

Restructuring the Higher Education with Digital Knowledge in Rajiv Gandhi e-Library

Sandhya Aggarwal

*Librarian and Head, Department of Lib & Inf. Sc., M.M.P.G.College
Fatehabad-125050 (Haryana)*

E-mail: sandhya_aggarwal95@yahoo.co.in

ABSTRACT

New inventions are taking place day by day in every field of life. Libraries should adopt these new technologies, so that they may work independently without any support and maintain its identity in society. Digital library is one such significant innovation. Its aim is to help in generating, sharing, and using knowledge so that users become more and more efficient and productive to draw the benefits of collaboration. The access to digital collections through e-books, e-journals, and multimedia collections requires a full-fledged map of digitization process, method and technique. The purpose of this paper is to show how to bridge the gap between traditional and virtual library by taking initiative of digital library example of Rajiv Gandhi Digital Library.

Keywords: Digital Library, Rajiv Gandhi Digital Library, Digital Library Initiatives, Higher Education

1. INTRODUCTION

Digital libraries in education is a way of restructuring the current higher education enterprise into a global knowledge and learning industry. This technology has strongly changed the ways in which students learn and scholars do research, teach and contribute to the growth of knowledge. The 21st century libraries demand automation and networking, developing digital collection. The access to digital collections through e-books, e-journals, multimedia collections requires a fully-fledged map of the digitization process, method and technique. Today, the libraries are forced to redesign their services as the changed need and expectations of users in changing information environment. The mode in which information is accessed, stored and disseminated by libraries is a major factor in determining the quality of teaching and research performance of any institution.

2. MANOHAR MEMORIAL POSTGRADUATE COLLEGE (MMPG)

In India, there are 42 central universities, 272 state universities, 130 deemed universities and 85 private universities with 6014 colleges under section 2(f), 12(B) of UGC Act 1956, which are catering to the educational needs of the people of India (<http://www.ugc.ac.in>). MMPG College established in June 1970 in Fatehabad by M. M. Society is one of the premier establishments in Haryana to bolster the teaching strength in this rural area. This college, started with Arts Faculty in 1970, now has been running Commerce and Science programmes with various centres approved by University Grants Commission..

3. DEVELOPMENT OF RAJIV GANDHI eLIBRARY

The Library was established in 1970s; it had been shifted to the current building of three storeys, in the center of campus, which is directly visible from the main gate. A fully computerized Rajiv Gandhi eLibrary came into existence in the year 2010, which provides various services with 43887 books and along with 45000 eBooks subscription. The library manages the library assets and resources with modern techniques, a web-based multitasking, multilingual, OPAC system with comprehensive functionality and advanced options. Koha software has been used for various library operations viz., cataloguing, circulation, and audio visual materials, searching, serial control, and patron management. The college library plays an important role in the overall development of students. With the advent of web-based services and by using information technology, contents are now available to users on their desktop. Various consortia offer access to digital contents at any time and at any place. No doubt, the reputation and status of any college library depends upon effective information services, which it provides to its users. So, it's very difficult to ignore the advances in the field of ICT and libraries should adopt the new mode of information services at the earliest:

- **Circulation Section:** Issue and return of books is handled with the assistance of computers and automatic email and SMS alert are sent for the credibility. In this section, readers will get themselves registered as member of the library. The timings of issue and return of books are 8:30 to 1:00 p.m. in summer and 9:00 to 1:30 p.m. in winter.
- **Cataloguing Section:** AACR2 scheme of cataloguing is used for quick access of collection.
- **Technical Section:** In this section, all the technical work is done for making a resource available to be used by the users.
- **Reference Section:** This service is available throughout all working times of library. From time-to-time orientation programmes are organized for the new entrants in the beginning of the new academic session. The library also provides inter-library loan facilities to its users on demand basis. This service is extremely helpful to all types of users, who are in need of resources which are not available in the library and thus helping them in teaching, learning and for their research work.
- **Binding Section:** The library is also having binding section with aim to take care of and preserve books, periodicals, back volumes, and other different materials available in the library. Recently, the library has finished the hand lamination work of brittle books.
- **Periodical Section:** The library subscribes more than 100 journals, magazines and newspapers. Thus, library makes available current sources of information for their stakeholders.
- **Internet Section:** The library provides Internet facility to access the Rajiv Gandhi Digital Library Services and web to its users. A lab with some computers are available for users and Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLISc) students.

For the promotion and advancement of profession, the college has decided to setup Department of Library & Information Science (L&ISc) for the last three years. It has started a Degree Course in BLISc with intake capacity of 30 students. This department is affiliated to CDLU, Sirsa. The library has also organized various programmes like a national seminar, to make the people aware of the subject and the services offering by gathering experts in the field of L&ISc. This activity was an awareness exercise in this backward region to tell the latest practices and new development in this digital era.

The college library is supporting the objectives of this institution and helping it to achieve the targeted goals by providing the latest information to the students and teachers, in a shortest possible time to

strengthen teaching, learning and research. To fulfil the aim of institution, the following activities have also been done in the library:

- **Knowledge Management Centre (KMC):** This library works as Knowledge Management Centre where all types of knowledge (print or electronic form) are managed and provided in a very compact way.
- **Rajiv Gandhi Digital Library (RGDL):** Question papers and syllabi of all the disciplines have been digitized and the same has been provided to the library users. All subscribed e-journals, and e-reference sources have been added to the digital library and are available on just a single click. Photographs of all events have also been added to the Digital Library and process of digitization of rare books is under process and it will be accessible soon through Local Digital Library Portal. All these services are updated from time to time.
- **Training Centre:** This library organizes various training programmes from time-to-time such as orientation programmes, demonstration and excursion on how to use Rajiv Gandhi Digital Library etc. for its users. This project was started in May 2013. Today, the college library has its own web page of digital services. All types of collection is provided through intranet on IP address <http://192.168.1.3:4444>. The users can access the information by using various searching options like title, subject and keywords, date, alphabetic, and creator (author).



- **Newspaper Clipping and Documentation Centre:** Newspapers are the primary source for original information. Many newspapers are being published daily in a huge number. No one can read all papers; people can either read one or two daily. Clipping of many papers together provides so much information as if one has read the full paper. Six segments of subjects are made to divide all the knowledge.

4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Greyling and Zulu (2010) presented a study in community participation in developing content for a digital library of local indigenous knowledge. Description of the programme highlights interaction between the library, the community and the technology used. Han and Anne (2003) described the paradigm of information and reference services in the digital library. Based on the fact that automatic digital library technologies are solving more and more information needs and changing the mode of user service.

Koganuramath and Angadi explained the major objectives and principles of digital library have been narrated with applied knowledge system at TISS library. The functional components of the digital library have been presented as a model for the information services of the library. The digitisation activities and procedures are also discussed here.

4.1 Objectives of the Study

The present study has been conducted to meet the following objectives:

- To highlight the provided digital library services in the library
 - To study the development of digital services in Rajiv Gandhi e-Library.
 - To study what, how and when knowledge has been restructured in the library.
 - To highlight the available ICT infrastructure of college library.
 - To make aware of and give the step by step process to other librarians about these digital services.
 - To highlight the authoritative and authentic information of web
 - To make aware about the changed restructured information in Digital Era
Restructuring the information/knowledge:
- Question Papers and Syllabus:** Users can read, write and download any part of question papers and syllabus. RGDLS Library staff digitizes the question paper, syllabus and eBooks and stores them in various formats like pdf, jpg and docx.

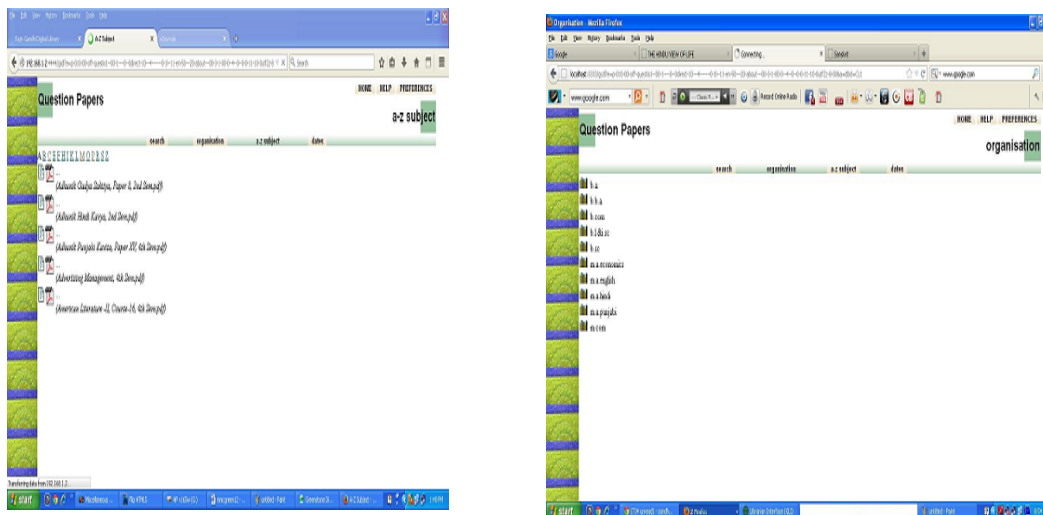


Figure 1: Snapshot of subject-wise organisation of digitized question papers.

- E-Journals:** There are many free e-journals available on the Internet. For searching these e-journals, the users spend more time, as these are available at various places on the Internet. To meet the users' expectations, the digital library services of the college organize the current issues of subscribed and open access journals in science and technology, social sciences and humanities subject fields and provide access on a single platform and in a very easy way to access.



Figure 2: Snapshot of a-z arrangement of e-Journals of all subjects.

- **E-Books:** User can read and download any e-book or its part, available on the digital library portal. At present only 30 e-books have been added in the digital library which are accessible in the campus and access to other digitized books is available in the library only.
- **E-Reference Services:** To meet the information needs of today's IT users, Digital Reference Service is a natural solution, which is supposed to be an advancement that allow the users to search and retrieve information from web resources i.e. Encyclopaedia, Geographical, Statistical, and Current events sources etc. at any time. Easily accessible digital reference service has become one of the hallmarks of the library services.



Figure 3: Snapshot of mathematics e-journals.



Figure 4: Digitized e-Books with full chapterization.

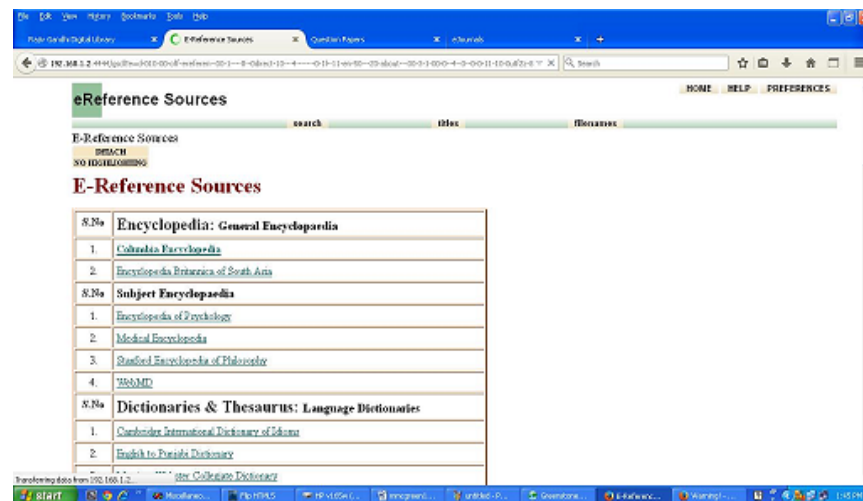


Figure 5: Access to e-reference sources

- **“DHAROHAR” of Rarebooks:** *Dharohar* is the bundle of priceless old rare books, which are accessible through digital library portal. This project was started in May 2013. Thus, RGDLS has taken an initiative to preserve the invaluable words and pool them into the information bank of the college. Digitization of rare gazatteers is also in progress.

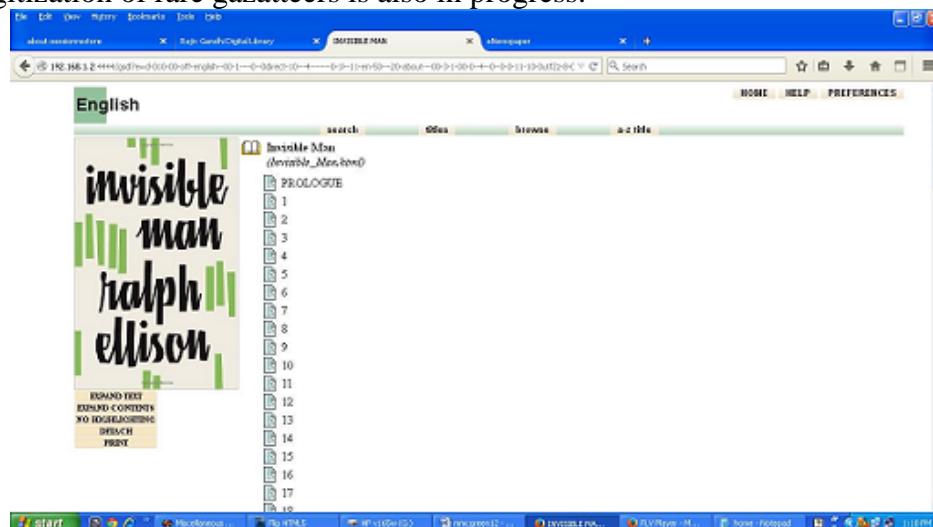


Figure 6: Snapshot of digitized rarebooks.

- **E-Newspapers:** The e-Newspapers are also accessible through digital library portal. User can be read and download any news of current as well as old. It provides in different languages like Hindi, English, Urdu, Punjabi, French, Russian etc.



Figure 7: Snapshot of e-Newspapers

- **Photo Gallery of Events:** The digital library is also providing access to digital images of various programmes, events and functions organized and celebrated in the college. User can be motivated to see the creativity of others and may be the regular user of library in future.

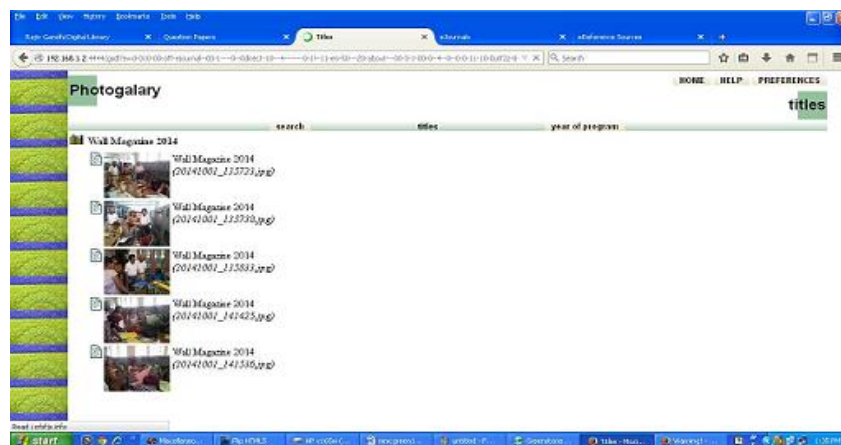


Figure 7: Snapshot of Photo Gallery

5. CONCLUSION

Libraries of well as colleges and universities are facing major transformational change as digital technology fundamentally alters how services are provided, research is conducted, and learning is enabled. Library professionals have been trying to serve information in a very compact way so that user can be access this restructured knowledge without losing their time, cost and energy. Institution can grow more and more with quality teaching and research.

REFERENCES

1. Belkar, Pallavi, 2012. "Digital reference service in library" available at
2. Greyling, Elizabeth and Zulu, Sipho Zulu, 2010. "Content development in an indigenous digital library: A case study in community participation". *IFLA Journal*. vol. 36(1 -March), pp. 30-39
3. Han, Lifeng and Anne, Goulding,(2003). Information and reference services in the digital library. *Information Services & Use*. 23, pp. 251–262
4. Hawkins, Brian L., 2001. "Information access in the digital era". *Educause review*. September-October, pp. 50-57
5. Koganuramath, M.M. and Angadi, Mallikarjun. "Design and Development of Digital Library : an initiative at TISS"