SERVICES OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC PERIOD

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Abstract: - *Coronavirus (Covid-19) is a disease that challenges everyone in many ways. This has had a huge impact on every sector. Stakeholders of the education system were forced to erupt a sudden and unexpected virus. Finding ways to work in a faster time frame, such as moving. Digital platforms where possible and to provide adequate remote services to users. Public health provided external challenges in providing emergency services. The purpose of this paper is to explore what types of services digital libraries have provided to the reader through digital technology and the type of services available in the digital library content published on their webpages. The study highlighted the important initiatives taken libraries that others can follow to meet lockdown post requirements.*

Keywords: Covid-19, Digital Library, Role of Digital Libraries in Covid-19 Pandemic Periods.

Introduction :

As the world responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, most Governments have temporarily closed all educational institutions. These nationwide closures have impacted 90 per cent of the world's student population. Localized closures in other countries have affected millions of additional learners. Digital libraries and publishers have risen to the occasion, offering more and more free content and curating personalized collections so that people can continue to read and learn without disruption.

Indeed, as the demand for credible e-resources surges, digital libraries have emerged as vital pathways to high-quality e-books, journals and educational content. Consequently, there is a transition to distance learning on an unprecedented scale. Institutes are racing to shift their courses online; students are engaging en masse with e-books and e-learning; and researchers are drawing chiefly on electronic journals.

In the field of education, the concept of digital library has emerged to remove restrictions on

online learning. Coronavirus (pandemic) is a disease all over the country (or across the continent) and to overcome this disease, governments of many countries are providing various types of measures to help the people through technology or other means. The epidemic has also had a huge impact on the education sector. Today, in every educational institution, services are being provided to students and teachers with the help of technology. The most important role in this is played by digital libraries. Digital libraries have made full use of technology to provide maximum facilities to the readers.

What is Covid-19 :

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.[2]

What is Digital Libraries :

"A **digital** library is a collection of documents in organized electronic form, available on the Internet or on CD-ROM (compact-disk read-only memory) disks. Depending on the specific library, a user may be able to access magazine articles, books, papers, images, sound files, and videos."[1]

Services of Digital Libraries in Covid-19 Pandemic Periods :

1. Remote Access to E-resources :

The main aim of any academic library is to enhance and strengthen the teaching, learning and research process by installing seamless document/information delivery system and around the country all libraries of higher education system have been working hard to provide services and access to collections to the users who have been displaced due to COVID-19. Resources including e-journals, databases, e-books and podcasts etc.

2. Free and Expanded Access

In response to the uncertain and difficult time, some publishers are providing expanded access to e resources (access to additional materials than subscribed by the library) including e-books, e-journals, e-databases etc. for a limited period during this pandemic.

3. Open Access Resources

Beyond this, there are many scholarly freely available resources available notably National Digital Library of India (NDLI), Shodhganga, a repository of Electronic Thesis and Dissertation, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), AMS Free Online Books, Book Boon, Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) and many more.

Electronic Resources :

The electronic resource is an important tools and materials of Digital libraries. Libraries that have been fully converted to electronic form then they purchase of electronic resources and make them available to the reader. Including e-books, e-journals, e-databases etc. for a limited period during this pandemic.

4. Resources Related to Covid-19 :

Giving complete information related to Covid-19 and daily events related to them, social distance, complete information related to vaccine to online readers and consumers.

5. Covid-19 Awareness initiatives :

Each digital library is working to create awareness about this pandemic by providing complete information related to covid-19 to the readers and consumers.

6. UGC Initiatives during COVID-19 :

The UGC has released a list of initiatives using which the academic community can utilize their time as the country is in a lockdown due to the coronavirus outbreak. The initiatives include SWAYAM, MOOCs etc. These resources, which are in the form of digital platforms, can be accessed by the teachers, students and researchers in Universities and Colleges for broadening their horizon of learning.

1. SWAYAM online courses:

https://storage.googleapis.com/uniquecourses/online.htmlprovides access to best teaching learning resources which were earlier delivered on the SWAYAM Platform may be now viewed by any learner free of cost without any registration.

2. UG/PG MOOCs:

http://ugcmoocs.inflibnet.ac.in/ugcmoocs/moocs_courses.phphosts learning material of the SWAYAM UG and PG (Non-Technology) archived courses.

3. e-PG Pathshala:

http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/ hosts high quality, curriculum-based, interactive e-content containing 23,000 modules (e-text and video) in 70 Post Graduate disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts and humanities, natural & mathematical sciences.,

4. e-Content courseware in UG subjects:

e-content in 87 Undergraduate courses with about 24,110 e content modules is available on the CEC website at http://cec.nic.in/

5. SWAYAMPRABHA:

https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/ is a group of 32 DTH channels providing high quality educational curriculum based course contents covering diverse disciplines such as arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture etc to all teachers, students and citizens across the country interested in lifelong learning.

6. CEC-UGC YouTube channel:

http://www.youtube.com/user/cecedusat provides access to unlimited educational curriculum based lectures absolutely free.

7. National Digital Library:

NDLI is a digital repository of a vast amount of academic content in different formats and provides interface support for leading Indian languages for all academic levels, including

researchers and lifelong learners, all disciplines, all popular form of access devices and differently-abled learners. Students of Science, Engineering and Social Science streams can get benefited by visiting https://www.ndl.gov.in/ or https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/ and clicking "Corona Outbreak: Study from home" button on top to access, free of cost, Video lectures, Web courses Notes, Questions, Solutions, etc., on various subject areas they are studying, from authoritative sources to continue their study effectively during this difficult situation arising out of suspension of classes and closure of libraries due to COVID-19 Lockdown.

8. Shodhganga:

https://shodhganaa.inflibnet.ac.in is a digital repository platform of 2,60,000 Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations for research students to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access.

9. e-Shodh Sindhu :

https://ess.inflibnet.ac.in/ provides current as well as archival access to more than 15,000 cores and peer-reviewed journals and a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different disciplines from a large number of publishers and aggregators to its member institutions, including centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges that are covered under I2 (B) and 2 (f) Sections of the UGC Act.

Conclusion :

The library must be ready to provide services library readers and information consumers readers in Covid-19 Pandemic and others Pandemic Periods. There is a social gap the only way to control the transmission of Covid-19 from one person to another. The social responsibility of library professionals is to provide information to users. The demand for information is also increasing in such Pandemics. So the librarian came up with the concept of a digital library. And how library facilities can be made available to maximum readers and consumers through digital libraries. The real need for digital libraries is in times of Pandemic, so digital libraries are also focusing on how to make the most of libraries by using technology in these Pandemic Periods.

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