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# HYBRID LIBRARY: OVERVIEW

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**ABSTRACT:**
Today's modern library is a transitional institution that rapidly melds new with old. The greatest shift is from paper materials to electronic databases. Computerised networks speed the transformation. This paper discussed about hybrid library concepts; its technology and need advantage in the modern era because can provide a "one stop shop" for both hard copy and electronic resources. Its information systems should provide the end user with as eagle's interface that will allow them to locate paper books and journals held locally and at neighboring sites at the same time as being able to find relevant online resources, electronic publications and digitized material.

KEYWORDS
*Hybrid Library , electronic databases , electronic publications and digitized material.*

## INTRODUCTION:

In ancient days libraries gathered huge collection of manuscripts and preserved them most efficiently for the posterity. Modern libraries may contain a wide range of materials, including manuscripts and pamphlets, posters, photographs, motion pictures, and videotapes, sound recordings, and computer databases in various forms.

Libraries are the carriers of information from one generation to the next generation. Most of the new technology based information businesses are still largely dependent on the library for their survival. The information broker, consultants, referral centre etc still largely depend on the library for their survival. In these days of Information Technology (IT) libraries continue to serve millions of grateful users in new and improved ways and it is hoped that in near future also it will be the only affordable source of information.

More recently, libraries are understood as extending beyond the physical walls of a building, by including material accessible by electronic means, and by providing the assistance of librarians in navigating and analyzing tremendous amount of knowledge with a variety of digital tools.

## DEFINITION OF LIBRARY:-

The word “library” comes from the Latin word liber= Book. Library means a collection of written, printed or digital reading material organized to provide different services to the user with the help of a trained staff. It is a collection of sources, resources, and services, and the structure in which it is housed; it is organized for use and maintained by a public body, an institution, or an individual.

ALA glossary of Library and Information Science has defined library as “a collection of materials organized to provide physical, bibliographical and intellectual access to a target group, with a staff that is trained to provide services and programmes related to the information needs of the target groups.”

According to Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the father of library science in India, “a library is a public institution or establishment charged with the care of collection of books, the duty of making them accessible to those who require the use of them and the task of converting every person in its neighborhood into a habitual library goers and reader of books.”

## TYPES OF LIBRARIES:-

No single library can contain the information sought by every potential user; as a result, different types of libraries exist to serve different needs. Libraries can be divided into categories by the following methods.

### 1. BASED ON MISSION:-

The following are the main types of libraries based upon their mission.

a) National Library:- The mission is to preserve the cultural heritage of a Nation. Eg.The National Library of India, Kolkata.

b) Public Library:-A free informational and recreational institution. Its mission is to provide reading

materials to people without any fee.
c) Academic Library:- The libraries that are attached with educational institutions are known as academic library. Its mission is to help the students, researchers, faculties in their study or research. The primary mission is to support the educational and research need of the parent institution. Academic libraries may be of the following types:-

i) University Library
ii) College Library
iii) School Library

d) Special Library:- Libraries attached to special institution i.e. industrial firm, insurance company, All India Radio, Dordarshan Kendra, etc. belong to this category. Their aim is to support the parent organization.
e) Personal / Private Library:- A library owned by an individual or family or a a library with reading materials collected, maintained and intended to be used by a single person or a family.
f) Archives:- An organized collection of the non-current records of an institution, government, organization, or corporate body, or the personal papers of an individual or family, preserved in a repository for their historical value.

## 2. Based on Technology:-

A shift from the traditional library to digital library has already taken place. The traditional closed access libraries are shifting towards open access library. The open access libraries are shifting towards automated library, the automated one towards the electronics, the electronics to digital and finally end in virtual library. Is it really true? The truth is that nobody knows what will be the future of libraries. Still, based on the technology used in processing of information as well as in providing services to the user community, the libraries of present times can be grouped into the following types:-

a) Traditional Library:- The collection of the traditional libraries is mostly print material, manuscripts etc and the collections are not well organized and the documents are deteriorating at a rapid rate. The information sources are also hard to locate and so does not easily reach user. Again, the traditional libraries confine themselves within a physical boundary.
b) Automated Library:-A library with machine-readable catalogues, computerized acquisition, circulation and OPAC are called as automated library. The holding of this type of libraries is same as that of traditional libraries.
c) Electronic Library:- When an automated library goes for Local Area Networking (LAN) and CD-ROM networking then it is known as electronic library. The resources of the electronic libraries are in both print and electronic forms, but resources are not available over the web. The electronic Media is used for storage retrieval and delivery of information.
d) Digital Library:- The Digital Library (DL) is a later stage of electronic library. When an electronic library started procuring e-journal and other similar kind of publications and access is over the web, then it is termed as digital library. In digital library, high speed optical fibres are used for LAN and the access is over WAN and it provides a wide range of internet based services i.e. audio and video conferencing etc.

The majority of the holding of a digital library is in the computer readable form. They have their own computer readable database and act as a point of access to other on line sources. A DL, like a traditional library, is also a collection of books and reference materials along with its associated services. But, unlike a traditional library, however, the collection of a digital library is in digital form, and is usually served over the World Wide Web.

e) Virtual Library:- Virtual Library refers to the scientifically managed collection of information resources and services on site as well as off site that are available in a virtual reality environment and accessible electronically through the internet at any time from any geographical location.

f) Hybrid Library:- The libraries, which are working both in electronic or digital and print environment, are known as hybrid library. Actually it is a transitional state between the print and digital environment. The hybrid library is a term used by librarians to describe libraries containing a mix of traditional print library resources and the growing number of electronic resources. Hybrid libraries are mixes of traditional print material such as books and magazines, as well as electronic based material such as downloadable audio books, electronic journals, e-books, etc. Hybrid libraries are the new norm in most public and academic libraries. Hybrid libraries need staffs that are trained in helping patrons navigate the vast amount of information available in the digital age. Librarians working in hybrid libraries have training in electronic media as well as the traditional print forms. It is estimated that in near future libraries will be of hybrid nature.

The “Hybrid Library” was a term in common use in UK digital library development. It originated in the UK Electronic Libraries programme, was coined by that programme's director, Chris Rusbridge. It seems that the term "hybrid library" was first coined in 1998 by Chris Rusbridge.

It focuses on the fact that libraries had to manage resources in multiple formats.Hybrid library at the time: As one would expect any working academic library to be hybrid in this sense. The hybrid library however occupied the space between the 'digital library' and its implied companion, the 'non-digital' library and had its uses.

## DEFINITION OF HYBRID LIBRARY:-

(1). The Diccionario de la Real Academia de la Lengua Espanola defines hybrid as“anything that is a result of combining elements of different nature”.

(2). According to Chris Rusbridge The hybrid library can be “...designed to bring a range of technologies from different sources together in the context of a working library, and also to begin to explore integrated systems and services in both the electronic and print environments.”

(3) According to Lorcan Dempsey "An information environment might be described as a set of network services which support secure and convenient access to distributed collections."

The term “Hybrid Library” is already being widely used in the majority of developed countries like U.K. In terms of its ‘concept’, the Hybrid Library is generally defined as a library in which electronic and print-based sources of information are made available together in an integrated way for consultation by users, local and remote: the Hybrid Library is a middle point between the traditional library and the fully digital library.

The hybrid library is a library which can provide a "one stop shop" for both hard copy and

electronic resources. Its information systems should provide the end user with aseamless interface that will allow them to locate paper books and journals held locally and at neighboring sites at the same time as being able to find relevant online resources, electronic publications and digitized material.A Hybrid Library is one where a mixture of formats and service entry points has developed over time, utilizing hard copy resources in concert with digitally–held information, face-to-face training and web delivered services.

## Scope and importance of Hybrid library:-

Due to advent of digital media as well as availability of e-information, the conventional library is radically changing its scope of collection, pattern of processing and entire range of dissemination of information. The information professional are now rightly changing their library campus from conventional library system to a highly resourceful hybrid library where the conventional library will make a tie with the electronic system of information sources together with the use of modern information and communication technology. The hybrid library is a more useful and it will bring positive impact to society because of the following reasons :-

- To increase the efficiently and effectiveness of library by both traditional as well as better multiple accessibility of their resources.
- To keep pace with changing environment of technical development with traditional.
- To enable faster services & to provide multiple user access.
- To change the information flow from traditional library as well as digital at open space at any time any-where.
- To manage large amount of digital/traditional contents with minimum spent of time.
- To manage contents from multiple location.
- To protect ownership and preservation of information.
- Afford very large and multiple approach search.
- Information is available in digital well as traditional form.
- Provide access local with world wide access through internet.
- Support for both formal and informal learning in hybrid libraries.

## ISSUES IN HYBRID LIBRARY:-

Some of the issues facing by hybrid libraries are the digital divide, interoperability, collection development, ownership of electronic resources and preservation of digital media.

1) Digital divide:- Any advancement in information technology will be useful only when you know how to use it. The term “digital divide” is used to describe the gap between those with information technology knowledge and those who do not.
2) Interoperability:-Interoperability is a property referring to the ability of diverse systems and organizations to work together (inter-operate). Majority of the libraries these days are hybrid libraries. The libraries own and subscribe to different resources in different formats. Some of the common formats are e-journals, serials, print monographs, CD and DVD. The main components of digital library

framework are user interfaces, repositories, handle system, and search system. The handle system and search system are the major components that should be designed with interoperability features to search across different repositories owned by different vendors. The user interface should be designed in a generic way that it helps library patrons develop a common knowledge to do advanced searches across all repositories.

3) Collection development:- Collection development is another challenge facing the hybrid libraries. The process of collection management in a hybrid library is similar to that of a traditional library. Hybrid libraries follow the same policies and procedures followed in traditional library collection development.

4) Ownership of electronic resources:- Ownership of electronic resources is another issue facing the hybrid libraries. Ownership of electronic materials is virtual and not physical. There are no clear policies about the ownership of electronic materials once the subscription is cancelled or expired. Libraries have to pay attention to the legal contracts from the database vendors. If the libraries plan on archiving the electronic resources, then there are legal issues related to it. The most prominent legal issues are intellectual property and authenticity of digital information.

5) Preservation of digital media:- With any new advanced technology related to digital information storage, the main question to be answered is its durability. Digital storage media like disc or tapes deteriorate over time. The main question related to digital preservation is what and how much should be preserved. To make the preservation of digital media cost effective, standardization of different media format is required.

Following are the three possible approaches:-

Technology preservation:- In Technology preservation method both hardware and software related to digital information are preserved. This may not be cost effective because changes to hardware and different versions of software need to be either maintained or constantly upgraded.

Emulation:- In emulation some emulator software programs will mimic the hardware and software of the original data and display in the original format.

Migration:- In migration, digital information is converted to a standard media with standard format.

Requirement and technology :-

The main requirements for developing hybrid library are as follows :-

1) Computer with high speed processor
2) Back up facilities
3) Optical Character Recognition technology
4) Digital library software for organizing digit object D-space, GreenStone Digital Library, E-prints like open access software
5) High speed internet connectivity
6) Cost-effectiveness

7)skilled manpower

Hybrid libraries may be developed at the local, the national and the international level, and a single library may be involved at all these levels.

There are five big projects with different approaches in abroad :-

• Agora - systems led (technical infrastructure).
• BUILDER (Birmingham University Integrated Library Development and Electronic Resource)- institutional.
• HEADLINE (Hybrid Electronic Accses and Delivery in the Library Networked Environment) - learning landscapes (Business and Economics).
• HYLIFE (Hybrid Library of the Future) - wide range of client types.
• MALIBU (Managing the hybrid library for the Benefit of User)- management implications, humanities area.

Changing role of librarian:-

Librarian plays a vital role in a hybrid library. As electronic technology is changing rapidly, library professional have to keep pace with the developments in tech. But now a day's, tremendous growth of literature makes information explosion. So, the library has to switch over from traditional to hybrid library to facilitate multi pleaccesses for their potential users. Librarian must be accumulating the new technology of ICT form various training as well as traditional. Any training is an integral component of staff development and of staff development and a well organized organization have the provision of staff development and continuing education for librarians at all levels. In addition to the professional skills mentioned, the librarian sand information professionals of the future must be equipped with a wide range of personal and transferable skills in order to manage the changing environment in which he or she works. The importance of transferable skills over information technology skills should be highlighted here. Management and interpersonal skills will make librarian more effective managers of networked resources and services. As Hastings (1996) says "it is more important that digital librarians possess particular personal qualities (which are innate) rather than technical expertise (which can be learned)". This is not to say that the way to avoid the electronic age is for library professionals stick their heads in the sand. The information professional must change and adapt to the new electronic information environment, he or she must learn about new technologies and be aware of the strengths and weakness of them. Librarians should not feel threatened by computers and technical developments but should move forward with the new technology and take a pivotal role within organizations. Information professional with in libraries are playing an increasing role in dealing with information in electronic formats by creating web pages to promote their services to external customers and choosing automated library management system. Skills in information organization are more necessary in this age of information explosion.Librarians and information professionals have a key role to play in this era.

## CONCLUSION:-

In conclusion, today's modern library is a transitional institution that rapidly melds new with old. The greatest shift is from paper materials to electronic databases. Computerised networks speed the transformation. The hybrid adapts rapidly, as e-books, databases and specialised search engines take an ever more prominent place in customer access to reading and information. Taken together, computers, networks and databases affect the way libraries serve their publics, challenge their historic modes of delivering public service, and condition their customers' perception about what constitutes a quality library-use experience. This shifting mixture of books to bytes is the central feature of the hybrid library. Therefore, much attention has to be paid to the introduction of self service to staff and patrons.

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