
EXPLORATION OF RESEARCH POTENTIALITY THROUGH WEB BASED E-BOOKS

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Abstract

The features of e-book like model, market collections, developing operating guidelines and enhancing potential strategies, hardware, softwares, and standards need strong strategies, approaches and procedures to support and exchange of scholarly information for research potentiality. The development of e-books and e-publishing has challenged the traditional balance among publishers, authors, book sellers, libraries and information centers in a number of fundamental ways. The spiraling cost of publications including the non-availability of latest printed book, exploration of web technology, networks necessitated the cause of generating the ideas of e-books and more prominently when the publishers and authors found the web as the viable platform for business point of view including academic exploration to promulgate the e-books services through web. This paper throws light on the how the impact of e-books has geared to activate the research potentiality among researchers in the wake of advanced information and communication technology.

Keywords : E-Book; Open Access

1. Introduction

Emergence of Computer Technology coupled with Communication Technology and its application in Libraries and Information Centers revolutionised the information sector and it gained its momentum more with the institution of Internet in 1990s which, became the most astounding communication stream and made effective to the globalization of information through World Wide Web. The Internet brought a dynamic change among the user communities who thronged into a vast array of information world. The service centers like Libraries and Information Centers started adopting the means of revamping their collection developments to accommodate the newly acquired electronic information resources providing access to a wide range of digital materials and organized for effective proliferation of e-information through the adoption of new communication technologies. Further they accelerated to generate e-resources including Digital Library materials to suit to the varied information requirements of the users for greater benefits of the academic community. The gamut of e-resources embodies (i). Primary Source of Information, (ii) Databases, (iii) Datasets, (iv) E-books, (v) On-line books, (vi). Reference Sources, and (vii).Meta Sources. The automation and digitization of the Libraries and Information Centers have altered the face value of the Library from traditional to digital in the wake of new technologies which could facilitate the users to access to the e- resources and intellectual access along with distribution of instant value added information with authenticity and reliability. The Librarian, Information Professionals, Documentation Officers etc. after filtering

information obtained through various search engines started organizing and extending to the users who retrieved seamlessly to their desktop through networking which added substantial value to promote research and better understanding of the subjects.

Electronic Books (E-Books) play a pivotal role not only in exploring the information but also, an alternative to the traditional publication. Peter (2001; pp.50-62) while expressing his view on e-books affirmed that, it is the development of e-books that revolutionized the academic sphere and also a dedicated reading device on new platforms with right management and e-books are an industry in an information market. He further stated that the relationship between text and delivery platforms is becoming more dynamic, with the inclusion of added-value features and the libraries should take a leading role in experimenting with e-books and work with publishers and users to help define pricing models and issues of right management.

Right management issues are primary for the library and the user community as well as for the publishers. Many library organizations, especially the Association of Research Libraries, and the individual leaders in the academic community have very active responsibility in recent years in promoting the retention of fair use and privacy rights in the digital environment. Librarians perceive threats to fundamental principles in a number of areas. E-books that are offered to libraries through a license rather than through outright purchase are often accompanied with license terms that prohibit use of the text for interlibrary loan or use by non-affiliated patrons inside the library. The items that are sold to the members of the public are technologically prevented from being shared, copied or resold as a print work might be and software can track the exact movements of readers through the work, giving the vendors user-specific information which violates principles of privacy in personal inquiry. The scholarly authors are bring offered contracts that remove rights they might have for using their own works in teaching and further research. The Libraries and Information Centers always dedicate their considerable resources, energies, manpower, expertise, knowledge and finance to build up their collection development to meet the constant demands of the users and more specifically to create repositories compartment for use of the information in future.

2. Definition, Need, and Purpose of e-book

The Electronic Book (E-Book) is nothing but a digital text which is an intellectual contribution of an individual work and designed to be accessed by using special software for text navigation and ease of reading. A special tool for marking, highlighting and interacting with text needs to be accompanied for better proliferation of information of an e-book. The software for reading the text may either be available free in the web or through proprietary software. But, in either case, it includes the functionality for right management. Landoni and Gibb (2000) have defined e-book as the result of integrating classical book structure, or rather the familiar concept of a book, with features which can be provided within an electronic environment and can be interpreted as an interactive document which can be composed and read on a computer.

With the commencement of advanced technologies, e-Books have added a potential value to the academic community and have also created an aftermath for the enthusiastic readers in most advanced libraries and information centers. Further, the encouraging persuasions of the publishers to the authors have created a positive brunt in the electronic literary gamut. The e-books available on web are plenty in number but, all are not free. However, the infolibrarian.com, lisgateway.com,

and others use to facilitate consultation of e-books free of cost. The arrangements of e-books on the web are through hyper linking to the text matters and are mostly available through HTML and PDF.

E-Books are the virtual books available on net and also are available in digitized version in a computer file format which can be read on all types of computers and the devices are so designed specifically for reading e-books. E-Books also contain audio, video and dynamic hyperlinks which can be delivered immediately from anywhere in the world by downloading-mail file attachment, on diskette or CD-ROM (Harischandra; 2002). Compared to paper books, e-Books are quicker, cost effective which also facilitates for printing, copy, download etc. According to Ana Arias Terry (1999), an e-book consists of electronic content originating from traditional books, reference material, or magazines that is downloaded from the Internet and viewed through any number of hardware devices. These include PCs, laptops, PDA's (personal digital assistants), palm PC's or palmtops, or dedicated e-book readers.

Most often the texts are marketed at the consumer level or at least they designed for right management at the individual consumer level. It is optional to include the digital media other than text. The reading device of an e-book is a Computer, a Laptop or a personal digital appliance. E-books were matter of dream during the days of yore has now become an important ingredient in relation to the study materials on WWW with the help of a computer and has also become a commanding demand in the electronic platform so as to retrieve swift, instantaneous and pertinent information. Though the e-books do not have any physical existence and circulation models thereby, still it is a mounting phenomenon in the present context of the libraries to acquire the e-books on the database and disseminate the same to the user communities.

3. Role of e-books in Open Access Scenario

The Open Access, term relates to free or priced access of required electronic book from the Internet sphere in digital form with some copy right and licensing boundaries. The Open Access, according to Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI), 2004 (BOAI; 2004) concerns to immediate, continuing, toll-free online access to full text. Further, BOAI provided the Open Access as free availability of information on Internet, permitting the scholars to access the information through World Wide Web which allows a seamless access of e-books to the researchers regardless of the place. This very much applies to book in electronic form despite the consequences of whether or not the library acquires the book in printed form. This also includes the e-conference proceedings, e-dissertations, e-theses, e-reports, e-contents, e-encyclopedia, e-dictionary etc. The Librarian in the present electronic scenario are more inclined to obtain books electronically either freely or by paying some nominal price to the authors or the organization who gives login and pass word to access the e-book. With the intensification of Open Access the total scenario of the literary world is taking a sea change.

4. Efficacy of E-Books

E-Books are dynamic by nature in an electronic dais which append substantial value for research output and hence, could be proved a dominant tool to the information society. Added to this, due to its operation viability and useful contents, filtered, scanned, evaluated information criteria, the academic community including the students, research scholars, knowledge workers, professionals makes a substantial use. However, the e-books can be highlighted in the following manners.

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- E-books add prospective value for the teachers, students, learners, researchers and overall the academic community;
 - E-Books can be updated, stored and downloaded instantly at any place in an Internet platform;
 - E-Books contain the most up-to-date and reorganized information;
 - Users can bookmark, make annotation and search the required field of information and also can consult e-book with the e-book reading software,
 - Users also can examine, read e-book on any desktop computer through both on-line and off-line and also can change the font size according to their suitability;
 - Due to portability, e-books can be taken any where on portable computer, CD, Pen drive;
 - Business and recreational travelers can load e-books on their portable computers without adding weight or taking up space in their luggage
 - E-books available in Internet dais is generally available through HTML or PDF and hence, required software needs to be loaded in the computer to access e-books;
 - E-books provide facility to hold and turn pages effortlessly;
 - Audible e-books also are available which facilitate the physically disabled users to overhear something;
 - E-books are cost effective and do not put any burden on the users;
 - Some e-books are interactive, have background music& animations;
 - The hyper linking facilities in e-books allow the users to establish direct communication with the authors either to his e-mail or web address;
 - E-Books save library space and expenditure on bindery
 - Save human resources for shelving and users can not misplace e-books.
 - Concept of temporary or permanent loss of e-books is not viable as found in the case of physical books;
 - The perception however, is applied to the e-books incase of deletion of the stored e-book, crash of hard-disk and other mechanical faults with the system.

5. E-books and Commercial Organizations

There are a numerous web sites that provide electronic services in manifold dimensions. E-books are not an exception to the service range provided by the Libraries and Information Centers, Publishers and other volunteer organizations. The commercial organizations also due to proliferation of information, and to gain profit have positioned the information in their relevant website through e-book for its abundant use by the user communities for accessing the same. To note here that, all the e-book services available on web are not completely free of cost. Cost factor is involved to access the e-book from web. This step of the publishers and authors has further intensified the use of e-book by the scholars, students and others who could able to get abreast with new ideas and information.

The electronic texts lend themselves to repackaging, linking to related materials and ease of updating in a manner seemingly perfectly matched to the educational purposes. Increased developments in the market for e-textbooks may be warmly welcomed by the publishers that have traditionally missed out on any revenue from the secondary book markets.

In what might be called a reverse engineering trend, print-on-demand from electronic texts seems to be one of the revenue fetching factors from e-book.

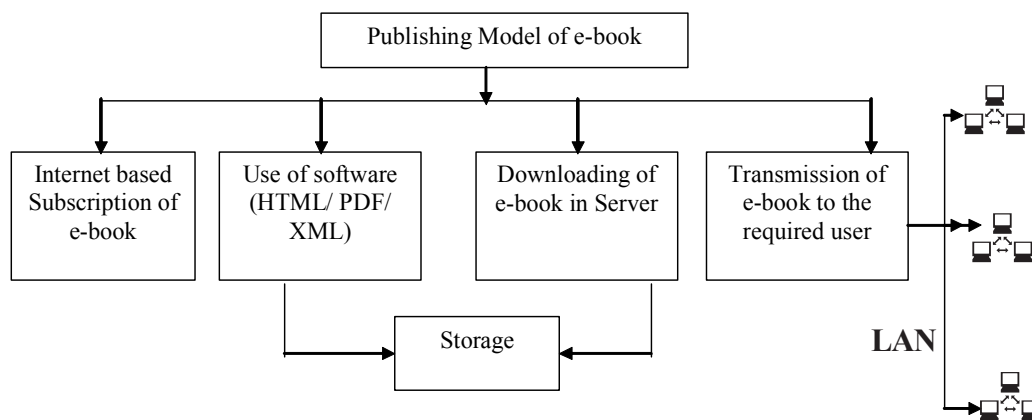
6. Models of e-book

The e-book publishing model is concerned with five factors such as,

- Internet based Subscription of e-book
- Use of relevant software;
- Downloading of e-book;
- Transmission of e-book to the requested user;
- Preservation Strategies

The Libraries and Information Centers in the realm of prevailing of information technology and profuse use by the users have taken steps to adopt the means of internet based subscription for the e-book and the same can be downloaded in a server with the use of relevant softwares such as, HTML or PDF with compatibility of the hardware to store to a vast gamut of e-books. The downloaded e-books after proper management and organization need to be transmitted to the user desktop through LAN for use of the same and can be stored for future use either in shape of a CD, DVD etc either through HTML, PDF or MS-Word, Page Maker, XML etc..

The e-book publishing model has been depicted in Figure-1 for better understanding.



(Fig-1 E-Book Publishing Model)

7. Scenario of Library Service

Library Services in the wake of modern information technologies and more particularly Computer knowledge of the user communities and Internet users have changed the dimensions of library services from traditional to electronic. The users are more inclined to access information in electronic form rather than traditional consultation of books. The Library extends its service to the clientele through open access web-based books using compatible hardware and software and transmits the e-book through web server based book distribution system. Further, it also distributes the e-book services through its webpage giving a hyper linking to the e-books. The in-house distribution of e-books is being performed by the Library using LAN.

The requirement of diversified reference books, text-books and research information of the user communities due to multidimensional and inter-disciplinary research have made mandatory for the information professionals, librarians, information officers to acquire e-book. Moreover, the price hikes of books, non-availability of research material of the scholars in the conventional libraries are some of the compelling factors. The prevailing communication and computer technologies with relevant soft wares with a least cost proliferated the ideas to acquire the book through electronic form which not only facilitated for the researchers, teaching communities, and students but also proved to be a viable platform for future storage.

8. Standards and format of e-book

New standards and technologies are indispensable for creating, organizing and managing of e-book with the help of all available tools. The Open e-book forum is one of the international trades and standards organization focused exclusively on this industry. It has been successfully promulgated the acceptance of the OEB standard for the content, structure and presentation of e-books. Many other standards are also essential while creating the e-books. XML as the encoding scheme dominates text markup as the preferred foundation which is more sophisticated for searching and repurposing of digital texts and it serves as the basis for OEB specifications. The introduction of standards-based information creation and management tools with the goal of linking content from one publisher to that of other publishers are the developments of historic significance in the publishing community.

9. Problems of e-books

Problems in handling e-books by the library are inevitable. The Library which is encircled by various minds of the users and manpower can not be kept aloof out of the problems and especially when there is a change in the library environment. Problems include authentic failures that result in service degradation or potential failure mechanism that could degrade library services. Problems that impair service levels originate from many sources, thus the scope of the identified problems could be broadly classified as

- Technological Problems;
- Policy and Procurement procedure of the Library;
- Manpower; and
- Environment condition

The technological problems are related to the hardware, software, operating system while providing electronic services and especially e-book service. Network is another phenomenon in the gamut of problems in providing e-book services. Networks may inject technical problems or may be the source of undesirable intrusion; they may function intermittently or fail entirely. Network failures can originate in network hardware, software or operating system communication programs. Incorrect human interactions with the network or improper procedures governing human interactions may also cause failures or problems (Frenzel & Frenzel; 2004; pp. 384-387). Further, lack of sound computer knowledge may cause problem in providing e-book services particularly while converting e-texts into e-book. Methods of downloading e-book and other electronic text are dependent upon perfect communication system.

The policy and procurement procedures in the library add another difficulty while adopting any change in the existing library system. The authorities need to be convinced about the need and acquiring of e-books for greater academic value which require licensing agreements with the authors and publishers.

Manpower which is the prime focus in the problem area needs to be reoriented due to change in working environment. And they required being adapted with the changing situations with training, seminars, workshops and the proper way to disseminate e-book service.

The environment is another source of difficulty. Power disruption, air-conditioning, local network failures may lead to service disruptions.

To overcome these hurdles, the changes are to be accepted in a challenging way. The change is necessary to cope up with the situations both at individual and institutional level. The authorities play a major role in fulfilling the intended objectives of the organization even if it is e-book service.

10. Conclusion

Internet has played a pivotal role in materializing the effectiveness of communication system to the doorsill of users. The development of a country primarily depends upon the advancement of communication technology. The convergence of information technology and communication technology has helped us to reach to a particular goal in the technological scenario of the world. Meaningful progress in life can only be possible through the adaptation of this advanced communication technology. The spiraling cost of publications including the non-availability of latest printed book, exploration of web technology, networks necessitated the cause of generating the ideas of e-books and more prominently when the publishers and authors found the web as the viable platform from business point of view including academic exploration to promulgate the e-book services through web. The Libraries in the present days explored the electronic book services through adoption of new technological devices and disseminated properly in an organized manner which not only facilitated the academic proliferation but also an added value for future. The development of e-books and e-publishing has challenged the traditional role among publishers, authors, book stores, libraries and information centers in many ways.

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