Library Portal: The Gateway of Information

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Abstract: This paper emphasizes the significance, elements and functionality of library portals, the role of librarian as selector and organizer of information on the web .It is imports the functions of librarian in the traditional setting into the web setting. It also highlights the concept of library portals and information gateway

Index Terms: Library portal, Information gateway, Content management, Academic libraries.

Introduction:

Library portal is one place were any one can get the information of particular library or information Centre. Library portal is a key of library holding. In other words, portal is a place where information is organize in systematic manner. It is today's need because of increasing the library users in the world. Library portal typically provide a gateway to an institution's resources by listing them for users and creating a direct link to the native interface of each resource. Such listings are available on most of libraries' Web sites today. Academic librarians provide credible content that has been selected for a specific learning community. Their library's homepages and collections have what every web site wants brand and content. Libraries have the brand name of the academic institution they serve and content that has been customized to meet the needs of their users. The students who may have difficulty determining what is valuable and what is useless on the web, the library offers a safe harbor in a flood of information increasingly the content of libraries is in digital form and is composed of databases. Click on any library homepage and you will find an array of databases selected to support the academic programs offered by the institution. These databases are made available both on and off through the library portal.

What is portal?

The term "portal" in the field of information technology (IT). Hence, there are not only different types of portals, but also different definitions. Simplifying, the world portal "describes an entry point; or homepage, for accessing Internet content and services."

Types of portal

The types of portal has been explained as following

Vertical portal

Vertical portals are also seen as likely business-to business communities- for example, small business people with home offices might be attracted to a comprehensive vertical portal that provided ideas and product information related to setting up and maintaining the home office.

Horizontal Portal

Whereas a horizontal industry is one that aims to produce a wide range of goods and services. Because most industry tends to specialize, most industry tends to be vertical. Horizontal portals like my Yahoo! are also called "consumer portals", "web portals" or "Public portal" and "proved a Wt of information for everyone."

Features of Library portal

- Mirror of the Library
- Provide 24*7 service
- Access information remotely
- Information available on fingertips
- List of all holding of particular Library
- Information access through WEB-OPAC
- Web linkage Access to the online databases
- **TCP/IP shall be supported**

Function of library portal

Searching would be far easier for the user if the library could present resources in a consistent, organized gateway. This should be customized for different user groups.

Users would learn to search more effectively if there is one fully functional library maintained search interface available for any database they wanted to use.

It would often be convenient to search multiple databases from one search box. This implies the ability, in a single search, to interrogate databases that use different metadata standards, especially in different curatorial domains.

Specifically the system should be able to search databases of images and a proliferating array of multimedia types, and ideally show thumbnails or previews in search results.

• The search results from spread searches need to be presented in an intelligible way to the user, ideally with de-duplication and sorting of results.

The system must understand licenses, such that it only offers options to users that are available to them, based on their access rights and the license, although it can help create awareness and drive demand for protected resources through alerting, personalization and customization functions.

Link resolution services should be supported. That is rather than pointing at specific static URLs for content, web requests should pass through an intermediary service where a final URL is calculated for any resource at the time of the user accessing it this offers a saleable way to manage constantly changing URLs and the opportunity to develop further middleware support services.

The user should be able to save hits or searches, including for reuse on databases other than the one it was first created for.

• Another central requirement is that there should be a single point of authentication. The user must not be constantly challenged for a password, in fact cross searching of multiple access controlled datasets is impractical without some sort of single sign on or caching a credentials or trust between servers.

The system must provide central management tools for handling a variety of http based query syntaxes, since standards are developing rapidly to meet the needs of specific domains.

Library Portal and Librarian's Initiatives

According to Zemon (2001) as an educators who organize and evaluate information resources. Academic librarians bring unique perspective and skills to the development of portal in their colleges and universities for portal planning and implementation, they bring their expertise with content, their commitment to users services and their experience in creating customized web based information del i very through library portal. He also take a initiatives as a

- Content creator
- Copyright experts
- Digital reference service personnel
- Metadata creator
- Librarians, Information Technology staff and other academic staff will have to co-operate more.

The portal implementation itself will force collaboration, systems thinking, and will break-up functional silos. Staff at every level will realize that in order to succeed in this environment, collaboration,

openness with information will become essential. All systems are interconnected and a diverse work force has to work together in order to enable and users centered services.

Conclusion:

The portal will become the agent, which transforms the library into a learning organization. Building a portal takes vision, leadership, and sustained co-operative effort from many diverse stakeholders, systems thinking, organizational openness and promotion of personal trust. The portal will force institution and academic libraries to focus on outcomes to users. Portals will help institutions respond directly to user's expectations with visible increase in service quality and learning outcomes. A successful library portal will also enhance the learning and research environments of the campus and will contribute to a better informed and more open society. Ultimately, the library portal will change the organizational culture of institutions of higher learning and help them evolve into real learning organizations.

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