Collection Development in the context of Library Networks

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Abstract

Collection Development (CD) involves the regular addition of information
sources in-print and in other forms and weeding out of outdated materials.
For developing a good collection, each library has to cooperate with
other libraries through Resource Sharing (RS), library cooperatives, etc.
The author discusses about the effects of CD-ROM, Networks, Resource
sharing, co-operatives etc. on CD and suggests that cooperative Collection
Development (CCD) provides benefits to users and information staff.
INTERNET, its facilities and types, its implementation in library service
are also discussed. INTERNET with its distinctive software and services
is trying to provide the right information to the right person at the right
time, through the right way.

Introduction

Collection Development (CD) is one of the most basic functions of
any type of library and information centres. It is the regular addition of
information sources in-print and in other forms and weeding out of
outdated materials. Without a regular up-to-date the collection of the
library will be a dead collection which adversely shall affect the
performance of a library to meet the patron's demands.

As the library materials are often very costly and not even convenient
to store and sometimes not easily available from even a national market;
the librarian/information manager has to wait for a longtime. No library
is self sufficient in its collection, however a sound budgetary provision it
may have, it has to cooperate with other library and information centres.
This can be done by Resource Sharing (RS), library co-operatives, etc.

CD includes some traditional procedures of selection, acquisition of
materials which are conventional printed forms but in the age of
information technology the other forms of materials are also of immense
value for a good library service.

Effect of CD-ROM

Most of the information are available on CD-ROM which is a standard storage medium based on ISO standards, its capacity is approximately 650 MB. For all types of subject abstract, index are available. So there is no need to subscribe to secondary documents. Through CD-NET any one can gain access to information from any remote corners. CD-NET also economises on a tremendous amount of space.

Effect of Networks on CD

CD is possible by retrieving files (text) via FTP on-line service technical data, union catalogue etc. of other libraries through networking.

The collection development is possible for optimum utilization through INTERNET only. By going through a suitable network from networking fair, we can develop collection very enthusiastically.

Impediments in CD (RS)

As information technology is enlightening the human society at every step of development for which a sound information system is badly needed to all kinds of professionals irrespective of age and place. CD is a continuous process where the panacea has been found in adopting the theory & practice of Resource Sharing (RS), which means full cooperation and sharing of human resources(staff), money, materials, methods, machines and all other constitute resources of a library.

Co-operatives

RS has always existed through inter library loan but library co-operatives or consortia are very useful to collection development in different geographic areas and it is a sign of integration at national, and international levels.

The Panhandle Library Access Network, Inc. (PLAN) is a multiple Library Consortium serving for many labraries in Florida, USA. The PLAN focused the activities in the following order.

Communication> delivery service> union list of serials> information retrieval> inter library loan.

The PLAN is connected with OCLC and other networks with an ILL code. April 1993, PLAN became the administering agent of State Library of Florida to create a new-long range plan for resource sharing and network development.

Four models are identified in library coopeatives :

a) *Bilateral exchange* : Materials are exchanged between two participating libraries.

b) *Multilateral pooling* : More than two libraries can contribute to and draw from a pool of materials.

c) *Dual service model* : Two or more participating libraries, take advantages of the facilities of one of the participants to produce a common output e. g. Union Catalogue.

d) *Service centres/facilitating particpants* : A number of libraries employ the service of a facilitating participants to input and process rather than to the end of a common out put.

Cooperative Collection Development (CCD) calls for sharing, acquisitions. CCD provides the benefits to users and information staff. CCD is helpful in connection with the factors :

1. Local users' demand can be easily satisfied.

2. Policies of Central Govt. with regards to future Public Library Service with special stress to electronic networking.

3. The UNESCO, Public Library Mainfesto 1995, identified some key missions like-

   - to ensure across the citizens to all sorts of community information.

   - provide adequate information service to local people.

   - facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills.

4. The scope for cooperation with other library service locally regionally, nationally & globally for the citizens is required through multimedia, CD-ROMs, computer-base-open of learning etc. A good cooperative should have a proper plan and stature committee with sound policy.

For sound CCD a plan is required which involves a number of aspects-

- regarding selection, evolution, acquisition, processing & utilisation of pooled funds. A plan will be fruitful if the decision is taken by the participating institutions/organisations very positively and involving their heads of the institutions.

Internet

In 1969 US Defence through their hi-fi research project used it on telephone lines, the ARPANET (Advance Research Agency) helped their use in this way. 1970s ARPA developed a set of rules called protocols, which helps in different networking.

Some of the serivces of Internet are :

1. E-mail provides a fast, cheap and convenient means of passing messages between individuals and groups.

2. FTP (File Transfer Protocols).

3. Gopher- Informations server. We can connect with a local campus-wide information system to other campus service (e.g. library OPAC) to do the other Internet Gopher.

4. Usenet (Electronic Conferencing), to communicate with people on the INTERNET is USENET, which is a global conferencing system.

Facilities

- Exchange of e-mail and engage in group discussion, exchange information and ideas (Usenet).

- Receive images (photographs).

- Automatically receive world wide information and events on various fields of knowledge, conference etc.

- On line real time interaction with other network users.

- Browsing of e-Jr. books, graphics, images and transfer the information to PC.

- Make use of computer facilities that are not accessible.

- Browse data of goods and services and make credit card purchases.

- Participate in distance education.

- Publish information for access by other Internet users.

- Share resources, share software.

- Navigating through it.

- Availability of public domain information and access tools. (e.g. Web browsers, HTML editors, Multimedia integration tent, image, audio video).

- Hypernet linking and navigatioin.

Types

Today thousands of networks are available worldwide, these can be identified basically as five types :

a) Research / academic - established normally with Government support, serves for national as well as international users e. g. BITNET (USA), JANET (UK).

b) Company - In house proprietary systems linking staff and machines, single or between branches and divisions of a company / organization.

c) Co-operative - Costs are supported by a group of individuals or institutions, e.g. Fido Net is a global network of ordinary Micro computers.

d) Commercial (for profit networks) - It is for large groups of users on a fee-paying basis, e.g. CompuServe on American Network with a global users base, which is added a range of UK-specific information to its services.

e) Meganetworks - It is the network of networks, encompassing any or all the above types.

Implementation in Library Service

Different libraries are using the network in different ways to fulfill their requirement of library and information service. Collection, collation and dissemination of information can be done though Internet. To get a good Network information searching:

- The librarian should have basic idea of Interent tools and services. (FTP, Gopher, E-mail, Web browsing).

- Information sources (e-Jr, Library catalogues etc.)

- Document formats (HTML, Images).

- Cataloging of net work resources is one of the part of OPAC (on line public access catalogue).

- A good searchable index WAIS (Wide Area Information Services).

- A continuous touch with new publication and conference etc.

- To provide good service a good understanding with HTML/SGML is required.

- The best use of E-mail and others services can provide SDI / CAS bulletins and new information in new database and up-to-date database.

- Printing others databases to the Web e.g. CDS / ISIS, CD ROM etc. can help a lot to libraries.

- Hosting any type of catalogue (national, regional, local) through network are helpful to libraries.

Conclusion

In the age of computer, the Internet is growing at a phenomenal pace, a network of computers with its distinctive software and services is trying to provide the right information to the right person at the right time, through the right way. Today the position of the librarian has shifted to information scientist through networking.

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