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# DIGITAL LIBRARY: SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION Corresponding Author :Poonam Soni

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**Abstract**: The administrations of educational institutions have not shown any passion for cutting-edge technology, and some groups do not consider this to be a priority. Even in the face of increasing user expectations and constructive criticism, libraries and library usage continue to thrive. In order for libraries to make progress, the people who use them (teachers and students) need to be familiar with and enthusiastic about utilizing digital resources such as databases, networking services, and electronic resources (e-resources). It is abundantly obvious that the many problems lessen the relevance of the digital library, particularly given the fact that many establishments and library professionals suffer anxiety and concern about new technology. Within the scope of this research project, we analyze the perspectives of college libraries and other educational institutions on digital resources. The researcher also inquiries about the attitudes and motives of teachers about the implementation of audiovisual tools and digital technologies in the educational setting.

Keywords: Educational, institutions, Researcher, digital technologies.

**INTRODUCTION :**Thanks to years of intensive IT development and the vision of forward-thinking individuals, digital libraries emerged in the early 1990s. The early work of information scientists like Paul Outlet, Vannevar Bush, and J.C.R. Licklider, as well as the works of futurists like H.G. Wells, demonstrate the potential of information technology to enhance the organizing and exchange of knowledge. "The time is near at hand when any student, in any part of the world, will be able to sit with his projector in his or her own study at their convenience to examine any book, any document, in an exact replica," H.G. Wells said in 1938, describing his vision for a "world brain" or global encyclopedia. Despite the widespread attention and support that Vannevar Bush and H.G. Wells' ideas garnered, the technology that gave rise to digital libraries was far different from what they had in mind.

Still, H.G. Wells' future dreams, as shown in the above paragraph's quote, became a reality. Wells' World Brain, like many other books and academic materials, is now available online and may be accessed from a student's laptop or mobile device. Access to information resources and the opportunity for new methods of evaluating and combining these resources are made possible by digital libraries, which overcome both physical and technological limitations to provide this access. A digital copy of Wells' book, a "exact replica," is theoretically accessible via the Google Book Project or the Hathi Trust Digital Library. However, only students and professors at institutions who are members of Hathi Trust may see its material due to copyright limitations. As Wells foresaw, universal access to "any book, any document" is theoretically possible but is now hampered by societal and legal constraints. As

Books and even three-dimensional objects are only two examples of the many diverse types of knowledge that may be discovered in digital libraries. Each and every bit of data either originated in a digital format or was transformed from analog ones. Digital libraries have paved the way for a massive digitization endeavor to convert the vast amounts of printed intellectual and cultural resources housed in libraries, archives, and museums into digital formats. This transition is still in its early stages. And now, for the first time in human history, knowledge resources are not dependent on their physical bearers and may be accessed consistently in a digital format independent of their source or manner of presentation. David M. Levy points out that a single medium or representational format (ones and zeros) may be used to express text, pictures, music, and movement visuals. And with just one tool, you can bring any of these shapes to life. All objects and all records, says Levy, are inherently social since they emerged from the context of human action.

Positive features of the transition from analog to digital recording, transmission, and storage include increased accessibility and novel user experiences. The problems of user community support, digital resource management, and information presentation and preservation are all made more difficult by this. Until the endless flood of ones and zeroes is converted into useful resources for education, training, and personal usage, it serves little use. Since the cataloging standards used in traditional libraries did not transfer well to the digital environment, the structure of digital libraries took center stage throughout their early stages of development. Calhoun calls the time period in which digital libraries were built the "metadata renaissance" because of the explosion in the variety of metadata formats that emerged during this time. In addition to archiving digital artifacts and the metadata associated with them, digital libraries may also serve as networked information systems, complete with search, retrieval, and user interaction tools. Distributed ledger systems have benefited from advancements in information search and retrieval as well as technological contributions from the field of computer science.

Parallel to the growth of the World Wide Web, digital libraries began to take shape. Since adopting certain Internet technological standards, digital libraries have become an integral element of the worldwide web. As a result of these drastic changes, libraries no longer serve as central hubs of information provision, and they also lack a distinct identity in the modern world.

There is a plethora of alternative information resources available to consumers nowadays, and digital libraries must compete for their attention. argues convincingly that digital libraries have not kept up with user expectations and shifting information practices because of their institutional affiliation and outdated information models. While digital scholarly publications are already a commonplace resource in the academy, personal and institutional adoption of digital libraries has lagged. Like other novel information systems, digital libraries must fight for visibility and adoption before they can fully realize their potential. There is a need for further study and development in the areas of social aspects of digital libraries and the support of users' intellectual and educational activities.

**Cultural sensitivity of digital library :**The bulk of the world's population resides in nations with quite different cultures from the Westerners who create the vast majority of digital libraries. Some online libraries cater to a certain demographic, such as those that focus on indigenous cultures or those that attempt to help those living in poverty. Those working on digital libraries must obviously think about the wider community while making decisions.

Users of digital libraries should be able to do their work in their preferred language since, as we've shown, language is the medium through which people think, communicate, and establish their cultural identities. However, the necessity for cultural awareness extends far beyond. As an example, the name of a specific automobile model became synonymous with something very terrible in certain nations, and sales of that model plummeted there. There are cultural considerations for symbols as well; offering images of dogs, for example, which are considered insulting in Arabic cultures, might have unintended consequences. Furthermore, color choices and the meanings attached to certain hues vary between cultural groups.

While most Westerners would simply define tapu as "sacred," this simple word conceals a wealth of nuanced meanings in Polynesian culture. varied things have varied levels of tapu, and just as many Westerners find blasphemy impolite and insulting, so do Polynesians when these objects are used wrongly. Photos of individuals, for instance, are considered tapu in Polynesia and hence should not be shown in public. This might have implications for the design of digital libraries.

# **Digital Library Services**

Digital Library Services encompass a diverse range of offerings that utilize digital technology to enhance access to information and resources. These services include online catalogs for easy search and retrieval of books and other materials, electronic versions of books and journals, extensive databases covering various subjects, multimedia collections, digital archives, and institutional repositories. Additionally, digital libraries offer interlibrary loan services, reference assistance, digitization projects, mobile apps, and responsive websites to cater to modern users' needs. By democratizing access to knowledge, preserving cultural heritage, and

supporting research and learning, digital library services play a vital role in the modern information landscape. Here are some key digital library services:

**The OPAC, or Online Public Access Catalogue:** The Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is a digital library service that serves as an electronic version of the traditional library card catalogue. It is a user-friendly online database that allows library patrons to search, locate, and access the library's collection of materials, such as books, journals, multimedia items, and other resources. OPACs provide a powerful search interface, enabling users to look up items based on various criteria, such as author, title, subject, keywords, and publication date.

With the adoption of digital technology, OPACs have evolved beyond their physical card catalogue predecessors. They offer more advanced features, including the ability to reserve, renew, and request materials online. OPACs also display real-time availability status, indicating whether a particular item is currently on the shelf or checked out by another patron. In some cases, OPACs may provide additional information like book summaries, table of contents, and book covers to aid users in making informed decisions.

**Digital books and journals:** E-Books and E-Journals have become indispensable digital library services, offering convenient access to a vast array of literary and scholarly works. E-Books provide users with the flexibility to read books on various digital devices, with features like adjustable font sizes, search functions, and bookmarking. They eliminate the need for physical storage and offer a portable library experience. E-Journals, on the other hand, have revolutionized academic research and scholarly communication by providing immediate access to a wide range of peer-reviewed articles. With advanced search capabilities and interactive features, E-Journals enhance the reading experience and foster deeper engagement with research material. These digital library services expand the range of resources available to users and allow libraries to offer comprehensive and up-to-date collections. E-Books and E-Journals have truly transformed the way we access and interact with information in the digital age.

**Databases & Search Engines:** Databases and search engines play a pivotal role as digital library services, revolutionizing the way information is organized and accessed. Databases are curated collections of various resources, such as articles, reports, images, and multimedia, often categorized by subject or type. They offer a wealth of information from diverse sources, providing users with a centralized repository of knowledge. Search engines, on the other hand, are powerful tools that enable users to query databases and digital library collections efficiently. By utilizing sophisticated algorithms, search engines quickly retrieve relevant and accurate results based on users' search terms. Together, databases and search engines enhance information retrieval, facilitating rapid access to a vast range of materials that may be scattered across different platforms and publishers. These digital library services streamline research, support academic pursuits, and empower users with the ability to explore and learn from a wealth of information at their fingertips.

**Multimedia Collections:** Multimedia Collections are a dynamic and engaging digital library service that brings together a wide array of audio, video, and visual resources. By incorporating diverse multimedia formats, such as lectures, documentaries, historical recordings, images, and interactive presentations, these collections offer a rich and immersive learning experience. Users can access these materials from anywhere at any time, using various digital devices like computers, tablets, and smartphones. Multimedia Collections play a pivotal role in supporting different educational and research needs, catering to a broad audience that includes students, academics, researchers, and the general public. By offering a blend of visual and auditory content, these collections foster deeper understanding, facilitate knowledge retention, and promote interactive learning. In the digital age, multimedia collections serve as a valuable resource for libraries, broadening the scope of information available and enhancing the accessibility and usability of diverse materials.

**Digital Archives:** Digital Archives serve as a crucial digital library service that preserves and provides access to historical documents, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and other valuable cultural artifacts. These archives play a vital role in safeguarding and digitizing fragile or rare materials that may be susceptible to deterioration over time. By digitizing and organizing these resources, digital archives ensure their long-term preservation and make them accessible to a wider audience. Users can explore and study these materials remotely, accessing primary sources that provide valuable insights into the past. Digital archives often incorporate advanced search functionalities, descriptive metadata, and contextual information, enabling users to navigate and interpret the archival materials effectively. These collections not only contribute to historical research but also promote cultural heritage preservation and encourage public engagement with the past. Digital archives serve as

invaluable resources for researchers, scholars, students, and anyone interested in exploring the rich tapestry of human history.

**Institutional Repositories:** An Institutional Repository (IR) is a valuable digital library service that provides a centralized platform for preserving and showcasing the scholarly and creative output of a specific institution, such as a university, research organization, or cultural heritage center. IRs serve as open-access repositories, making research papers, theses, dissertations, reports, conference proceedings, and other intellectual works freely accessible to the global community. These repositories not only contribute to the dissemination of knowledge but also ensure the long-term preservation and visibility of the institution's scholarly contributions. By providing a comprehensive and organized collection of academic materials, IRs enhance the institution's reputation, promote collaboration among researchers, and facilitate interdisciplinary studies. Furthermore, IRs often comply with open standards and licensing models, encouraging copyright retention by authors and enabling content to be discoverable through search engines and academic databases. Through the collective efforts of institutions to establish and maintain their institutional repositories, these digital library services contribute significantly to the advancement of academic scholarship and support the principles of open access and knowledge sharing.

**interlibrary Loan Services**: Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Services are a vital component of digital library services that facilitate the borrowing and sharing of materials among different libraries. When a library does not have a particular book, article, or other resource requested by a patron, they can request it from another library that does hold the item. Interlibrary Loan Services enable libraries to expand their collections beyond their physical holdings, providing users with access to a wider range of resources from various institutions. Through interlibrary loan, patrons can obtain materials not readily available at their local library, whether it's a rare book, a specific journal article, or any other information source. ILL services streamline the borrowing process, allowing libraries to share their resources and collaborate, ultimately enriching the user experience and supporting research and academic pursuits. By fostering cooperation and resource-sharing, interlibrary loan services play a crucial role in promoting access to knowledge and fostering a sense of collaboration among libraries in the digital age.

Online Reference Services: Online Reference Services are a crucial digital library offering that provides users with virtual assistance and expert guidance from librarians and information professionals. These services enable users to seek answers to their queries, receive research assistance, and obtain help with various information needs through web-based communication channels. Online reference services often include live chat, email, or web form submissions, allowing users to connect with librarians in real-time or receive responses within a reasonable timeframe. Librarians equipped with vast knowledge and access to diverse information resources can provide accurate and reliable information to users, supporting their research, academic pursuits, and general inquiries. Online reference services are particularly valuable for distance learners, researchers, and individuals seeking quick and reliable answers from the comfort of their own homes. These services play a pivotal role in making library expertise accessible and enhancing the user experience in the digital realm.

**Mobile Apps and Responsive Websites:** Mobile apps and responsive websites are two essential digital library services that cater to the modern user's need for accessibility and convenience. Mobile apps are applications designed specifically for smartphones and tablets, offering a dedicated and user-friendly interface to access library resources and services on-the-go. These apps often provide features such as search and discovery tools, account management, book reservations, and e-book borrowing, allowing users to access the library's offerings at their fingertips. Responsive websites, on the other hand, adapt and optimize their layout and content based on the user's device, whether it's a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Responsive websites provide a seamless browsing experience, enabling users to access library resources and services from any device with an internet connection. Both mobile apps and responsive websites empower users with easy access to digital library collections, databases, e-books, and other services, enhancing the overall user experience and supporting lifelong learning and research on the user's terms. These digital library services are essential components of modern libraries, catering to the ever-increasing demand for mobile and on-the-go access to information.

**Virtual Learning Environments:** Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) are digital platforms that facilitate online education and learning experiences. Also known as Learning Management Systems (LMS), VLEs serve as a comprehensive online ecosystem where educators can deliver course content, assessments, and

interactive materials, while students can access, participate, and collaborate in a virtual classroom setting. These environments typically include features like course calendars, discussion forums, multimedia content, assignment submissions, and grade tracking. VLEs allow for asynchronous learning, where students can access course materials at their own pace and convenience. They also support synchronous elements like live video lectures, webinars, and real-time interactions among students and instructors. VLEs have become integral to modern education, providing a flexible and accessible platform for distance learning, blended learning, and lifelong education. By offering a cohesive and interactive learning experience, VLEs empower learners to acquire knowledge and skills and engage in academic pursuits beyond the confines of traditional classrooms.

**Metadata and Search Enhancements:** Metadata and search enhancements are critical components of digital library services that significantly improve information organization and retrieval. Metadata refers to descriptive information about digital resources, such as books, articles, videos, and other materials, that facilitate their identification and classification. By providing detailed metadata, digital libraries enable users to find and select relevant resources more efficiently. Search enhancements involve the implementation of advanced search algorithms and techniques that optimize the search experience for users. These enhancements may include faceted search, which allows users to refine search results by specific criteria, relevance ranking, which prioritizes search results based on relevance to the query, and spell-checking and auto-suggestions to assist users with potential search term errors. By leveraging metadata and search enhancements, digital libraries enhance discoverability, support precise information retrieval, and ultimately improve the overall user experience, making it easier for individuals to access the wealth of knowledge available in the digital realm.

# SERVICES AND AREA AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

There is an issue that affects individuals all around the globe with the accessibility of the resources and services provided by academic libraries to those who have disabilities. However, the situation is still horrible to the point that such efforts do not exist in other areas of the globe. Libraries have made enormous gains in tackling this problem and have not ceased implementing innovative techniques in certain parts of the world; however, the situation is still appalling in other parts of the world. In this chapter, we take a look at a number of services and resources pertaining to disabilities that might perhaps serve as models for academic libraries. In order to do this, it makes reference to papers published within the LIS field.

Young handicapped individuals, in the midst of forming their adult identities and pursuing advanced degrees that might improve their employability, need access to higher education more than ever. The importance of having easy access to the services that may change one's life cannot be emphasized. However, apart from departments offering academic degrees on how to educate and manage students with special needs, most universities have not made significant investments in specialized facilities for the differently abled. Concerns have been voiced about whether or not higher education is biased in its treatment of students of different backgrounds.

# **OBJECTIVE**

- 1. To study of digital library: services and facilities.
- 2. To study of services and resources available to college students with disabilities.

# **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Each researcher & researcher provided a well-defined, correct & clear methodology for study work. If the technique & methods are simple and effective, and if the researcher is not distracted, then every researcher will get closer to the research work. The researcher should also be alert & very carefully collected; collect secondary data & then evaluate the data for the particular scenario & get to the issue. The current work is both qualitative & quantitative in nature. The qualitative method refers both to descriptive & in-descriptive ways of analysis. While applying a quantity approach to the issue, thorough usage of the literature should be made possible to carry out comprehensive work on the essence of the specific circumstance of the question. In order to carry out the report, the researcher will obtain data from different colleges of education in the Dharwad district. Researcher chooses university junior, senior & diploma courses for research. The process of collecting the data has been accepted by the questionnaire. This questionnaire approach has a major role to play in research. The system of the questionnaire will provide much required information. In the present study, the researcher prepaid

three forms of separate data collection questionnaire. All three types of respondent & their response are very valuable and important for study purposes.

# **RESULT** Data Collection

According to the research that has been conducted, about 17of Chhattishgarh's University Libraries provide disabled patrons some type of support. In order to achieve this goal, a questionnaire was designed and sent to the 17 university libraries located in the state of Chhattishgarh The 17 educational institutions that were taken into consideration for this study are shown in the following list.

S.No.	Name of University									
1.	AAFT University of Media and Arts									
2.	Amity University, Raipur									
3.	Atal Bihari Vajpayee Vishwavidyalaya									
4.	Ayush & Health Sciences University Chhattisgarh									
5.	Bastar University									
6.	Chhattisgarh Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya									
7.	Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University									
8.	Dr. C. V. Raman University									
9.	Durg University									
10.	Guru Gh <mark>asidas</mark> University,Bilaspur									
11.	Hidayatullah National Law University									
12.	ICFAI University, Raipur									
13.	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya									
14.	Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya									
15.	ISBM University									
16.	ITM University									
17.	Kalinga University									

Only nine university libraries responded to the survey, despite many phone and mail reminders.

#### DATA ANALYSIS

The results that were received from the nine different libraries were collated and then arranged according to the survey's three distinct categories.

### **Obtaining Resources**

#### Physical Entry to the Library Structure

#### **Services and Interactions**

Because it would take too much space in the tables and the text to provide the entire names of the universities, we have opted to use the following abbreviations instead.

S.N.	College	Utilized Abbreviation
1.	Atal Bihari Vajpayee Vishwavidyalaya	МС
2.	Ayush & Health Sciences University Chhattisgarh	КС

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3.	Bastar University	BC
4.	Chhattisgarh Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya	AC
5.	Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University	RC
6.	Dr. C. V. Raman University	SIIC
7.	Durg University	BAU
8.	Guru Ghasidas University	TUV
9.	Hidayatullah National Law University	NUL

#### **Obtaining Resources**

		Higher Education										
Q.N.	Queries		1	T		r	1	1	1	6		
		MC	KC	BC	AC	RC	SIIC	BAU	TUV	NUL	Entire	
1	Exaggeration	Y	Y	Y	Ν	Ν	N	N	Ν	Y	4.0	
2	Collection DAISY (Audio with navigation feature)	Y	Y	Y		N	Ν	Ν	Ν	Y	4.0	
3	Digitalized inventory	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9.0	
4	Web-Braille framework	Y	Y	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	N	Ν	Y	3.0	
5	Support for screen readers and screen magnification	Y	Y	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	N	Y	3.0	
6	Services in Alternative Formats	Y	Y	Ν	N	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Y	3.0	
7	Website and Digital Library that is accessible	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9.0	
	Entire	7	7	4	2	2	2	2	2	7	35.0	

- 1. It has been discovered that only MC, KC, and NCL provide support for screen readers and screen magnifiers.
- 2. Alternate format services are only offered by MU, KC, and NCL, which are the only three institutions. These schools provide a variety of reading tools, including Braille books, books with large print, and computerized talking books, for students who have reading disabilities. Through the use of UC, you will have access to Play talk, a CD reader, and a Braille translator.
- 3. Every one of the nine educational institutions has made the content of its website and digital library accessible to anybody and everyone.

#### Physical Entry to the Library Structure

	Queries	Higher Education										
Q.N.		MC	КС	BC	AC	RC	SIIC	BAU	TUV	NUL	Entire	
1	Parked	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ν	Y	8.0	
2	Entryway with appropriate, easily accessible doors	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9.0	
3	Steps	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ν	Y	Y	Y	Y	8.0	
4	Lifts/Elvators	Y	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	N	Ν	Y	2.0	
5	Ideal shelves/adjustable tables	Y	Ν	N	Ν	Ν	Ν	N	Ν	Y	2.0	
6	Reserved area	Y	Y	N	Ν	Ν	Ν	N	Ν	Y	3.0	
7	Self-service kiosks that are accessible	Y	Y	Ν	N	N	Ν	Y	N	Y	4.0	
8	accessible public spaces, including	Y	Y	Y	Ν	Ν	N	N	N	N	3.0	

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	restrooms										
9	Mobility chairs	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ν	Y	Ν	Ν	Y	6.0
	Entire	9	7	5	4	2	4	4	2	8	44.0

#### ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF DATA COLLECTION

The findings of the field study with the aid of the student questionnaire, the teacher questionnaire and the library questionnaires provided in the educational institutions. This chapter presents an overall description of the uses, goals, requires and importance of education and also expansion and development, the creation of digital libraries, digital libraries in the educational setting.

#### **PROFOUNDITY IN THE FIELD WORKS**

While the research study carried out with the assistance of field work was limited in forms of duration and scale. The study will devote more than 3 to 4 months gathering responses from pupils, teachers and librarians. At the first meeting with students, the researcher delivered the questionnaire to the students at the classroom, and there was an informal discussion with the teachers regarding their classes, workplaces, syllabuses & activities. The study will obtain a questionnaire from the students within a few days. The study also tried to collect all the guidelines and observations provided by the faculty on innovative technical advances in colleges. It really helped the researcher to examine the results.

#### ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

Digital Libraries & Networking Resources are the student's helping side today. Students and readers are essential in this field of research and the main theme is that they are predominantly users of digital libraries. First students tend to pursue information with the desire to succeed and be self-sufficient. If they don't get the specifics they're counting on, the students go to a friend. Each student wants ready-made papers, ready-made papers, one hand, and all information at once. Today, in networking libraries, students are reading on-screen, students want to browse further databases, e-resources, & search engines for expected information. The digital library, e-resources and its various software also allow students to learn.

#### CONCLUSION

Establishing a national information infrastructure that connects India's academic institutions, government agencies, commercial firms, and industrial groups should be the purpose of India's digital libraries. This should be the ultimate objective of India's digital libraries. By making it simple for researchers to access materials that are stored on a variety of systems and in a variety of formats, this service will allow India to construct a research organization that is better capable of competing internationally at a reduced cost. Because they contain a wealth of useful information and because information is the key to unlocking power, digital libraries have a bright future ahead of them. Tony Blair, who was serving as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom at the time, said during a conference in 1999 that "the knowledge economy is the economy of the future." This observation suggests that the day after today will be known as the day of technology; hence, the accumulation of knowledge will be critical to the growth of any country. When seen from this angle, the 'Digital Library' will play an extremely important part. Workshops, conferences, and other types of professional development training are required to assist overcome the crisis in digitization and digital libraries by giving the essential guidance to industry specialists. This may be accomplished by bringing together a variety of professionals from throughout the sector.

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