ELECTRONIC LIBRARY: AN INITIATIVE TAKEN BY KALAIGNAR KARUNANIDHI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (KIT) COIMBATORE

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes the electronic library services of the college. It includes automated library systems with web OPAC, CD-ROM databases, Electronic contents, Online Journals. In future plan for development of Electronic Library and to create Virtual library in Kalaignar Karunanidhi Institute of Technology (KIT).
INTRODUCTION

With the advances in Information Technology (IT) and in particular, the inception and growth of WWW (World Wide Web), the Electronic Library or E-library is today very much popular. The e-library effort is progressing with the goal of migrating from the traditional book environment to a digital library environment. E-library has the potential of changing the entire publication process. It allows disseminating of information at low cost and high speed that cannot be represented on paper. The role of publishers, distributors and library professionals is also gradually changing because of different ways found to disseminate the information from the creator to the end user. The level of interest regarding digital libraries has grown steadily as a greater number of institutions, including archives and museums, consider the possible implications of digital libraries. While there are important, unresolved digital library research and development issues, there is also a concurrent desire to develop strategies for systematic digital library programs built upon the results of digital library projects. Digital library programs generally include both digital collections and services that facilitate access, retrieval, and analysis of the collections. This interest reflects growing expectations from patrons and end users. In an ideal world, with unlimited resources, it would be possible to provide a full range of digital library services to all users.

CONCEPT OF ELECTRONIC LIBRARY

The electronic library is a library that holds a collection of resources in electronic format and is made accessible to users through electronic systems and networks. It will need to provide internally generated and externally acquired academic and scholarly information. The primary aim is to support the learning, teaching and research in institution. The establishment of e-library, within the traditional print dominated library is a
The concept of electronic library is information stored electronically and made accessible to users through electronic systems and networks. One of the central tenets of the electronic library is the delivery of information, whenever required, to the user’s desktop, wherever that may be. Electronic libraries will need to provide a range of new value added services for internally generated and externally acquired academic and scholarly information, and may be involved in the delivery of administrative information as well. However, the primary aim of the electronic library will be to support the institution’s learning, teaching, and research, which might change significantly with number of users.

BACKGROUND OF THE KIT

The Central Library of KIT is satisfying the information needs of its user within its limited resources and sources from outside. Total collection of the library is 25,000 including Books, Back Volumes, Standards, Technical Reports. It provides lending, reference, book bank and reprographic services to its 1,500 users including industries in surrounding areas. There is enormous growth of literature on development and input of information in the engineering domain. As a result the demand for information is bringing enormous pressure on the management of the library setup attached to engineering institution. Simultaneously, the Internet and other global networks have brought the worldwide resources closer and nearer to the users both at the institute and also in the outskirts of their walls. Hence it was not possible to satisfy the information needs of the users with the traditional systems. As a result use of Information Technology and to establish an electronic library is felt and the initiatives have been taken in the following phases:
AUTOMATION OF LIBRARY SYSTEM

Development of Electronic Collection

2. Subscription of Electronic Journals
3. Subscription of Electronic Contents Service
4. Document retrieved from Internet
5. Digitization of Newspaper Clippings

Compilation of important URLs of Free e-Journals, e-books, e-databases etc

AUTOMATION OF LIBRARY SYSTEMS

In 2008 the AUTOLIB Software was installed in windows XP Platform with single user license. The data entry work and circulation work were undertaken simultaneously from the very date of installation of the software and also OPAC were installed. Now the Library is fully computerized through on the intranet.

DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONIC COLLECTION

Attempt has been made for electronic collection development through subscription of CD-ROM Databases, subscription of Electronic journals, availing Free Content alert service from the electronic publishers, retrieving documents from Internet and putting the same in local server, digitization of newspaper clippings etc.
Subscription of CD-ROM Databases

In 2008 two CD-Workstations and One CD Tower/Server were installed and some Full Text and Abstracting Databases were subscribed. Among the CD-ROM databases followings are the important ones.

**LIST OF IMPORTANT CD-ROM DATABASES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>CD-ROM Databases</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Delnet Database Info Trac Engineering, Science and Technology Collection (IESTC) Journals, Students, Researchers and Professionals</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Full Text and Abstracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Delnet Database InfoTrac Management Collection (IMC) IGI Global, Sage, John Wiley OUP and many more</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Full Text and Abstracts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the above mentioned databases other publications like Encyclopedia of Mathematics, Multimedia Encyclopedia of Science and Technology are also available in CD format.

**Subscription of Electronic Journals**

The College library has been subscribing several international journals in print form and many of these provide access to their electronic version free of charge along with print subscription. CD-ROM and near about 1150 journals are available online along with the subscription.
Document retrieved from Internet

Faculty members, students search regularly on the Internet and download documents, photographs etc. For their own study and research. These downloaded documents are either kept by the individual or thrown by them after the completion of their work. To develop this type of electronic collection an instruction is given to all the faculty members and students to submit their floppies in which they have downloaded their required information to the library. All these important retrieved documents are kept in Library Proxy server for future use. In this process an effort has been made to organize electronic collections within the limit and with less expenditure.

Digitization of Newspaper Clippings

A news item regarding different aspects of the college was kept in a manual file. Due to initiative taken for developing Electronic library the news items are scanned and kept in local library server for internal use.

Faculty and Students’ Seminar and Project Papers

Faculty members and students with faculty guideness are professionally active and presenting papers in national and International Seminar/Conference and publishing papers in reputed journals. The faculties will be requested to submit one copy of their paper to the Library. At present the students of B.E, B.Tech and MBA are submitting their Seminar and Project paper in printed book form. It is decided that students will submit one additional soft copy in CD/DVD format in MS Word file.
Question Paper and Syllabi

Question papers of Different branches are gradually going to be damaged and it is decided that at least 10 years question papers and the syllabi will be added in to the collection development of Electronic Library. All these materials will be scanned and be kept in the Library server as a part of Electronic Library.

HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE USED IN KIT LIBRARY

HARDWARE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Quantity in No’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>HP Core 2 duo Processor 2.6 ghz 2GB RAM , 250 GB HDD - Library Server</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>HP Core 2 duo Processor 2.6 ghz 2GB RAM , 160 GB HDD - Library client</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>HP Scanner - 2410</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>HP Color Printer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Toshiba – print, copy, scan</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOFTWARE

- AUTOLIB Library Automation Software
- Windows XP
- Visual Basic 6
- Oracle
CONCLUSION

Most of the collection of this Electronic Library is an original output of the college. From the time it was planned there is no expenditure involved in this matter. The faculties and students are coming forward to extend their help and capability. There, digital surrogates are created for fragile books and used to develop print and online access copies to save wear and tear on the originals. Some libraries are beginning to realize how digital technologies might help reduce the costly and redundant management of print materials held by numbers of research libraries.

REFERENCES


