
IMPLICATIONS OF KNOWLEDGE PORTALS ON LIBRARY INFORMATION SERVICES

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Abstract

Knowledge Portals provide views on domain specific information the World Wide Web, thus facilitating their users to find relevant domain specific information. In this paper addresses the newly emerging paradigm of scientific knowledge distribution and collaboration. This is based on the particular area of knowledge collaboration in the libraries, academic areas, including knowledge sharing and technology transfer. The proposed views of the Knowledge Portal for the Library Information Services in virtual research, collaborative environments for other areas of knowledge sharing and collaboration. The paper describes about the existing technological solution of web sites, adapted by online communities of practice, for maintaining the knowledge portals in the Library Information Services.

Keywords : Knowledge Portals, Information services

1. Introduction

Most of the academics, library professionals and technology developers now subscribe to the view that a consensus definition of Knowledge Management is futile, but they will probably still give more information. This is the first trap that the organisations fall into, accepting someone else's definition of Knowledge Management principles.

The research has shown that Knowledge Management success begins with understanding the basic Knowledge Management belief of collaboration with the maintenance and learning, but these must quickly include an organisation's application of this belief in its own environment.

To succeed with Knowledge Management is a business needs to define it on its own terms, probably at a unit level but supported by an overarching business-level view, and with internal Knowledge Management definitions closely aligned to the business and unit's mission and strategies. The Knowledge Management futures shows the next two years there will be a great deal of academic activities in the Knowledge Management arena.

The term "portal" is evolved over time and became commonplace in the Information Technology. Portals started as applications, typically Web-based information services, providing a single point of access to distributed online information, such as documents resulting from a search, and links of web sites. The Knowledge Portal defines as a magical or technological doorway that connects two distant locations; it means web sites considered as an entry point to other web sites, often by being or providing access to a search engine of the web sites. From the Knowledge Portal may search for materials at other libraries, on the Web, and on third-party databases. Access to Knowledge Portal depends on the configuration of the library.

2. New Trends in Library and Information Services

In the present time, is the time of changing university libraries into Library Information Centres. Scholarly libraries have a very long tradition and experience. Nowadays, a lot of things are changing without precedent in the past times. At first we have the change from essentially paper-based materials to digital materials with different kinds of presentations like text oriented documents, multimedia documents with pictures, videos and audio files. Secondly, the workflow in a digital library is changing. That means that in the past the traditional way based on very long established experiences that started hundreds of years before. Today, it is a situation where there are nearly no standards. In a digital library we have nearly no pre-established, ever changing technologies. The whole life cycle within a library, starting with acquisition, exploitation, cataloguing, long-term preservation and retrieval, has nearly completely changed. The metadata and created the Dublin Core Metadata Set. Most of the libraries are using the Dublin Core for all the stored materials. There is no consistency in describing multimedia documents. In most cases there is no procedure to secure the authenticity and the integrity of the digital document. The beginning of the construction of the library without walls, is trying to change into the digitization.

3. Digitization

The most important component of a digitization is the digital collection of the documents it holds or has access. Viability and extent of usefulness of a digital library would depend upon the critical mass of digital collection it has. A digital library can have a wide range of resources. It may contain either paper-based conventional documents or information contained in computer process form. Information contents of a digital library, depending on the media type it contain, may include a combination of structured or unstructured text, numerical data, scanned images, graphics, audio and video recordings. Different types of resources need to be handled differently in digital library. The resources for a digital library categorized in four distinct categories, i.e., legacy, transition, new and future.

4. Knowledge Portal

The implementation of Portal technology in the Library and Information Services will be the first concrete step by many organisations to benefit from Knowledge Management. As with the implementation of core Knowledge Management Technologies, creating the right people environment will be critical. The Knowledge Management process will merge with traditional business processes, adding in intelligence to processes previously dumped down through process reengineering. Finally, the information resources rather than Knowledge Management technology will enable the utilisation of Knowledge Management principles.

The Library portal use of portal technology has equal with digital collection development and access. The portals are unified views into a set of disparate information sources and research tools, with the goal of providing users a simple way to locate and access all the information content they need and have authority to access. As libraries create to certify, or negotiate access to more and more digital content, the need for an accessible interface becomes increasingly important. Library portals typically include an online catalog of materials as well as gateways to collections of digital information resources accessible to the user. The search tools allow library users to search all of these sources simultaneously with a single query. Portals may include electronic reference services personalization features and other research tools. The enrich content, such as author biographies and book reviews, tables of contents, and jacket images can be provided to supplement the online catalog. Some libraries have built interactive features into their portals, allowing development of virtual communities. Portals also provide an excellent opportunity to capture use statistics.

5. The Knowledge Society

Knowledge societies have the characteristic that knowledge forms major component of any human activity. Economic, social, cultural, and all other human activities become dependent on a huge volume of knowledge and information. A knowledge society is one in which knowledge becomes major creative force.

Knowledge societies are not a new occurrence. For example, fishermen have long shared the knowledge of predicting the weather to their community and this knowledge gets added to the social capital of the community. At present the knowledge societies are with the current technologies, knowledge societies need not be constrained by geographic proximity. The current technology offers much more possibilities for sharing, archiving and retrieving knowledge. The knowledge has become the most important capital in the present age, and hence the success of any society lies in harnessing it.

6. Problems of Implication of Technology

The important reasons that prevented people from becoming active contributors in the knowledge portal were: (1) The relevancy of materials, due to the poor use of the rating and reaction functions, it may rely the need for different roles in a community of practice, the concept of legitimate peripheral learning. The experts may provide a better quality for engagement in the knowledge platform, both for experts and the less experienced users; (2) Social presence, related to the poor use of the communication tools, part of this problem may be understood as related to the usability design of community sites. However, the issues concerning the adoption of the platform seem more important.

The professional development doubts on return on invested time, and the users need to experience that they may benefit from contributing and using the knowledge platform portals. The knowledge platform would be self-explaining, but we overlooked the possibility that its use may involve changes in work practice. The training might help here. The possibilities of just-in-time intelligent retrieval mechanisms are helping the user to align the knowledge portal. Sometimes users are reluctant to discuss issues publicly on the Internet. The motivation to use communication tools because of availability of knowledgeable colleagues nearby. The lack of time to contribute actively, part of the motivation problem may have been caused to manage their documents and communication.

7. Conclusion

The information services on library online collaborative space that provides for knowledge sharing and collaboration within the virtual professional community of practice could potentially serve as a generic model for the design of virtual research environments. It plays an important role in the new methods of Knowledge Portals. The Knowledge Portals contains several features necessary for creating and sharing knowledge within the online community of practice. Such as the Repository of research resources, a Virtual laboratory that allows collaborative work by virtual teams, an e-Learning resource module that can empower and educate community members, most importantly, the Discussion Forum that allows information exchange within the community.

In this paper we emphasize the importance of Information Services through the Knowledge Portals considerations for virtual collaborative and knowledge sharing environments serving a community of practice. These essential requirements include providing a Discussion Forum and a Virtual Laboratory supported by a comprehensive range of value-added services, supplied by content experts. The Knowledge Portal to become a valuable tool for academicians, researchers and library professionals, which allows better utilisation of existing knowledge and new knowledge creation

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