



Short Review Paper

Strategies for enriching collection development in the digital era

Amruta Kashelkar

SVKM's NMIMS Navi Mumbai Campus (Deemed to be University), Kharghar, Navi Mumbai-410210, India
amrutakashelkar@gmail.com

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Abstract

This paper elaborates about how collection development can be cared out to fulfill the user demands with advancement of technology. The paper throw lights on changing patterns of procuring library resources, retrieval of information, changing reading patterns among users community. Problems, challenges occurred in developing digital collection also been discussed in this paper. This paper also highlights on tools should be adapted by librarian community to enhance collection building.

Keywords: Collection development, digital era, E-resources, consortium, users, institutional repository, user training.

Introduction

Definitions of Collection Development: The processes of collection development include selection of current and retrospective materials, including gifts, planning of consistent strategies for continuing acquisitions; input into preservation decisions; evaluation of collection to determine how well they serve user needs. These functions are guided by a collection development policy which establishes priorities, supports efforts, and facilitates decisions. It communicates the library's intentions to the library users and other libraries.

Collection Development is defined as the planned purchase of materials in various formats to match the instructional and research needs of the campus within the current fiscal environment and resource sharing opportunities. The heart of a library is its collections. The buildings house them; the library personnel acquire and manage them and teach users how best to access and use them.

ALA Collection Management and Development Guide defines Collection Development Policy as "those that plan for the ongoing development of library resources, while reflecting collecting strengths and collection depth in specific areas¹."

Objectives and purpose of collection development

The libraries must keep following objectives while attaining collection development.

The main objective of collection development in increasingly growing digital collection is that to develop time relevant, quality resources which will meet the user expectation as well as current developments in field which will facilitate and strengthen teaching, learning, and research activity in the academic, research institutions.

Policizing balanced resources, provision for procurement of standard publications, planning for necessary fund which will meet with user information needs and keep pace with evolving technology.

To strengthen existing collection of repository and to create awareness among library users about new changes in resources, informed users about new technologies through organizing orientations for users.

Library should aware and able to anticipate the informations needs for upgradation in curriculum, addition of new courses as well as fulfill the criteria led by various regulating body such as NAAC, AICTE, UGC for libraries.

To reach to the masses with best resources is possible only through resource sharing and other cooperative collaborations among libraries locally and worldwide. Library should have different server or softwares such as ezproxy for such initiatives.

Assess the user needs as well as aim and objectives of parent body for collection building.

Support to teaching, learning and research endeavors.

Take the review about existing collection and weed out outdated, torned, damaged material accordingly².

Selection criteria for developing E-resources in library

Librarians should follow selection criteria led by ALA, IFLA while developing E resource collection for library. User Demand. Contemporary significance or permanent value, Authorised, renowned publishers, Authors, Format should be easy to use and accessible 24x7, Cost and availability,

Significance of the subject matter there are the important criteria should be taken into consideration while developing E collection for library.

Tools for Collection Development in Digital Era

Collaborative collection development: Collaborative collection development is becoming crucial part to serve the changing needs of users and to avoid duplication of resources, to acquire latest library resources within the constraints of a scarcity of fund; to ascertain accountability and maintain quality of resources; to develop specialized collection on core subjects; and to bring scattered uncontrolled available resources under one roof. It facilitates users to use resource materials under one roof in different formats as per their needs. Collaborative collection development upto certain extent bring uniformity, standardization among library resources. Which is helpful for sister institutions. Consortia is the best example of collaborative collection development. Successful implementation of INDEST consortia, UGC-Info net, N List Programme helped the users as well as librarians to give enormous resources within stipulated budget².

Provide 24x7 access for information to users with the help of Institutional repositories: Now a days all leading educational institutions like IITs, IIMs, and deemed universities established their institutional repositories to showcase the ongoing research work and it is working as pathfinders for research assistants and many PHD students. Institutional repository is a tool for accessing research work, innovations, and institutional research output to society. It is a sort of repository of knowledge, authentic resources accessible online. It may also include other valuable collection generated by an institution such as PHD thesis, Dissertations, working papers, lectures, conference proceedings, assignments, question papers, syllabus etc. institutional repositories works as a communication channel also in print environment, and imparting knowledge beyond four walls of library. Now a days Government and regulating institutes also supporting such initiatives UGC's Shodhganga, IIT's NPTEL, Vidwan database, SWAYAM are the best examples of such initiatives.

E Books/ E Journals: Now a days all leading publishers such as McGraw Hill, Pearson are publishing their publications in digital form. E Books are electronic versions of printed books that can be viewed on PC connected to the internet and are available in various formats such as Adobe PDF, Microsoft reader. Kindle edition of books are also available in market. Now a days different access model such as perpetual access, Concurrent Access, pay per view etc. are available for Libraries. The important advantage of EBooks is it remains with user for longer time once it is downloaded and can be accessed by sitting at any corner of the world. It meets users demand timely and 24x7.

Changing models of collection development: Due to technological advancement there is a rapid change in Collection

development process. Now a days different models of collection development are available in market it has broken traditional acquisition of books. All leading publishers has websites, book catalogues, teaching resource is available online. These new tools are dominating the acquisition of reference tools, electronic journals and digital archives of traditional patterns of acquisition.

With this new changes collection development work is much easier, faster and whole decision making is possible at one click. Selection of resources, evaluation of resources, publicizing resources become much easier³.

Maintain uniformity and Outsourcing of acquisition: Now a days many libraries are following uniform formats such as Marc 21 for acquisition and processing of resources. It is saving time and efforts of library staff as well as help in maintaining uniformity in identification of resources. Large libraries such as IITs, IIMs Libraries are outsourcing there in house activities of the library⁴.

Trend in E-collection Development

Following are the recent trends in electronic collection development.

E-Books are the electronic versions of printed books that can be read, Download, print and available in various formats such as CD ROMS, Adobe PDF, Microsoft Reader. On Electronic Interface now a days many publication and E Shopping websites are also offering kindle editions of the books. Kindle editions are much cheaper than printed book. E-books can be purchased on chapter basis also.

E-Journals are electronic versions of print journals based on subscription models. Generally annual subscription is offered by publications. E-Journals can be accessible through electronic interface. Now a days with emergence of Open Source Publication many journal are available free of cost. Even leading database publishers are also offering open source journals.

E-Database: Database is a bunch of research papers. Book chapters, research papers, white papers published by various leading publications made available to users under one roof. Database collection is subscription based, perpetual access, on Demand service and so on. Databases are being updated within stipulated time interval hence provides latest, authentic information. E database can be subject specific and general in nature.

Image collection: With digital advancement E images becoming the part of library collection. E images are mainly part of special library collection. It is useful in research libraries, medical libraries and forensic labs. It is a very rare collection and cannot be replaced hence handling, maintenance; preservation of such collection is a challenging task.

E-clippings are the special and rare collection available in special library only. This is available in physical and electronic formats. Newspaper clippings, journal article clippings are in physical form and audio clips, recordings, are in E-formats. This type of collection is available in media libraries, parliament libraries and archeological libraries.

E-patents is the exclusive right granted by the government to make use of an invention for a specific period of time. E patents is a sensitive collection and rarely available. It is usually available in IIT libraries. E patents are arranged in scientific language⁵.

Problems of collection development in digital era

Lack of User Friendly Environment: Usually many libraries faces infrastructural problems, Internet Connection, Separate computer terminals for using library resources. To overcome these problems separate terminals with internet access should be made available for students. The library reading room should have adequate ports for using laptops and must have Wi-Fi connections. Electronic publications are in different format and diverse in nature. We can bring all the e-publications under one roof through library e portal or we can take help of software such as epoxy.

Problems of user Training: To increase the use of library collection all the librarians should conduct orientations/hands on training for its users. It will bridge the gap between user and the resources. Librarian can conduct workshops/training programmers at regular intervals it also enables to increase the usage of the library.

Problems of Digital Divide: Digital divide defines the difference between ease of access to electronic information and do not have access to information available in E formats. Many libraries have diversified users and some students do not have exposer towards ICT. Hence Digital Information literacy plays vital role in bridging digital gap. Now a days due to open Access initiatives, Essay access to Internet, Free Wi-Fi teaching faculties, research students are confused about the authenticity of information available on net here library and knowledge centers can help them to showcase authentic, authorized resources.

Challenges of Library Classification: A library classification is a tool for maintaining, arranging library resources in certain order subject wise to facilitate searching, using, and acquiring library resources. Large libraries holds thousands of collection in various forms therefore to resolve user query, to obtain information faster, to allow users to easily reach towards information they need such techniques are very helpful. Formulation of Vague search query provide user thousands of results hence to define proper search term, to acquire accurate search results classification is very useful. In digital environment subject gateways, taxonomy, ontologies such tools are available which provides accurate search result to users.

Challenges regarding Technological Advancement: Now day's technology is changing at a rapid pace it's very difficult for librarians to keep pace with fast moving technology. Librarians are not updated about technical up gradation in software or about up gradation in systems, different versions of software's hence it has posed a big challenge to e-collection development. To ensure longer life of the digital information a continuous development and up gradation of information storage and access techniques and technology is a must. Publishers or service providers of such e platforms should take the initiative and keep librarians updated about these changes. Various library organizations should arrange workshops, seminars on such topic⁶.

Financial Constraints for Collection Development: Now a day's library budget is shrinking day by day. Hence it has become very difficult for librarians to meet user's demands. Inflations, increasing cost of E resources, Cost involved in the creation and maintenance of digital resources is huge. Many librarians not able to used sanctioned budget due to lack of guidance, Noncooperation from higher authority, lack of adequate users hence all librarians should come together and efforts should be made towards bringing uniformity among library budgets. It should be made mandatory to academic institutions to provide adequate fund for libraries⁷.

Conclusion

Libraries are in a time of tremendous change. From time immemorial, they were the primary place to gain knowledge, and, now, we are in an era of information abundance in which libraries compete with a huge array of sources across the Internet. Technological advancement allows libraries to provide access to much more than was ever possible in the print era. E-resources, online collection has kept libraries relevant in today's digital Era.

Continuing this trend of trying to provide users with more, libraries are expanding the scope of the collections budget beyond the traditional focus on content. The collections budget now funds metadata, discovery services, memberships and resource sharing. Hence with keeping advent with the time libraries can be important knowledge tool with the help of efficient collection development in today's digital world.

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