

E-Resource Management in Technical Institute Library: A Case Study on NIT Silchar

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Abstract

Libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis in recent years both in their collection development and in their service structure. In recent years, the print medium is increasingly giving way to the electronic resources. The documents that are in electronic form are said to be electronic resources. Based on the facts, the paper defines the concept of e-resource & highlights its advantages. It enumerates e-resources subscribed by NIT Silchar and presents a case study e-resource management of the Central Library of NIT Silchar.

Keywords: E-resource Management, NIT Silchar

1. Introduction

In this IT dominated era, everyone is striving and determined to keep pace with the technology and developments that take place everywhere in the world. Due to information explosion, advancement of education system and technological changes the choice, requirements and demands of the users are changing and increasing in rapid way in this age. The traditional, conventional and old pattern of accessing information and knowledge is becoming outdated as it is more time consuming, troublesome and dependent on the place, person and availability concerned person and resources. Whereas the electronic resource is easily accessible from anywhere across all geographical boundaries. E-resources add value while conducting R&D and consultancy activities. It saves time of users, service provider, librarians and is the fastest mode of transmitting acquired information from one to another. E-resources are becoming increasingly

important to libraries of all types and sizes. Now-a-days the information and communication technology is growing in such a way that it is not possible for traditional library system to provide information at a speed comparable to e-resources. Thus, today's libraries have not just remained libraries, but have developed in to an information centre. Electronic resources should be well managed. An electronic resource management system is basically a tool for librarians, but its impact also relates to end users. The information gathered in electronic resource management system can serve as a starting point for users interaction with e-resources. [1]

2. What is E- resource?

An eResource is an electronic information resource that you can access on the web, on or off campus. You can get the information you want, when you need it, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week & 365 days in a year.

E- Resource refers to any work encoded and made available for access through the use of computer. It



includes both online and electronic data in physical format. The data may be stored at a remote server in electronic form and could be accessed electronically using internet. This policy covers both free internet resources and electronic resources purchased or licensed by the libraries from a commercial source, professional organization, non-profit organization or any external institution. E-resources are making a significant growth as part of library collection which adds potential value to the resources of the library. Some of the common types are:

- ❖ Indexing and abstracting databases
- ❖ E-newsletter / magazine
- ❖ Electronic Thesis and Dissertations
- ❖ Full- text databases
- ❖ E-journals
- ❖ E-books
- ❖ E-monographs
- ❖ Reference databases (directories, dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc.)
- ❖ Numeric and statistical databases

All e-resources should be relevant and appropriate to the libraries user community and reflect current academic needs. E-resources are acquired by libraries by various ways available, viz. through publishers, information/service providers, vendors and consortia etc. [1]

2.1 Advantages of eResource

The numerous problems associated with the present system of research publication through print journals include high journal cost; the scattering

of articles on a subject due to the proliferation of journals, lengthy delays in publication; reviewer bias in the refereeing systems; low-circulation journals, lack of timely feedback to authors; and the reselling of scholarly writing will be minimized due to inclusion of e-journals in library and information centers. Apart from the above, some of the other advantages of e-resource are as follows:

- I. Rapid revision of e-resource / e-journal is possible
- II. Hypertext links to cited documents and database
- III. Online searching of text
- IV. Quick article delivery option
- V. No concern about theft or mutilation
- VI. Shelf storage space is not an issue
- VII. Accessibility from outside the library
- VIII. Simultaneous use by more than one person (although some license agreements prescribe a maximum number of simultaneous users)

3. About NIT Silchar & Its Library

The National Institute of Technology, Silchar (An Institute of National Importance) is one of the premier national level institutions for technical education in North East India. Government of India as a joint venture with Government of Assam established Regional Engineering College, Silchar in 1967 with the objective of imparting quality-engineering education, providing cosmopolitan outlook among students and development of National Integrity. This institution has been transformed and upgraded to National Institute of

Technology, Silchar with a Deemed University Status with effect from 28.06.2002. The institute has been subsequently made into a fully funded Government of India institution. The institute is situated in an extending campus about 540 acres of undulating land and lakes surround by tea estates and hillocks providing an ideal environment for studies.

3.1 Library@NIT Silchar

The Central Library which is the heart of the Institute was established in 1977. It provides one of the important academic services to the Institute. It is a well equipped Library, centrally located with easy access and does provide right impetus for the intellectual growth of the students, teachers, research scholars & others around. Presently the Library is a part of the LTT building with 997 Sq. Ft. floor area & having around 75,000 collections of documents.

The National Institute of Technology Silchar Library with its modern collection of knowledge resources and innovative information services fills an essential role for students, faculty, and the surrounding community in their intellectual pursuits. It is a hybrid library with the state-of-the-art technological applications. The Library holds knowledge resources predominantly related to Science and Technology, Social Sc & other allied subjects. The Library is now fully computerized with an integrated system connected to the Campus Network providing e-resource facility to the institute community. The entire Library collection including the CD-ROM databases and the online databases are made available through Institute's network. Users can access the online databases through Institute's network. On-line Public Access

Catalogue facility is available at the ground Floor of the Library. OPAC can also be accessed through any terminal on the Campus Network. Library collection can also be searched through Web OPAC.

The Library offers a range of information services to support the learning process set to the highest professional standards. The Library is holding membership of DELNET, New Delhi for inter library loan. National Institute of Technology Silchar Library is an active member of INDEST Consortium through which online full text journals can be accessed.

3.2. E-resources in NIT Silchar Library

For last few years Central Library, NIT Silchar has been subscribing a number of e-resources for its users. It is also being a member of INDEST, getting access to a number of e-resources through INDEST consortium. Apart from this, the Library is member of various Networks & Library Systems like DELNET & ACL etc. through which it has access to vast number of e-resources. The e-resources collections of NIT Silchar Library are given in table-1.

Sl.	Types of e-resources	Number of resources Available
1.	CD-ROMs /DVD-ROMs (Books)	3074 +
2.	CD-ROMs /DVD-ROMs (Journal)	553+
3.	Audio Cassettes	20+
4.	Standards	9000+
5.	Video Cassettes	800+
5.	Online Journal (Direct Subscription + Through INDEST Consortia)	12000+

Table:1

The NIT Silchar Library has access to the following (table-2) major e-resources (e-books, e-journals and e-standards etc) through different mode of subscription:

Name	Web Address	Mode of subscriptions.	No of Title Access
AEA	http://www.aeaweb.org/aer/contents/index.php	Direct	7
LNCS	http://www.springerlink.com/content/105633	Direct	
ACS	http://pubs.acs.org/	Direct	47
Knovel	http://www.knovel.com/web/portal/browse/subject/70/	Direct	28
Mathscinet	http://www.ams.org/mathscinet/		
ACM	http://portal.acm.org/portal.cfm	Indest	40
ASCE	http://www.asce.org/Books-and-Journals/	Indest	32
ASME	http://www.asmedl.org/	Indest	31
ASTM	http://enterprise.astm.org/	Indest	6
IEL	http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/	Indest	258
Nature	http://www.nature.com/	Indest	117
Proquest	http://www.il.proquest.com/pqdauto	Indest	660
Springer	http://www.springerlink.com/	Indest	2795
Elsevier	http://www.sciencedirect.com/Direct/Indest		2,500
CCC	http://jccc-indest.informindia.co.in/	Indest	6327+
DELNET	Database http://delnet.nic.in/	Direct	
Individual Journals		Direct	100+

Table: 2

The figure-1 reflects different types of e-resources provided to the NIT Silchar Library users for the academic pursuits of the users.

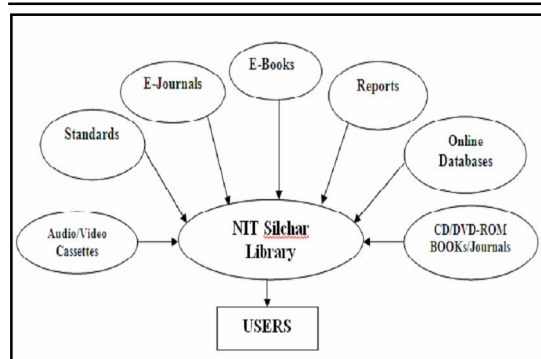


Figure: 1

4. Concept of E-resources Management

Traditional integrated library management systems were designed for managing print resources and are not well suited to managing electronic resources. Over the past decade, the proliferation of digital products and changing modes of access have made managing electronic resources a complicated and arduous task. In recent years, many libraries have created or purchased Electronic Resource Management (ERM) systems to keep track of their online subscriptions and license agreements. The idea of developing electronic resource management systems emerged in 2001-2002, growing out of research by Tim Jewell at the University of Washington. The Digital Library Federation and NISO began work in May 2002 to develop standards for ERM data. These standards were published in the 2004 as ERM: Report of the DLF ERM initiative. The ability to view all information related to a particular resource without having to consult multiple files and spreadsheets is perhaps the greatest benefit of using an ERM system. Furthermore, an ERM system can help eliminate staffing redundancies and duplication of efforts. Workflows can be examined more carefully

and streamlined where necessary, cataloging problems can be identified and corrected, and most importantly, unlikely partnerships and alliances may be formed between departments within and outside the library. [2]

In a nutshell, the effective management of electronic resources means getting the right information to the right people at the right time. As the number and methods of accessing electronic products have increased, the management of these resources has become more complex. According to the Digital Library Federation (DLF), an electronic resource management system should facilitate “management of the information and workflows necessary to efficiently select, evaluate, acquire, maintain, and provide access to e resources”. There are now several vendors providing more or less integrated ERMS services. The most dominant vendors of these systems are Ex Libris, Innovative Interfaces Inc. and serials solutions. Implementing an ERM system is a time consuming and labor intensive process. However, an ERM system is capable of housing much more information.[2,3]

4.1. E-resources Management at NIT Silchar

NIT Silchar acquires information resources in e-form, usually on CD-ROM and giving online access to a good number of primary sources like journals, standards or technical reports and bibliographic databases. The user find it difficult to search/ access information across different publisher’s platform. Therefore the keeping pace with the time NIT Silchar has developed an “electronic resource

management portal” to manage the large number of e-resources subscribed by the NIT Silchar Library. The portal integrates the e-journal subscribed through different mode of subscriptions of different publishers and supplied by the different types of suppliers/ vendors. The figure-2 shows the access to resources through a single platform/portal. This portal has facilitated the users to access the information through a single platform which resulted in time increase of the use of these e-resources. This portal also gives general information about library matters such as list of print periodical, list of CDs, etc.

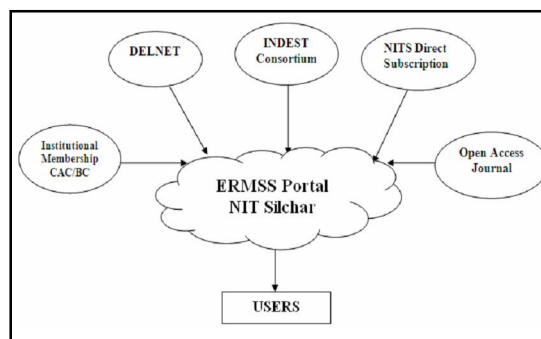


Figure: 2

NIT Library web portal for e-resource management can be accessed at <http://122.160.76.157:8081/nitsilchar/>. The snapshot of the portal is given below:

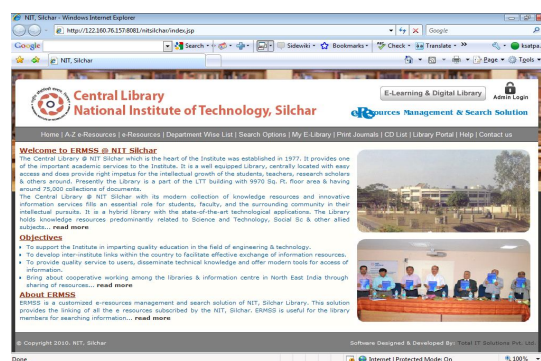


Figure:3

The portal provides multiple accesses to the users to the resources subscribed by NIT Silchar.

The portal provides integrated search to all resources apart from the alphabetical listing, subject wise listing, and publisher wise listing of e-resources etc. Different types of e-resources like books, journals have also been listed separately.

5. Impact of e-Resources Management on the User Community In NIT Silchar

After the implementation of e-resources Management Portal at NIT Silchar, it is found that the access to the resources has increased in manifold. The selected usage statistics (table-3) of e-resources for the year 2007-2009 reflects the increase in the download of articles at NIT Silchar though in 2009 there was a major net connectivity problem in NIT Silchar

Publishers	2007	2008	2009
IEL	15181	10108	15783
ASCE	563	2466	1238
ASME	876	1071	1814
PROQUEST	25	87	327
SD	9046	14662	10310
JCCC	0	3	36
SPRINGER	844	1757	2447

Table: 3

6. Conclusion

The libraries of the present age are to be well equipped to face the challenges as well as to serve adequately to its user's community. Today in library, there must be the facilities of sufficient number of PCs, Internet connectivity with good speed, and

all other applications of Information Communication Technology. These will attract the users to the library and help the users as well. Moreover, users' education plays an important role for the best and most use of the E-resources in the library. So, we the library professionals must retain in our mind the concept of providing modern amenities to the users and at the same time developing users' awareness by users' education.

Electronic information sources are the prime attraction of readers in today's networked environment. It is equally evident that it is difficult to know what information exists, what format it is available and where to look for it. Many search engine, directories and virtual libraries facilitate retrieving information required from web sources. Creation of one's own e-resource portal plays a significant role in providing single point access to e-resources created within and also available elsewhere free or against subscription on Internet.

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