

A Study on Collection Development of E-resources in College Libraries: Special Reference to Kolar District

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ABSTRACT

In the era of information explosion and rapid advancement of information technology, the e-resources are the only solution for the college libraries in the present context to meet the changing information needs of the user community. The present paper is focused on the different types of e-resources available for college community and its collection development, policies and procedures. The proper planning and a policy for the collection of e-resources is very much required for providing the right resources to right user at the right time in right format. In this paper an attempt is made to come out with a collection development model of e-resources for the college library. The proper planning of the collection development of e-resources from its selection, acquisition, organization, dissemination, preservation and also the various problems involved in the acquisition and management of e-resources are also discussed in this paper. This will be useful for the college libraries to develop its own model for collection development of e-resources keeping in mind its users and their specific requirements.

KEYWORDS: E-resources, Collection development, College library.

INTRODUCTION

The present electronic age has witnessed tremendous changes in the operation and management of libraries using Information Communication Technology (ICT). The e-resources are becoming an integral part of the modern life and of the educational prospect, especially in the higher education segment. The availability of huge quantity of scholarly, scientific and useful information in electronic format forced the libraries of all types and sizes to embrace e-resources. It is a challenge to the library professionals in identification, selection, collection development and management of e-resources. Although the traditional goals of achieving quality, relevance, fair price is still relevant to the collection development efforts and the decision about the attributes of these resources have become more ambiguous.

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What are e-resources?

E- Resources or “Electronic resources” refer to those materials that require computer access, whether through a personal computer, mainframe, or handheld mobile device. They may either be accessed remotely via the Internet or locally. Some of the most frequently encountered types are e-books, e-journals, e-magazines, e-audio/visual resources, Indexing and abstracting databases, Bibliographic database, Full-text databases, Reference databases, Numeric and statistical databases etc.

E-resources have some distinct features which differentiate them from traditional resources, like high compact storage, ease of reproduction, multiplication and manipulation, ease of migration of contents from one medium to another, ease of transmission, communication and storage, seamless integration of print and electronic resources, sophisticated and multipronged searches and convergence of technology etc.

Government First Grade College Library

A college is an “institute of higher learning”. A college would be incomplete without a good library. It is the “heart of the college and a treasure house of knowledge”. As the library forms an integral part of a college and its main objective is to support students, faculty and other stake holders with its vast collection of resources in teaching, learning and research activities. Therefore, the college library should be carefully planned, organized, managed and maintained by the trained and qualified personnel to provide information to support the academic programs and activities of the college. In the other words, the Library should form the hub of various academic activities of the college.

To keep pace with the fast changing modern time, the college library needs to be reorganized with latest infrastructure and facilities. The application of computers technology in information retrieval and storage is catching rapidly. In this regard, the college library cannot afford to lag behind. A well-organized information resource both in printed and electronic forms needs to be provided to academic communities in the college. The collection development of e-resources is an effective way of libraries to meet the growing and challenging information needs of the users in college libraries.

Collection Development

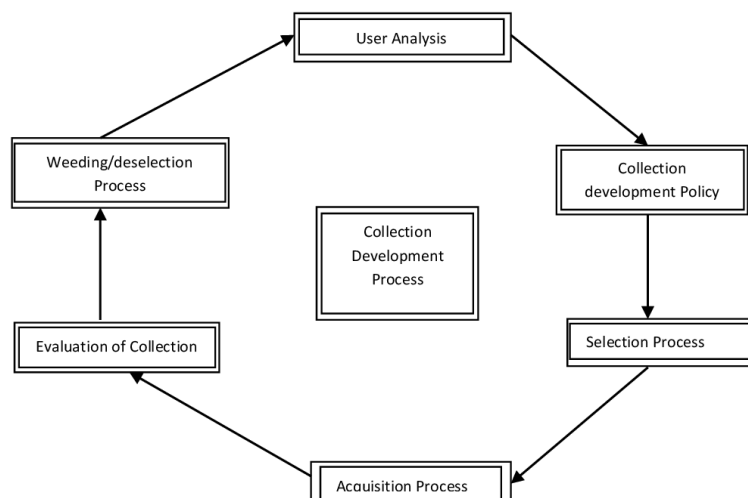
The Collection development is the selection, acquisition and processing of library materials in varied formats, meant for users' current needs and their future requirements. In other words, the collection development is the process of planning a stock acquisition programme not simple to cater for immediate needs but also to build a coherent and reliable collection over a number of years, to meet the objectives and functions of the college.

The e-resources collection development refers to the process of planning, selecting, acquiring a balanced collection of Library materials in a variety of electronic formats such as e-books, e journals, electronic media and online resources.

E-resources present a number of challenges not encountered with the selection and acquisition of traditional reading materials and it is advisable for the library to develop a clear policies and procedures for the selection, acquisition and management of such resources.

A MODEL FOR THE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT OF E-RESOURCES IN COLLEGE LIBRARY

The following model is proposed for the systematic collection development of e-resources for the college library.



TYPE OF E RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE LIBRARY

Below mentioned are some of the electronic resources which are useful for the users of the college library.

- **Electronic books:** The College Library should have access to a variety of electronic books in different subject, such as textbooks, monographs, essays, poems, literary criticism, historical documents etc, which are relevant to the course content and syllabus of the various courses conducted by the college.
- **Electronic Journals:** The college library should provide access to good number of scholarly e-Journals and e-journal database. Some important abstract database and full text database useful to the users can be subscribed. The library should also establish links to Indian and foreign journals, which they subscribe and also to those which are available for open access.
- **Reference Sources:** The dictionaries, almanacs, encyclopedias, and other reference sources are now available online in full-text for using in college library. So library should be providing required infrastructure to locate and access these resources through the Library website and its links.
- **Library Catalogs:** College libraries web sites should also provide access to its OPAC and also to the catalogues from other libraries. The library should also make an effort to establish links to national and international catalogue, so that the library users know about their documents from where they can access them.
- **Graphics and multimedia files etc.** which are useful and relevant to the users should be subscribed and made available to the users.
- **Duplicate Subscription:** Subscription of individual title, say for journals, is not permissible from the publishers and or aggregator end. Libraries are to purchase various resources as a bundle. There are possibilities of duplication while purchasing 'bundles' from different aggregators
- **Licensing:** Negotiation of the terms of licenses for of material is another essential consideration of collection of electronic resources
- **Postponement or cancellation of subscription:** Access to materials of licensed period after postponement of subscription is very important.
- **Performance:** Performance of electronic resources according to its intended service should be compared better at least to its print counterpart.

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- **Organization:** considerations of organizational issues and how to catalog e-resources is another most challenging issue.
- **Preservation:** The issue of preservation and long term access of electronic resources are still needs to be addressed.

SELECTION AND ACQUISITION OF E-RESOURCES IN COLLEGE LIBRARY

A good collection of documents and e -resources are the base for any good library to fulfill the growing needs of the users. In order to develop a good collection documents and e-resources, various types and in different forms of resources are to be procured to the library. Therefore, the librarian should know all types and forms of e-resources, their characteristics features and utility. The following principles which are developed originally for the selection of traditional documents to the library are also relevant and most important for the selection of electronic documents and should be given due credence in collection development e-resources of the college library. These principles guide the librarian in making a judicious choice of documents.

They are as follows:

- Drury's principle: It states that the right documents should be provided to the right reader at the right time. As per this principle, the reader is the central theme and the selector should know the users and their requirements. Accordingly, those e-resources, which caters to the informational, educational and recreational, needs of the users are to be given importance.
- Dewey's principle: Dewey states that the best reading for the largest number at least cost. According to this principle a library should select within financial resources available, the best e-resources, which may satisfy the information needs of the maximum number of users.
- Mc Colvin's principles states that the Documents are them selves are nothing. They have no meaning until they are made serviceable by demand. Demand means, the expressed and unexpressed information needs of the users. This principle advocates the selection of only those e-resources, which are demanded by the users for their informational and educational needs.
- Ranganathan's first three laws of library Science are also most helpful in formulating the principles of selection of e-resources for the college library.

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF E-RESOURCES TO COLLEGE LIBRARY

The collection development policy should provide clear guidance on the selection of e-resource. The following criteria should be followed while selecting e- resources for college library.

- Usefulness of the resources
- Appropriate to intellectual level, depth of coverage and quality of information for user population.
- Available financial resources
- Reputable, reliable, and authoritative producer.
- Information and updates are current, accurate and complete.
- Uniqueness of information.
- Consideration of all formats of e-resources
- Preferred method of access to e-resources
- The user friendliness, on screen help, tutorials and adhere to conventional user expectations.

- Cost Considerations like cost effectiveness, ability sustain, potential usage etc.
- Vendor considerations like responsive customer service, technical support, training programme, reputation of the vendor etc are to be considered.
- Technical considerations like the local customizations, compatibility with existing library hard ware and software, usage statistics etc.

ACCESSING E-RESOURCES IN COLLEGE LIBRARY

The college Library can provide its users with different ways of accessing the electronic resources, through the Integrated Library Management Systems (ILMS), a library developed Web site that includes listings of available e-resources, links to various open access and subscribed e-resources through library blog, Library web page, subject portals etc. Most of these systems perform authentication. The most common authentication methods currently supported by vendors and in use by libraries are IP based access; credential-based; referring URL, IP address filtering proxy servers provide remote access to e-resources only to remote users.

LIBRARY CONSORTIA

Library consortia are an association of a group of libraries to achieve mutually the common objective. The main objective of the library consortium is to provide access to qualitative electronic resources include full text and bibliographic database to academic institutions at lower rate of subscription and provide access to high quality and scholarly electronic resources to a large number of academic institutions including universities and college at most favorable terms and conditions.

In India many of library consortia are working successfully with the financial support of Government of India, Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD). Some important consortia exclusively for the college library users are following are listed below:

N-LIST: National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly content

The project entitled “National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly content” (N-LIST) being executed by the UGC-INFONET digital library consortium. The N- List project provides access to nearly 6000 scholarly e-journals, over 6,00,000 e-books and other e -resources to students, researchers and faculty members from the colleges and other beneficiary institutions. The authorized users from the member colleges can access to scholarly e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher’s website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre. This service is offered at very nominal cost of Rs. 5000/-per year as membership fees to the colleges those who accredited by NAAC and non accredited colleges have 35,400 rupees affiliated to the Indian universities.

INDEST: MHRD, GOI has setup the Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium. All the electronic resources being subscribed under this project are available directly from the publisher’s website. The participating college libraries are expected to have the basic facilities and minimum infrastructure to become the member of this consortium.

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CeRA (Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture): Indian Council of Agricultural Research developed CeRA consortium in the field of agriculture and related discipline. The agriculture universities and colleges can access to nearly 3300 scholarly e- journals through this network in the field of agriculture and related disciplines.

DELNET: DELNET has been established with the prime objective of promoting resources sharing among the libraries through the development of network of libraries. It aims to collect store and disseminate information besides offering computerized services to users from the member libraries. DELNET also provide access to e-resources to the users of member libraries at a nominal membership fees.

Evaluation of E- resources

Evaluation of e-resources is very important task in the collection development activity of e-resources in college library. The important criteria for evaluating electronic resources are Accuracy, Authority, Currency, Objectivity, and Coverage. Besides these factors some broad criteria for evaluation of e-resources are:

- The relevance, content and scope of resources.
- Authority of author or creator
- Quality of resources
- Comparability with related sources
- Cost consideration
- Search and retrieval facilities
- Appropriateness of formats.
- Software/ hardware/multimedia requirements etc.

Problems of e-resources

The major problems concerned with the collection development of e-resources in college library are:

- The problem of financial constraints for collection development
- The problems relating user environment
- The problem of user training
- The problem of digital divide
- The problem relating to Staff development approach.
- The problems related to technological up gradations
- The Complicated procurement and preservation system
- Lack IT skilled manpower
- Lack of User awareness and information literacy skills.

SUGGESTIONS

- The college librarians need to be more proactive in making decisions regarding e-resources collection.
- A detailed and systematic collection development policy is highly recommended for developing e-resources in college library.

- College students and faculty are to be engaged in the process collection development as they are the ultimate users of these resources. Based on their feedback further decisions can be taken for the continuation of e-resources.
- There is need to develop specific criteria for adding and canceling e-resource based on the usage statistics.
- Regular and continuous financial support from the parent organization.
- The college librarians need to identify the e-resources consortia relevant to their subject area and make use of the resources subscribed through these consortia.

CONCLUSION

Electronic resources are creating a revolution in the higher education sector. Though the electronic resources offer ease of use, multiple access, more rapid updating, cost effective, the librarians are finding it difficult to define issues related to policy of collection development and archiving of these electronic resources. The electronic resources require continuing monitoring to a far greater degree than print resources. No doubt, it is a challenge to the college librarians in identification, selection, acquisition and collection development of electronic resources, but the availability of well planned and meticulously prepared document will guide the librarians in all the stages of collection development of e-resources.

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