

Electronic Resources: An Overview

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Abstract: The purpose of this report is to provide an overview on Electronics resources. Electronic resources are the material available in digital format which can access electronically.

Keywords: electronic resources

1. Introduction

Information technology has change the world and act as important tools for retrieving information. Now a day, library collection is not limited to printed document but also have electronic documents. Electronic resources have become the vital part of human life in 21st century.

A. Uses of electronic resources

Electronic resources are very useful in changing habits of writers and readers. It also helpful in changing the pattern of serving the library users because now the libraries are using information and communication technology(S) such as bar code, e-commerce, e-journalistic due to globalization, there is entire change in the concept of library activities.

Majority of the print and electronic scholarly publishers and information disseminators increasingly act globally to produce e-information includes full text journals, books, patents technical reports thesis etc. of a particular publisher or a group of publishers.

B. Access to electronics resources

Electronic resources are more readily available to users as there is no need of purchase and delivery cycle. The prime step for electronic resources is that in internet connectivity for web based resources. The access is by user ID or password. Librarians will benefit from this quick and easy read, which demystifies the technologies used, features real-life scenarios, and explains how to competently employ authentication and access management.

C. Electronic resource funding

Most electronic resources, both multidisciplinary and subject-focused, are funded from the Library's acquisitions budget.

D. Electronic resource licensing

A copy of the licensing agreement should be kept for easy referral in the appropriate department e.g. Reference or Serials, with a duplicate copy retained by the University Librarian. The head of each library unit is responsible for the submission of

registration or warranty cards, and the maintenance of a file of documents pertaining to the resources purchased or licensed for use by the unit.

2. Types of electronic resources

The new information and communication technology helps to produce a large number of electronic resources. These electronic resources can be accessible at any place and at any time. These are described as:

- E-Journal
- E-Books
- E-Newspapers

A. Let's describe one by one each

- *E-Journal:* A periodical that is available in an electronic and computerized form known as electronic journals. Journals play a vital role in research and development activities. The physical and hard volume of journals are now replaced by electronic media available in CD ROMs, DVDs etc.
- *E-Books:* A book which is available in electronic format and which can be read using a computer or a special reader. It contains latest and updated information regarding various disciplines. It can Stored very easily and save the space of library.
- *E-Newspapers:* An Electronic newspaper is a self-contained, refreshable version of a traditional newspapers that acquires and hold all the information in the newspaper electronically. It is same version of printed newspaper which is available online for reading purpose.

3. Benefits For readers and scholars

The benefits of these connections with other libraries include: providing access to more sources of print and digital materials to support reading and inquiry learning. Offering support for whole families to improve reading and literacy skills, and confidence.

A. Electronic journal evaluation: basic criteria

When selecting e-journals, the following should be considered: Does access require the purchase and loading of special software, or the purchase of additional hardware like printers? Are the pages marked up to support text images and

links, or scanned to replicate the print version, or does more than one format co-exist?

Can the user download the full-text to disk or print it? Can the entire article be downloaded / printed, or only a single screen at a time? Does the e-journal have an index? Does it support full-text searching?

Does the e-journal have features which are not available in the equivalent print version e.g. interactive links or links from footnotes? Once access to the electronic version is provided will the equivalent print subscription be cancelled, and if so, will the access fee be affected?

What is the e-journal's archival capacity? Who is responsible for maintaining the archives? What guarantees are in place for the retrieval of back files?

Are there license agreements to be signed at the time of ordering? What mechanisms must be in place to prevent unauthorized use?

How is the subscription rate determined: by the number of simultaneous users, the number of access points, the number of passwords or IP addresses, enrolment, the maintenance of an equivalent print subscription?

B. Maintenance: as important factor

Among the important factors to consider will be frequency of updates, change of content, redesign, reassignment of responsibility. At that time a decision will be made whether to retain or remove our link to the site, and if the link is retained,

whether to revise the annotation in a Lib Guide. Visitors to the Electronic Library will be encouraged to comment on the E-Library's content and organization, and suggest sites for possible inclusion.

C. Problems of electronic resources

Electronic resources have some of disadvantages and problems like any others which are as follows. Subscriptions to materials in electronic forms are more expensive than subscription to materials in traditional form. A major drawback of electronic resources is comprehensiveness. Electronic resources do not generally date back as far as their printed counter parts.

4. Conclusion

The electronic resources now become an important parts of daily life. No body ready to going towards the printed format everybody wants electronic media to easy and handy access at anywhere and at any place. It provides useful information and assistance for academic librarians as they read and negotiate licenses with information providers.

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