

Revamping Libraries: E-learning and E-resource Management

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Abstract

Today's libraries are successfully focusing on solutions and challenges to redefine education. They embark on digital transformation, interconnection of resources and services, and patron experiences as resilient hubs of knowledge with a global shift in educational platforms. Libraries can improve quality, equity, and accessibility by creating a more effective, flexible, and agile kind of nexus for education. However, libraries must find means to manage access to items available in electronic format and to successfully share as and when necessary if they are to meet the user community's ever-growing needs in the digital environment. This paper focuses on how e-resources can provide e-learning anywhere, anytime, making learning a top priority and exploring more ways to build a robust culture of learning.

Keywords: E-learning, e-resources, electronic resource management (ERM), virtual classrooms, motivation

INTRODUCTION

The learning landscape is undergoing radical transformation as learners become more independent. Libraries can accelerate online support for students, teachers, and researchers. Because they demand all information at their fingertips, the younger generation of users favors Internet resources. E-learning, or electronic learning, is a form of education that utilizes electronic media and technology to deliver instructional materials and facilitate learning outside of a traditional classroom. E-learning can take many forms, including online courses, webinars, virtual classrooms, and educational software.

One of the main advantages of e-learning is that it offers flexibility and convenience, allowing learners to study at their own pace and on their own schedule. It also provides access to educational resources and materials from anywhere in the world, as long as there is an internet connection.

E-learning can be especially beneficial for individuals who have busy schedules, work full-time, or have other obligations that make attending traditional classes difficult. It can also be an effective way to learn new skills and update existing knowledge, as well as a cost-effective alternative to traditional education.

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However, there are also some challenges associated with e-learning, such as the need for self-discipline and motivation, potential technical difficulties, and limited opportunities for face-to-face interaction with instructors and peers. Effective e-learning requires careful planning and implementation, as well as ongoing support and evaluation to ensure that learners are achieving their goals and objectives.

E-resources have some inherent qualities that provide consumers with convenience. E-learning is taking center stage in education and is becoming the new normal. Libraries are reinventing their core functions to meet the evolving needs of education and learning communities by supporting these initiatives with the user's journey of self-led learning [1].

LIBRARIES AND E-LEARNING

- *Create, adapt, and improve:* Libraries are managing the transition of knowledge and the intellectual revolution while providing services and are working towards an inclusive tomorrow, as shown in Figure 1.
- *Technology:* Huge penetration in every sector of education. Technologies and libraries can have a mutually beneficial relationship. Libraries have long been centers for knowledge and learning, and they are now incorporating new technologies to better serve their patrons and improve their services. Here are some examples of how libraries are using technology:
 - *Digital libraries:* Many libraries are digitizing their collections, making them accessible online. This allows users to access materials remotely, without having to visit the physical library. Digitization can include books, journals, photographs, maps, and other types of media.
 - *Library management systems:* Libraries use software applications to manage their collections, cataloging, circulation, and patron data. These systems help librarians track the availability of materials, keep track of borrowing and returning them, and manage overdue fines and fees.
 - *Online catalogs:* Libraries are increasingly offering online catalogs that allow patrons to search for books and other materials from their computers or mobile devices. This saves time and allows users to find the materials they need more quickly.
 - *Social media:* Libraries are using social media platforms to promote their services, programs, and events. Social media is a cost-effective way to reach out to patrons and connect with the community.
 - *Learning management systems:* Libraries are using learning management systems to offer online courses and training programs. These systems provide users with access to educational materials and resources and allow them to interact with instructors and other students.

Overall, technology has helped libraries improve their services, reach more patrons, and provide access to information and resources in new and innovative ways [2].
- *Innovation* using innovative technology and shifting from traditional to digital.
- *Collaboration* with the government and institutions.
- *Networking* with professionals and information brokers

Libraries help in harness intelligent content services through Open Educational Resources (OER), Open Access (OA) for information sharing. Also, they can help in developing strategies with institutions and organization for global learning [3].

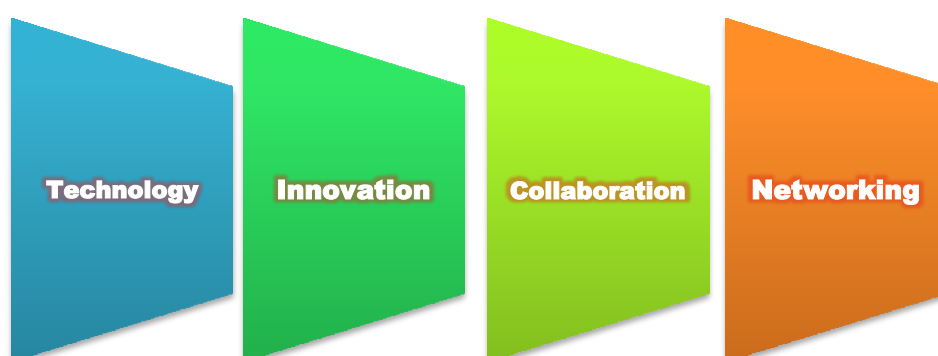


Figure 1. Libraries transition.

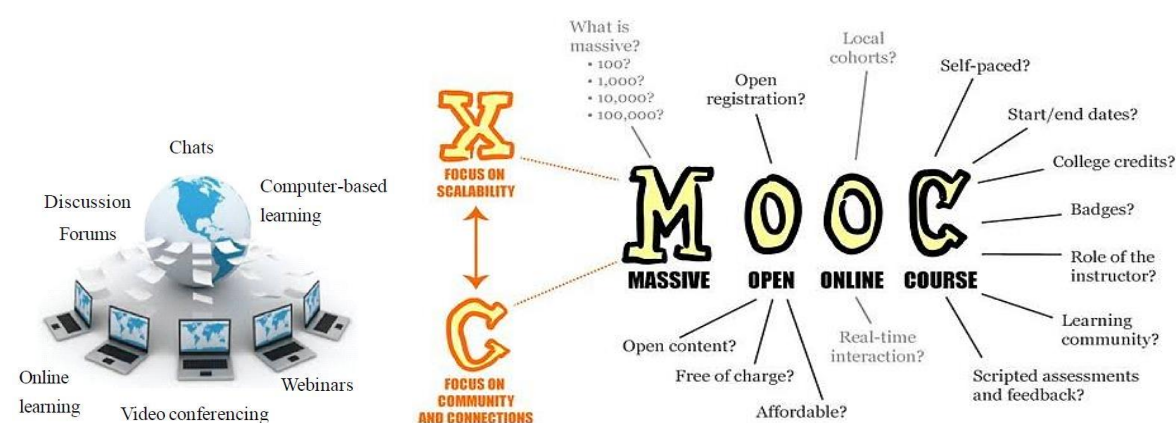


Figure 2. Computer-based learning.

Figure 3. Massive open online courses.

Professionally, the term *e-learning* was first coined by Elliot Maisie in 1999. It's changing the world of education, and librarians play a vital role through its resources, networks, and services. Focal issues are as follows:

1. Understanding the information need and digital platform of learners
2. Rebranding digital libraries as a prime and important learning resources
3. Examining the content demands for e-learning
4. Be reflective and realistic in your response.
5. Agile methods of working and a user-centric perspective
6. Offering independent tools and learning materials
7. Consistency and reliability of an environment that turns learning into a habit.

SASE, that is, Secure, Access, Service, and Edge is gaining momentum in libraries and shaping the future through a shared commitment to transforming lives through learning.

Recently, education has changed drastically with the rise of digital platforms. Digital technology has the power to change and transform education, and e-learning is one such aspect of integration [4].

The concept of e-learning is now facilitated by using computer-based learning, online learning, webinars, podcasts, and through videos, and so on, that provide flexibility and accessibility, as per Figure 2. Virtual classrooms, augmented reality, and even artificial intelligence are now part of it due to its phenomenal growth [5].

As the e-learning sector grows, it's important to pay close attention to libraries and the changing needs of learners [6]. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC's) are extensively used by learners as depicted in Figure 3. Open content can be provided by libraries. To summarize, libraries bring value in terms of education, learning, and connecting services.

E-resources Management

Due to the explosion of information and knowledge, e-resources have become more powerful tools that allow users to search for information more effectively and efficiently. ICT is used in libraries to improve services and meet the demands of a variety of users. They have evolved into electronic and virtual libraries, where books, periodicals, and magazines are now available in electronic formats [7].

The process of E-Resource Management (ERM) should be structured as per the type of library, focusing on the learner's requirements. It may develop the content strategy accordingly by adopting subscription-based open access and leveraging the digital collections as follows [8]:

1. Electronic information resource adoption reaching a tipping point.
2. Massive digital collections promise extensive, affordable access.
3. Copyright and usage limitations continue to be the biggest barriers to access.
4. Acquisition models that are driven by customers enable “just in time” purchase.

Planning for e-resources

The strategic planning for the process of e-resources involves: Selection and Collection Development Policy, Procurement Policy, Licenses and Agreement, and at the end Providing Access.

List of Open Access E-resources

1. National Digital Library of India (NDL) [9]
2. National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) [10]
3. Shodhganga-a reservoir of Indian Theses [11]
4. e-PG Pathshala [12]
5. Project Gutenberg [13]
6. Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) [14]
7. Directory of Open Access Books [15]
8. Hathitrust [16]
9. Internet Archive [17]
10. Open Access Thesis and Dissertations [18]

Future Trends in E-learning

Technology is making libraries a better place to serve the users who uses their services. In education following trends are evident in e-learning:

1. Mobile learning
2. Micro learning
3. Social learning
4. Immersive learning

Exploring the uses of Immersive Technologies including Augmented Reality, Mixed Reality and Virtual Reality, and so forth, across a wide range of education and training initiatives should connect government, and academia industries via a single and effective platform of libraries.

CONCLUSION

Libraries can maximize the power of multiple technologies, opening the door to a wealth of educational possibilities, especially e-learning, for students, teachers, researchers, and institutions. The focus is to innovate and thrive in this era of rapid change where e-learning is becoming the new normal, enabling anytime, anywhere, self-paced interactive learning. Innovation and digitization are important for libraries where technology adoption has to be in alignment with people’s quest for knowledge and information. They are embracing and reskilling new technologies and ever-changing systems in order to remain engaged with users. There is a lot to learn from other sectors. Libraries bring together people doing research, building tools for teachers and students, publishing houses, and so on, in the domain of digital education. As rightly depicted by “Adobe,” “Make the digital economy personal” applies to librarians to leverage universal and dynamic content.

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