

Importance of Digitization of Library Resources

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Abstract

The implementation of digitalization as a preservation strategy has grown to become a phenomena on a global scale, and it is also the most popular approach these days to keep a library collection in good shape. particularly valuable ones among academic libraries. This is especially true for the case of academic libraries. This article provides an explanation of the methods and methodology involved in digitization, as well as a discussion of the reasons why digitization is necessary. The problems and difficulties associated with the digitalization process are also brought to light in this article. The project faces significant challenges, the most significant of which are the legal and financial aspects. Other variables are explored as well, along with potential solutions to the problems that have been identified. This article demonstrates that there are obstacles standing in the way of the digitization of academic libraries, and it draws to a close by stating that despite the fact that digitization is a challenge, information professionals and librarians still need to be equipped having the hands-on experience and the strategic foresight to put it into action in a way that is both regulated and controllable.

Keywords: Digitization, Academic libraries, Information, technology

INTRODUCTION

The phrases " "institutional repositories", "open archives," and "digital libraries" are all terms that refer to different types of and "other comparable services" are becoming increasingly popular in today's society. These services allow users to access digital information and knowledge resources for a variety of reasons. In this regard, the library has implemented a wide variety of cutting-edge technology in order to improve the quality of its services. One sort of digital content was originally created in an analogue format (such printed books or manuscripts, for example), and then It was changed over to its digital equivalent. The second kind of digital content is anything that was developed in a digital format itself. The second one is said to have been "born digital," which means that it was created first in a form that a machine is able to read digitally websites, and many forms of multimedia)

The act of transforming information from an analogue format to a digital version is referred to as "digitization," and it is used to refer to the process of digitizing various informational assets. This process can also be reversed. In this modern era of information, it is one of the most cutting-edge approaches to the management of information resources., which is characterized by the fact that information technology has contributed to making knowledge available to individuals even in the comfort of their own homes. Materials typically found in libraries, such as books, papers, and manuscripts that were received on July 13, 2013 and edited on September 27, 2013. Manuscripts, papers, and other types of writing are digitised and saved in various electronic formats. Using a scanning device (also known as a digitizer), After being scanned, The physical representations of things that can be seen, such as pictures or maps, are rendered in

their digital equivalents. The photographs may now be seen and modified "on a screen" thanks to this capability.

Digital institutional resources are incredibly beneficial to academic institutions. Some examples of these types of materials include theses, manuscripts, special monographs, research articles, and photos. Examples of such materials include theses and manuscripts. Cooperation, automation, and the development of digital libraries are the major forces that will determine the collective destiny of libraries as information suppliers to the academic community. All of these activities are being carried out with the goal of enhancing the provision of services in order to facilitate learning and research. Because of this, a substantial part of the collective fate of libraries as information providers to the academic community will be decided by this factor. The construction of a digital library, the promotion of collaborative efforts, and mechanization are our top three priorities.

Nevertheless, the vast collections of digitized cultural artifacts that are ever-expanding are making it possible to achieve "progress to deeper levels of comprehension in the humanities. Huge digital collections, sometimes housed in academic libraries, frequently include content from the scientific disciplines. An expanded audience will benefit from this effort since it will increase the availability of humanities-based research. This effort is driven by a desire to increase the reach of research in the humanities. As academic information systems became more widely used and accessible, a new field of study called digital humanities evolved. Libraries, especially academic libraries, are the primary sites of the widespread digitization activities that have made possible and expedited this new kind of research. This new way of asking questions has opened the floodgates to a plethora of data never previously available. This new method of investigation has opened up access to a wealth of data that was previously unavailable. This new method of investigation has opened up access to more types of data than ever before. This new method of investigation has opened up access to more types of data than ever before.

Reasons for Digitization

Some of the factors that led to the digitization of archives and records include Some of the factors that have contributed to the development of this issue include Factors that have contributed to the current state of the library industry include the proliferation of electronic information, shrinking budgets for the rising expense of maintaining analogue items, the demand for remote access to library holdings, the need for cooperation, partnership, and the pooling of resources, and the pursuit of these opportunities all contribute to the pressures on libraries to acquire more books and other materials.. A further element that has played a role is the ever-increasing expense of conserving analogue materials. This is a component that has played a role.

The preservation of library resources and the facilitation of quick access for any user or researcher are both primary goals of the digitization process. The process of digitising library resources makes them more accessible. When library collections are digitised, the information they contain will no longer be restricted to a select set of scholars but will instead be available to the general public. Users are able to conduct speedy and exhaustive searches for collections using digital projects, which are accessible from any location at any time. The process of digitization renders previously inaccessible data visible. There is no barrier preventing many users from accessing the same content at the same time. In addition to this, it eliminates the issue of travel time, since users are no longer required to go to physical libraries in order to get access to and make use of the library's collection of books and other printed materials.

This suggests that users would be able to access the digital library to see information at any time of the day or night, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. Materials that have been uploaded to the website will always be accessible to users, with the only exception of those that have been deleted by the administrator of the website. Materials from libraries, particularly older manuscripts, photographic pictures, Theses, musical recordings, and other types of media that are essentially historical in character and have significant value but are at danger of being lost in the future need to be preserved for use in the future. But the most significant challenges that academic libraries face are determining which types of resources should be digitized and how to scan those types of documents. The digitizing process was used for a variety of objectives. She emphasized that the sorts of materials chosen must be appropriate for the intended use, that the selection should improve access, that it should be based on substance, and that it should be preserved.

When deciding whether or not to digitize certain materials, the physical condition of those materials will be the primary consideration, After access to the resources, other aspects that need to be examined include “content value, material demand, intellectual property rights, necessary infrastructure, cost, and financing sources.

“The” capacity to conduct a search for a particular object through electronic means is one of the benefits brought about by digitization. It has been pointed out that conducting a speedy search on an electronic device, as opposed to browsing The ability to quickly discover the information you need in a publication, such as a book or newspaper, can be attained by consulting the table of contents. Researchers, students, and businesses all benefit from this time-saving benefit. This suggests that a significant number of people are able to view a single piece of while having simultaneous content. Not only does this help save time, but it also complies with The fourth law of library science is that one should "save the time of the reader," and it states that this should be done whenever possible. This law was developed by Ranganathan and may be found in a number of different places. The contribution of digitization enables a reduction in the amount of time spent processing and using sensitive papers, which in turn allows for more efficiency. Thesis papers written many decades ago, such as those created by the university's first graduates in 1964, and which have been continuously utilised for the last 45 years, the university's initial graduates in 1964, are examples of such papers. have turned into a brownish crumbly colour. This is because the papers have been exposed to light and humidity over the course of this time. Due to the fact that these priceless resources are getting older, less care is required for them, and an efficient backup system has been set up.

Academic libraries recognize the ongoing relevance pertaining to the library's learning and teaching resources, research and scholarly resources, documentation resources, and public accountability resources; as a result, they are digitizing assets so that users may access them more easily. The facilitation of access to these materials is another advantage that may be gained via digitalization. The following are some of the reasons why library resources are being digitized:

- To protect the ancient materials so that they can be used for a long time and remain significant and important for the years to come?
- Access to a preset collection of academic works that is both improved and made more convenient is one of the goals of this project, along with making new access and utilization possibilities feasible.
- The establishment of a centralized access point to the relevant material held by many organizations and pertaining to a specific topic

- Assistance with democratic concerns by increasing the number of people who may access public documents
- Improved search and retrieval capabilities for the many sorts of content found in libraries.
- To provide the organization with the chances necessary for the growth of its technological infrastructure as well as the skill capacity of its workforce

OBJECTIVES

1. To study digitization libraries.
2. To study preserve endanger library resources.

What are Digital Libraries?

A collection of digital papers or other digital things is what we refer to as a digital library. The majority of individuals in this day and age have a perception that is consistent with this description. A digital is described in this way, according to the definition. library is an organized collection of digital items that may contain text, photos, video, and audio files. Despite this, one way to think of a digital library is as an orderly and centralized collection of digital items. This is one method to conceptualize a digital library. These digital items can include text, photos, video, and audio. In spite of the fact that the document collection is the primary focus of this definition, the fact that digital libraries are much more than just a haphazard collection of digital objects is emphasized throughout. This is because digital libraries are not just a collection of digital objects in any old order. Conventional libraries are characterized by many features, including a defined community of users, targeted collections, long-term availability, and the opportunity to select, organize, preserve, and share materials. Digital libraries maintain all of these features, as well as a defined community of users. The digital libraries are sometimes considered to be institutions, despite the fact that this particular term is not even close to being as common as the one that came before it. The essence of this point of view is broken down into its component parts by the definition that is presented in the following paragraphs, which was supplied via the efforts of the Digital Library Federation (DLF).

Related Works

The process of transforming paper documents into digital format is referred to as digitization. These paper documents were not initially created in digital format. This process comprises selecting collections or materials, imaging or scanning those materials, transcribing those materials, producing markup and indexing, creating metadata, processing images, uploading those processed images to the internet, as well as storing and managing archival media (Gbaje 2017). It is the process of transforming information into digital code using technology based on computers, and it may be done with data in any form or on any support. Data can be digitised using any technology. According to one understanding of the word, this might included are "electronic snapshots taken of a scene or image," as well as "videos," "manuscripts," "printed texts," and "artworks scanned from paper" (Cornell University Library, 2014). It may alternatively be defined as "the procedure by which analogue information is transformed into a string of ones and zeros suitable for input into a binary code." This is another way of putting it. This interpretation of the term is more often used in order for it to be usable by computer." This interpretation of what it is also possible to understand it as (Hughes, 2014).

According to Ndor (2017), the process of transforming information into binary digits may be thought of as digitalization. It is the process of reducing a bigger piece of information, such as a book, sound recording, photograph, or video, into smaller pieces of information that are referred to as bits. Examples of this procedure include: The transition from traditional to electronic libraries demands this step more than any other does because bits are the most fundamental unit of information that can be stored in a computer.

The process of digitizing documents makes them accessible electronically and enhances both the distribution of information resources and collaborative access to them. The phrase "conversion of non – digital resources to digital form" is used while discussing digitization in the context of Africa (Tsebe, 2019).

The Reason Behind the Computerization of Library Materials

Academic libraries are now reacting to the international changes in the meaning of the word, which are occurring at a rapid pace. developments that are taking place by implementing digitalization, digital libraries, and institutional digital repositories in their many different institutions.

Due to the fact that The process of digitization, which is one of the most significant components of the present global information trends, has made its way into the world of library and information services. These services intend to enable the efficient transmission of information, the maintenance of informational resources and the promotion of the incorporation of library services into the educational process are the responsibilities of the library that takes place at academic institutions. It also makes the library's materials available electronically, which means that customers may use the digitised library resources from their workplaces or residence halls even when the library itself is closed. Also, the maximum number of individuals is able to obtain access to the maximum amount of content required at any one moment, which is a circumstance that is difficult to achieve with a text resource.

The pursuit of digitization is motivated mostly by the following three factors:

- i. There is an imperative to protect the endangered resources of the library.
- ii. An improvement in how efficiently the information search process works
- iii. The digitalization of library materials, which allows for greater access to such resources by the general public

The majority of libraries are currently digitising materials ancient manuscripts, research initiatives, Some examples of items that may not be lost in the future are camera photographs, analogue maps, non-live musical recordings, official gazettes published by governments, and a range of other historical records. Camera images are already available online. This will lessen the amount of wear and strain that is imposed on fragile things, and it will be accomplished by making high-quality digital unpagged available online. According to Pinnell Stephens's (2017) findings, Alaska is home to two oral history resources: United States were digitised to secure their preservation and to provide better access to the materials.

According to Liu (2014), libraries typically The libraries' collections of newspapers, artefacts, maps, coinage, music, children's literature, historical records, and photographs of cultural and international relevance should be digitised. Researchers from the general public will be able to see, read, and listen to the images, speeches, and documents that are included in such digital collections.

The procedures that are used to search for information at a normal library are both painfully slow and ineffective. making the classic library setup less than ideal. Because of this, users need to establish direct physical contact with library staff in order to access the items that are housed in these libraries. If these

libraries were to become digitalized, then patrons would have stress-free online access to the library's collection of books and other items.

The process of digitizing library resources makes them more accessible. Users are able to conduct speedy and exhaustive searches for collections using digital projects, which are accessible from any location at any time. Users are able to view the same content without interference even when they do so concurrently with one another. It also gets rid of the problem distance, given that users are no longer required to physically visit libraries that own physical copies of library items in order to obtain access to such materials and make use of them for the purposes of their research and other activities, purposes of learning, teaching, and research. This is made possible by the fact that those materials can now be accessed and used digitally. This removes a significant obstacle to using traditional library resources.

Greenstone Digital Library: Greenstone is a collection of applications that comes in a package. that is readily available and may be downloaded for free. It is used to construct and distribute digital library collections. It offers a fresh approach to the organization of information as well as a novel method for distributing it on CD-ROM or the internet. The Greenstone is a piece of software that is freely available to the public and is distributed under the General Public License of the GNU Project. In order to accomplish one of the key objectives of the platform, users of the system, and more precisely those working in it, when the ability to create digital libraries is extended to educational institutions, libraries, and other public service organizations. Powerful indexing from full-text and creation of indexes for various metadata, powerful search and browse, support for a wide range of file formats (HTML, PDF, DOC RTF, PPT, etc.), and extensibility by allowing customization and configuration are just some of the features of this software. All of these features can be found in the software. These features can be found in the software. All of these features are essential for a successful information management system. These features can be found in the software. Greenstone also enables the creation of multimedia that is not textual, such as music, video, and still images, which may be accompanied by a written description to facilitate searching and browsing.

CONCLUSION

It is essential for those who work in information to adapt in order to keep up with the ever-quickenening and unprecedented pace of change in the information landscape. The dissolving of traditional boundaries is one of the elements that make digital curatorial management one of the most challenging fields. Academic librarians are the gatekeepers of knowledge, and they must never allow themselves to become blind to the truth that one of their primary missions is to make a contribution to the creation of new information. and sharing existing information with others. In point of fact, librarians are not motivated to engage in the mass digitization of cultural objects by any new technology; rather, they are motivated to do so because of their dedication to providing service. The process of digitization is becoming increasingly significant in the 21st-century academic library system. The academic library community must pay special attention to the shifting information needs of humanities scholars and students as demand grows for the digitization of cultural research material. This is because the demand for digitising cultural research material is increasing. This is because user demand is growing for the digitization of cultural research material. This is due to the fact that the information requirements of humanities academics and students are always being refined and updated.

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