

## **Application of Internet in Library and Information Centres**

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### **Abstract**

Information is an indispensable for human development as air is essential for the survival of all living organisms on earth, including human beings. The pace of change brought about by new information technologies has a key effect on the way people live, work, and play worldwide. The increasing role played by internet in the development of library services for an active reaction to the challenges of the information service providing. The paper attempts to discuss the fast development of Internet and its application in the library services. Today libraries are equipped to accomplish the newly Internet based services. Internet enabled services fulfil the information needs of the users at the right time in the right place to the right person.

**Key words:** Internet, Libraries, Acquisition, Classification, Cataloguing

The major responsibility of library managers is to manage information resources enabling the users to facilitate convenient access to these resources and provide a variety of information services using information and communication technologies, due to explosion of electronic information sources. Perhaps no innovation has impacted the library profession to such great extent as the Internet, World Wide Web and networked resources, which have enabled seamless access to information sources from any corner of the globe. Not only is our world of librarianship becoming an interconnected global community, but the early use of Internet has changed fundamental roles, paradigms and organizational culture of libraries and librarians as well.

E-mail and World Wide Web provide tremendous opportunities for LIS professionals to deliver need based information to the desktops of users. This fact has been well recognized and as such many libraries are moving towards the Internet world by getting connected to the Internet. It is ridiculous, if any library today can remain untouched by the ongoing network information revolution brought about by the INTERNET and WWW.

Efforts have been made to indicate how the Internet technology can be successfully used to improve functioning of different library activities and services viz., acquisitions, cataloguing and classification, serials management, training and user orientation, professional development of library staff and reference and information services.

### **Collection Development**

Wide range of information being generated on the net at an unprecedented scale with large number of scientific journals, reference sources, rare book materials, technical reports, reprints, conference proceedings, standard, patents, bibliographical databases etc. are being made available on the Internet. Not all available on the net is free but only few sources are available freely to the net users. The library managers should develop information sources to build their information store through Internet technology either free or based depending upon the suitability of library environment and user perceptions.

### **Acquisition**

E-mail and WWW. have made the job of acquisition librarian much faster and easier in identifying latest Books and ordering Books through Online Bookshops. Effective communication can be had with the publishers, vendors and users as well through e-mail including purchase orders, reminders or cancellations and recommendations from users.

Large numbers of book stores and bibliographical tools, publisher’s catalogue, price details, directories, conversion rates etc, are available on the Internet. Internet is thus, great tool for acquisition department that reduces the paper work and become very handy for library professionals. Some of the important resources are:

Book Finder	<a href="http://www.booksfinder.com">http://www.booksfinder.com</a>
	<a href="http://www.amazon.com">http://www.amazon.com</a>
Bowker’s Books in Print	<a href="http://www.booksinprint.com/bip/">http://www.booksinprint.com/bip/</a>
Internet Book Shop	<a href="http://www.bookshop.co.uk/hme/hmepage.asp">http://www.bookshop.co.uk/hme/hmepage.asp</a>
Publishers’ Catalogues Home Page	<a href="http://www.lights.com/publisher/">http://www.lights.com/publisher/</a>
Web resources for Library activities and services	<a href="http://acqweb.library.vanderbilt.edu/">http://acqweb.library.vanderbilt.edu/</a>

**Classification**

The Classification tools used for organizing information sources are now available on the net facilitating the library professionals, as an information source for classifying the library collections. These tools are widely used to organize information on the Internet viz., BUBL-<http://www.bubl.ac.uk> using DDC; Resource Directories like Yahoo [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) and subject gateways <http://www.eevlk.ac.uk>. Some of the Internet resources for classification are

Dewey Decimal Classification	<a href="http://www.oclc.org/dewey">www.oclc.org/dewey</a>
LC Classification Outline, 9 <sup>th</sup> Edition: contents	<a href="http://www.tldelivers.com/tic/crs/lcso0001.htm">http://www.tldelivers.com/tic/crs/lcso0001.htm</a>
LC Cutter Tables	<a href="http://130.15.161.74/techserv/lc-cut.html">http://130.15.161.74/techserv/lc-cut.html</a>
Library of Congress Subject Headings	<a href="http://leweb.loc.gov/rr/print/tgml/">http://leweb.loc.gov/rr/print/tgml/</a>
Melvyl Homepage	<a href="http://melvyl.cdlib.org/">http://melvyl.cdlib.org/</a>
Subject list of websites, arranged according to the DDC	<a href="http://www.webrary.org/">http://www.webrary.org/</a>

**Cataloguing**

The cataloguing tools such as AACR2 are undergoing sea of change, as number of projects are undertaken by various technical agencies to catalogue sources available on the net. Dublin Core (<http://www.oclc.org/research/projects/core/index.index.htm>), is a new standard for cataloguing networking resources, OPAC web sites, MARC 856 fields etc. The important Internet tools used are:

OCLE	<a href="http://www.ocle.org">http://www.ocle.org</a>
WebCT	<a href="http://www.light.com/webcats">http://www.light.com/webcats</a>
Cataloguers Reference Shelf	<a href="http://www.tlcdelivers.com/tlc/crs/crs0000.htm">http://www.tlcdelivers.com/tlc/crs/crs0000.htm</a>
Subject Heading Weekly list	<a href="http://leweb.loc.gov/catdir/cpsocpso/cpsocpso.html#subjects">http://leweb.loc.gov/catdir/cpsocpso/cpsocpso.html#subjects</a>
Library Catalogues on the WWW	<a href="http://www.bibsys.no/english.html">http://www.bibsys.no/english.html</a>
Search all Norwegian Academic (BUIBSYS) Libraries	<a href="http://www.indiana.edu/~librcsd/resource_library/cataloguing">http://www.indiana.edu/~librcsd/resource_library/cataloguing</a>

### Serial Control

INTERNET can be used to enhance and support many of surgical activities, which includes: Journal procurement recommendations can be placed through Web by faculty and students. Web-based ordering for journals by serial staff with vendors.

Lists of publishers and their indexes, Web access to journals subscribed, Handle routine journal ordering, reminder or cancellation on the Web, Providing Web access to union catalogue of journals subscribed by lending libraries help in better resources sharing, full text access to electronic version of those journals in print version, Lists of publishers and their journal titles and complete list of journal titles and complete list of journal titles subscribed and their holdings. Some of the resources are:

Publist.com	<a href="http://www.publist.com">www.publist.com</a>
Uncover, UK	<a href="http://unwebcarl.org">http://unwebcarl.org</a>
Social Science Online Periodicals (full text)	<a href="http://www.unesco.org/shs.shsdc/journal/shsjournals.html">http://www.unesco.org/shs.shsdc/journal/shsjournals.html</a>
Blackwell Publishers	<a href="http://www.blackwell.co.uk">http://www.blackwell.co.uk</a>
EBSCO	<a href="http://www.ebsco/home">http://www.ebsco/home</a>
UNI's Serials	<a href="http://www.umi.com/">http://www.umi.com/</a>

### Resource Sharing

The national and international consortia approach in subscribing to bibliographical and full text databases or scientific journals is becoming the order of the day. In India, INFLIBNET programmer i.e. UGC-Info net in academic and research environment of universities, and INDEST Consortia approach in the field of engineering sciences are the two big projects striving to share the resources through national consortia approach. This is made possible through Internet IP address which could be accessed sitting at their desktop irrespective of its location and time.

### Information Storage for posterity

Information storage, preservation and maintenance have become simpler for libraries instead of spending lot of space, time and cost, with the help of Internet technology. The two major

projects viz., JSTOR (<http://www.jstor.org>) and OCLC (<http://www.oclc.org>) e-journals archives which are trying to provide solutions this problem by digitizing back volumes of serials. In India, VIDHYANIDHI (<http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in>) project has been undertaken to digitize these submitted in India, which could be in turn accessed by scholars on the Internet.

### **Document Delivery Services and Technology Mediated Access Information Services**

INTERNET can be used to support information services: extensive Internet sources with subject guides and search engines help in locating the right information for the queries posted by users, reference staff can access these sources to answer reference queries, deliver information and tools, access to electronic versions to full text access, links to important reference sources depending on user queries-i.e. Dictionaries, Encyclopedia, finding People on Internet, News Weather, Tables, Conversions, Calculators and information on current events statistical/financial data pertaining to business, industry and education. The requests to deliver document or article are made possible today through e-mail. Sophisticated software to handle document delivery services viz. Arel (<http://www.rgl.org>) has been developed implemented.

### **User Education and Training**

E-mail, World Wide Web and setting Intranet will enable to conduct user education and training programmers. This sort of presentation and sessions would be more effective to educate train the end users in optimizing the information sources available in the library and onto the Internet.

### **Resources Directory for Engineering Sciences**

Librarians have so much to offer the Internet user, who else cares as much about information integrity? Who else has the skill to apply sensible selection criteria consistently? And who but librarians is so used to organizing resources in meaningful ways? Building carefully a selected collection of relevant resources is the foundation of what librarians do (Harden, 1999).

One of the best ways to optimize the utilization of Internet resources is to provide a directory of engineering resources on the net with web site address to facilitate the Netizens to access the information of interest. In fact, it is the responsibility of the library professionals to assist the users in compiling the Internet resources of interest to the Engineering Scientists. In their present study, an attempt has been made in this direction. The major sources used by the investigator to compile the resource directory for engineering sciences are as follows.

- Subscription to Info Watch, a monthly electronic newsletter, National Centre for Science Information (NCSI), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- Through Discussion Forums and accessing Newsgroups
- Regular browsing on the bet
- Subject gateways of Engineering sciences

Among the various discussion and mailing lists subscribed in order to keep track of current engineering information sources available on the net, some of the important has been mentioned below:

- Asia Pacific Higher Education Network-Engineering Education [aphen-ee@eng.monash.edu.au](mailto:aphen-ee@eng.monash.edu.au)
- Australasian Association for Engineering Education  
[aeee@emg.maonash.edu.au](mailto:aeee@emg.maonash.edu.au)
- Computer Based Learning Group, Engineering Education [cblg@eng.monash.edu.au](mailto:cblg@eng.monash.edu.au)
- UNESCO supported International Centre for Engineering Education  
[usice@eng.monash.edu.au](mailto:usice@eng.monash.edu.au)

- news:sciengr- technical discussion about engineering tasks
- news:sci.engr.safety- aspects on the safety of engineered systems

The resources so collected were organized and compiled subject-wise viz. Chemical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Civil and Materials Engineering, Biological Sciences, Computers and Information Technology and General Engineering Resources. Further, effort has been made to enlist available on the net. Although, a comprehensive web directory has not been compiled, important topics under each field of engineering has been identified and one most important web address has been provided for each topic. The features of these sites are bound to change often, which has been the limitation of the compilation.

### **Conclusion**

Even though India is one of the top technically developed countries, 80% of Indians have no access to proper information good communications. As the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> most populated country with 70% in village, even after 50 yrs of independence, people are still living in poverty, without proper education, health, food and shelter. This is directly related to the lack of information and communication technologies and these are being hampered by the lack of infrastructure, government policies, lack of awareness about information technology, high costs etc.,

In the global digital information era, efforts should be made to ensure that, all citizens have the opportunity access and effectively use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) especially Internet technology in order to participate in the educational, economic, political, social and cultural activities. Current Indian Telecom policy was introduced in 1994, but it has not been implemented according to schedule. The Department of Telecommunications (DOT), which looks after basic telecom services and will operate the domestic backbone, is preparing to offer its own Internet services in major cities and towns all over India. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL), which looks after international leased line services also, have a monopoly, has a monopoly on wireless links for international hook ups.

India is connected to the Internet by only 6Mbps through four international gateways. While there is no limit to the number of independent ISPs and there is no license fee to become an ISP, ISPs are obliged to go through VSNL's international gateways for global connectivity. Someone who wants to offer Internet services must either have a leased line to an international gateway or depend on a local DOT exchange leased line service. The latter costs US\$ 42,000 for 64 Kbps link and a connection takes at least at least 6 months to get. Time it takes to get telephone lines to offer dial-up services is completely uncertain-an individual user has to wait at least one year.

What is required is to build an "Indian Internet" for the Indian people. It is a question of language, culture and creating Indian and local content. To survive, an individual must first look for local information rather than information from distant places. People are becoming aware of the Internet only now, but as long as the governments do not consider this sector as strategically important, it will take one more decade to reach world standards. What is required is a change of thinking on the part of the Indian government and bureaucrats who should have a common, open policy in providing Internet services.

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