library Services, Education

Introduction: The Due to the tremendous growth and continuous development of technology, the role of library becomes more responsive in making the users techno-savvy. Technological developments have affected not only the formats and sources of the information, but also how and where to provide library services. Libraries and their resources have partially moved to the virtual world of the Internet. As a result, library users can access the resources from outside the physical library. In an effort to reach users accessing the library via their computers, many libraries and library consortia are extending their services to include virtual reference. Technology now allows users to submit their queries to the library at any time from any place in the world. Web Based Services, Digital Library Services, Internet Library Services and Electronic Library Services are terms with similar meanings.

Objectives of the Study:

(i) To understand the concept of Web Based Library Services.

(ii) To discuss the Use of Web-Based Library Services.

(iii) To analyze the Characteristics of Web Based Library Services.

(iv) To Know the Role of Librarian In Web Based Library Services.

Web Based Library Service:

Library service on the internet requires many of the same qualities as traditional references: accuracy, promptness, courtesy, an understanding of the information need. It provides users with the convenience of accessing information in their own time, saving them traveling cost and time and new options for

answering reference questions. The provision of these services is not constrained by the traditional opening hours but can be offered on a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week basis known as 24/7. And while there may be a disadvantage in not having a face-to face encounter, there are many advantages to this new medium and the greatest advantage is that many more users can be helped by using electronic library services. Advantages and disadvantages of electronic access over printed form access are showed in Table 1. Web based services are established due to the following reasons.

➢ **OPAC:** OPAS's - On Line Public Access Catalogues, form an important part of many digital library's collections. It allows users to search for the bibliographic records contained within a library's collections. Now days, some OPAC also provide access to electronic resources and databases, in addition to the traditional bibliographic records.

➢ **Gateways:** A gateway is defined as a facility that allows easier access to network based resources in a given subject area. Gateways provide a simple search facility and a much-enhanced service through a resource database and indexes, which can be searched through a web based interface. Information provided by gateways is catalogued by hand. Gateways cover a wide range of subjects, through some areas, such as music and religious studies, currently lack subject gateways. Some well-known gateways are as follows:

➢ **Ask-A-Librarian:** Ask-A-Librarian services are Internet-based question and answer service that connects users with individuals who possess specialized subject knowledge and skill in conducting precision searches. Most "Ask-a-Librarians" services have a web-based question submission form or an e-mail address or both. Users are invited to submit their queries by using web forms or through e-mail. Once a query is read by a service, it is assigned to an individual expert for answering. An expert responds to the query with factual information and or a list of information resources. The response is either sent to the user's e-mail account or is posted on the web so that the user can access it after a certain period of time. Many services have informative web sites that include archives of questions and answers and a set of FAQs. Users are usually encouraged to browse archives and FAQs before submitting a question in case sufficient information already exists.

➢ **Subject Portal:** Web Search Engines had been developed initially by computer scientists, by borrowing techniques from information retrieval search such as best match searching and relevance ranking. Information professional are increasing bringing their skills to help organize the growing wealth of Internet resources. A good example of their influence is the development of subject-specific web search engines known as subject portals, where Evaluation of Material Covered Is A Major Concern.

Use of Web-Based Library Services:

The traditional methods of offering library and information services have changed greatly in recent years because of the development and application of new technology. The demands and expectations of users have also change considerably. In the changed scenario, more and more university libraries in India are exploring and offering new web-based library services such as Web OPAC, web search engines, web forms, etc. to satisfy the users. Table 4 presents the usage of different web-based library services by the respondents.

- ❖ **Portals:** In the library community, portals may be defined as an amalgamation of services to the users where the amalgamation is achieved through seamless integration of existing services by using binding agents such as customization and authentication services, search protocols such as Z39.50, loan protocols such as ISO10161, and e-commerce. The result is a personalized service which allows the individual to access the rich content of both print-based and electronic systems. Portals are either commercial or free web facilities that offer information services to a specific audience. The facilities include web search to communication to email to news etc. There are three kinds of portals; Consumer (or horizontal), Vertical and Enterprise.

- ❖ **Virtual Library Tour:** Virtual library tour guide to the physical facilities including collection, services and infrastructure available in the library. It is also designed to introduce the user to the service and collection of the library.

- ❖ **Web Portal:** It can be defined as a website for a specific audience that aggregate an array on content and provides and array of specific. They are designed to use distribute application, to provide services form a number of different sources.

- ❖ **Web Based User Education:** Web guides and teaching tools are found in the web because they are easily updated, accessed and printed on demand. They provided a high degree of interactivity and flexibility to the users. The library web sites can use a web based user education for imparting training to users in teaching the basic library skills along with the glossary of library terms.

Characteristic of Web Based Library Services –

- ❖ Provide Access to a very large information Collation
- ❖ Support multimedia content
- ❖ Network accessible
- ❖ Provide user friendly interface
- ❖ Unique referencing
- ❖ Enables 'links' representation to local/ external objects
- ❖ Support advised search and retrieval

❖ Supports traditional library mission of collection development, organization, access and preservation of information.

Role of Librarian in Web Based Library Services –

❖ Organize digital information

❖ Provide digital reference services and electronic information series

❖ Handle the task of massive digitization, digital storage process and digital preservation.

❖ Provide universal access and retrieval of digital content.

❖ Maintains the intranet and user access control

Obstacles in Accessing Web Based Services-

❖ Slow Interment connectivity

❖ Inadequate time

❖ Inadequate computer access

❖ Bandwidth Problem

❖ Interoperability in digital information services

❖ Lack of library orientation

❖ Lack of skilled professionals

Conclusion:

The standards for organizing web-based resources are still in the early stages of development, and librarians are forced to utilize standards for print resources that were not designed for electronic resources. Additionally web-based information resources are volatile in the sense that may be moved from one site to another or may be removed altogether from web. Web-based library services will become more widespread and sophisticated as the web becomes common place throughout the world, and to be successful players in the E-world. Libraries must continue to address the web design and implementation issues. As we actively transfer library services, our central purpose remain the same, to serve and teach users to find, evaluate, and use information effectively. The librarians should be expert to hold the hands of the users who are moving towards new communication paradigm a shift from face to face human contact to human machine interaction, from paper to electronic delivery, from text centered mode to multimedia and from physical presence to virtual presence. Despite these changes in communication technology, the reference interview will remain at the heart of the reference transaction. To meet these challenges the librarians may play a leadership role in providing better Web Based library Services facilities to their current techno savvy users.

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