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## 'Digital Library: A New Concept of Library '

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### **Abstract:**

*This article throws light on introduction of Digital Library, Definition of Digital Library, Need, Objective, Function, Concept; Advantages & Disadvantages of Digital Library and it also describe components of Digital Library.*

### **KEY WORDS:**

Library, Digital, Networking.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Digital Library is a collection of digital materials these libraries store the information or material in electronic format and manipulate large collection of those materials effectively. Digital Library has a variety of meanings from a digital collection. It indicates carrying out the function of Libraries in a new way encompassing new types of information resources, new approach to acquisition, new method of storage and preservation more reliance on electronic system and network in the age of information. The concept of Digital Library is getting higher importance.

### **DEFINITION:**

- 1)"A digital library is a library in which collection are stored in a digital formats."
- 2)"Controlled collection of information bearing objects that are in digital form those may be organized accessed evaluated and used by means of heterogeneous and extensive set of distributed services that are supported by digital technology."

- Terence R. Smith.

### **NEED OF DIGITAL LIBRARY:**

- 1)Information explosion
- 2)Searching problem in traditional libraries
- 3)Low cost of technology
- 4)Environmental factors
- 5)New generation need
- 6)Multiple access to resources
- 7)Storage of large volume data
- 8)Faster addition & gap reduction
- 9)Reduced bureaucracy
- 10)User has no boundaries

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**OBJECTIVE OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES:**

- 1) To collect store, organize, access, information in digital form
- 2) To develop database in digitize form
- 3) Better and value added library services
- 4) To save time of library staff by avoiding routine jobs
- 5) Space saving
- 6) To provide remote logon facility
- 7) To reduce cost involved in various library activities
- 8) Resource sharing through network

**FUNCTIONS OF DIGITAL LIBRARY:**

- 1) Provide access to very large information collection
- 2) Support multimedia content
- 3) Network accessibility
- 4) Provide user-friendly interface
- 5) Unique referencing of digital objectives
- 6) Support advanced search and retrieval
- 7) Information available for a very long time
- 8) Integrate personal, group enterprises, public digital libraries

**CONCEPTS OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES:**

- 1) Digital library is a group of interlined work station connected to high speed network
- 2) Digital library include text, photography, drawing, artwork, numeric data & images
- 3) Digital library is an electronic library
- 4) Information are acquired, store & retrieved in digital form

**ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL LIBRARY:**

- 1) Information retrieval:- Digital library provides very faster use friendly interfaces, single click of the mouse help to access resources the user is able to search entire collection of the library.
- 2) Cost:- A traditional library must spent large sums of money for paying staff, book maintains, rent and additional books etc the cost of maintaining a digital is much than that of a traditional library.
- 3) Multiple access:- Electronic resources can be accessed by number of user at the same time.
- 4) Networking:- A seamlessly interesting resource sharing can be achieved by providing the link to any other resources of other digital by a particular library.
- 5) No physical boundary:- People from all over the world could gain access to same information as long as on internet connection is available. The user of digital library need not to go the library physically.
- 6) Space:- Where is traditional libraries are limited by storage space, digital libraries have the potential to storage much more information.
- 7) Preservation and conservation:- An exact copy of the original can be made and number of times without any degradation in quality.

**DISADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL LIBRARY:**

- 1) Initial cost is high:- The initial infrastructure cost of digital library is very high such as hardware, software, networking cost, digitizing equipments etc.
- 2) Copyright:- Digitization violates the copyright law as thought content of one author can be freely transfer by other without his acknowledgement. How does a digital library distribute information at will while protecting the copyright of the author?
- 3) Physical problems:- One cannot read whole book with the help of the compute. After reading lot of time in front of computer leads eye problem and mental stress.
- 4) Environment of library:- Digital libraries cannot reproduce environment of traditional libraries.
- 5) Technological problems:- Due to technological developments, a digital library can rapidly become inaccessible.

**COMPONENTS OF DIGITAL LIBRARY:-**

The basic components of a digital library include necessary hardware, software and skilled man power.

**1)Hardware :-**

- A)Server with high capacity hard disk and clients in the LAN, web server and FTP server.
- B)Desktop workstation - PC
- C)Capturing devices such as scanner, cameras, cards, data compression devices etc.
- D)Cartridge tape
- E)High power UPS
- F)Secondary storage
- G)High speed network

**2)Software:-**

- A)Digital library management software's like D-space, Greenstone.
- B)OCR - software
- C)Scanning software
- D)CD - read / write software
- E)Windows - NT networking software, SQL server software, DBMS etc.

**3)Skilled manpower:-**

The manpower, who are supposed to implement and manage the IT should be retained in order to keep themselves abstract of the latest techniques and tools of IT.

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