

E-Publishing: Impact on Libraries

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Abstract

The present paper deals with the rapidly changing era of information explosion, information and communication technology and the replacement of traditional method of information collection storage and reclamation. The introduction of ICT has altered the picture of preservation as well as proliferations. As a result of innovation in the area of printing and publishing, the lot of changes occurred in all fields of libraries. Focusing on electronic publishing, way of e-publishing, type of e-publishing and advantages of e-publishing, this paper endures to visualize its different features. Being the major beneficiary of ICT, library due to internet, can provide to researchers all kinds of data regarding his/her area of study. The technology has changed process of publishing and distribution of information and thus, publishing has become a foundation for new information society.

KEYWORDS: electronic publishing, information, communication technology, digital publication, E-Journal

Introduction

The world is rapidly changing and the users of library seem to have no time to visit library every time. Therefore, it is a vitally significant to library professional to provide information to user in as quickly as possible in short time. This demand of the users of library has been tried to meet through e-resources using appropriate ICT [digital publication, of e-book, electronic articles]. E-resources are those resources which comprises the documents in electronic or e-format that can be accessed via digital library i.e. E-publishing [the format of works published online]. Several electronic resources are generously obtainable to any person over internet access. It is realized that the words information and communication technology are one of the important exhortations of modern world has modified the society into information society and so the lifestyle. E-publishing gives a scope for to new writer and has become common in scientific publishing. E-resources are electronic product that distributes collections of data, text, and images collection of data, text, images, and other multimedia product to the users on internet.

Electronic publishing is the progression of generating and distributing information via electronic means such as e-mail, the web, etc and is generally called as a digital publishing. Libraries endeavor to make available the access to relevant information by introducing a new technique to the users. The electronic publishing product includes text, graphic, hypertext, video and database. The world is drastically being replaced by digital revolution and earlier originally published electronic resources in print format are later made available electronically. Therefore, the electronic publishing is getting prominent place in the field of education.

Electronic Publishing: Meaning and Definition

The vital target of electronic publishing is to provide users fast and easy access to the information. As discussed above, it is principally a method of publishing books, journal and magazines in electronic format which were earlier being produced and stored print format. These publications have all qualities of normal publishing like the use of color, graphics and images. Electronic publishing refers to publication of any document in an electronic form. Electronic publication is the distribution of information in digital format to user on electronic network such as web. Let us observe some of the significant comments of the scholars of this domain as follows:

Perryman maintains *“Electronic publishing is a process for production of typeset, quality documents containing text, graphic, picture, tables, equation etc with the assistance of data processes system. The synonyms of electronic publishing are computer assisted publishing. The published information is disseminated on state of the arts medium CD-ROM, online network.etc.”*

F.W. Lancaster defines electronic publishing as *“It is the publication process where the manuscripts are submitted in e- format, edited, printed and even disseminated to user in e-format by computer and communication technology. The published information disseminated in the form of online, CD-ROM and ISDN etc”*.

Kist defines electronic publishing as *“the application by publishers of computer aided process, by which they find, capture, shape, store and update information content in order to disseminate it to a chosen audience.”*

According to popular electronic encyclopedia, Grolier Electronic Publishing, electronic publishing is *“the term E-publishing refers more precisely to the storage retrieval of information through electronic communications media. It can employ a variety of formats and technologies”*.

Type of E-Publishing

E-Publishing is basically divided into following types which includes:

1. House publisher

House publisher is based on the model of a traditional, royalty paying publishing company and the authors submit question or partial submission to the publishers. The advantage for the authors is that there is little risk involved because the publishers pay for the cost of production and distribution. The disadvantage in the traditional is that the final editing and creative control is left with the publisher and with the author.

2. Subsidy

Here authors contact with a subsidy e-publisher and choose from a menu of services, each with separate fee. The subsidy e-publisher plans and transfers the book as well as affords exposure for it on the publisher’s website.

3. Self Publishing

The self published author generally either prepare the book himself and convert it into digital book or convert it into digital formats rather than visiting a traditional printing

press to arrange for print runs. The benefit is that the author has a complete control over the final presentation of the book and as a result, the author receives all the benefits from the sales.

4. Cooperative Publishing

This model is based on the traditional house model which is associated with preparation of book and royal payment. The cooperative publisher tenders the basic editing cover arts and website preparation, offers the book in standard formats and markets the book.

5. Broker

A Broker publisher simply offers the author the opportunity of displaying his book at the broker's website and takes care of the selling and distribution of book.

Criteria for Selection of Electronic Resources

Generally, one should use the following criteria for the selection of electronic resources:

- a. It is useful for education and research program.
- b. Published information must be current.
- c. Published reading material must be of good quality.
- d. Published material must be same as the printed form.
- e. Publication should have good quality and must be universally accepted.
- f. Separate committee should be for the selection of e-resources.

Type of E Publishing Types

There are lots of publishing formats conventionally being practiced in library domain. Some of them are discussed briefly as follows:

1) Electronic Book (E-Books)

The book which is made available in the Electronic format based on publication criteria and published online and which is readable on computer is called e-book. In other words e-books are texts of printed books in electronic form which are read on personal computer laptops and PDAs with multimedia features. There are a growing number of hardware devices available for reading e-book data. For example, Nuvomedia's rocket e-book Oxford Dictionary of English defines an electronic version of printed book can be read on personal computer. E-books are usually read on dedicated hardware devices known as e-Reader or e-book devices. Nelson has defined E-book an "*electronic book that can be read digitally on a computer screen, a special e-book reader, personal digital assistant or even mobile phone*". Early e-books were commonly written for specific fields and for limited number of audience, mean to be read by small interested group. The range of the subject matter of e-book consists technical manual of hardware, manufacturing technique and there subject. The e-book is immensely being popular document which helps to meet the academic requirements of users. Publishing book electronically helps to publish quickly in short span of time. The electronic book is helpful because of its easy particularity and their feature which incorporates more than one book in a single hand held devices.

2) E-Journal

According to Jones and Cook "*An e-journal is digital periodical that publishes on the internet or www. E-journal are primary those journals that are published and distributed in electronic format as CD-ROMs or online internet*". According to Sasse and Winkler

“electronic journal have been called various names such as virtual, paperless journal, online journal, network journal and CD-ROM journal.” Singh and Kishan Kumar have defined *“Electronic journal as the one which is available electronically and used with the help of computer and communication technology”*. E-journal is vital source of information for scientific research and expansion. The major benefit of e-journals is global distribution, hyperlinks and ability to access from different site. Electronic journal are scholarly journal. In real sense, this means that they are published on web. In electronic form article usually contain metadata that can be entered into specialized database, such as DOAJ. Some electronic journal are online only journal, some are online versions of printed journals, some consist of the online equivalent of printed journal, but with additional online only most commercial journal are subscription based. Nowadays, the growing number of journals is accessible like online open access journal which requires no subscription and offers free full text article and review to all. Individual articles published in electronic journals are also found online for free in temporary manner on personal homepage. The following are the major publishers of e-journal: The American Institute of Physics, Elsevier Science, Blackwell Publishing, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, American Society of Chemical Engineering, and American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

3) E-databases

At present, a lot of database is available on the network. They are available in both types, free and chargeable. The asset of library consists of book, journal, report and thesis which can be converted in to electronic form that allows access for public use through digital network. Today, various database publisher account for publishing information, both bibliographic and full text, on CD-ROM as well as making them available for online retrieval. An excellent example of electronically published database, the ERIC database is the largest educational database in the world. ERIC is available in CD-ROM format as well as on the net free of charges. The holding of academic library database consists of books, periodical, report and thesis can be converted in to electronic form that allows access for public use through digital networks. Various electronic databases publishers today account for publishing information both bibliographic and full text on CD-ROM as well as making them available for online retrieval. The prominent online publisher includes DIALOG, BRS and EBSCO ETC. An excellent example of electronically published databases, the ERIC database is the largest educational database in the world that contains more than 800,000 records per year. ERIC is available in CD- ROM format as well as on the net free of charge.

4) Print on Demand

Print on demand is a new practiced method for printing books. It is mix of printing and electronic publication. The book is held by the publisher in electronic form and printed out in the hard copy from only as per order. This method helps free publisher from process of doing a traditional print run of several thousand books at a time. Print on demand is a good intermediary step between the regular methods of printing paper books and electronic book.

Advantages of Electronic Publishing

Electronic publishing recommends countless opportunities to the users. Some of the prominent advantages of e-publishing can be enlisted as follows: The publication process made faster, The cost of publication is reduced, Instant access is made anytime and anywhere, The author has printing right, Worldwide distribution of publication, Easy updating is available, It is user friendly and eco friendly, Physical space saving, Reader accept easily, Search by different search engines.

Electronic Publishing: A Useful tool for libraries and information centers

Libraries and information hubs are the driving forces of the electronic publishing revolution. Electronic publishing resources improve library services to their user and made their interior operation well-organized. It facilitates faster and better quality of services. Electronic publishing allows faster dissemination of information than the print technology because information may be made accessible on electronic network. Electronic publishing gives greater freedom to researcher to disseminate their research work. In the changing scenario, libraries and librarian play an important role in handling electronic resource. Today, libraries have to offer multiple services and changing their role keeping in view the fast growing e-publication.

Conclusion

The rapid advancement of information and communication technology has facilitated the junction of electronic publishing. Information has been entrenched in varieties of way and form in diverse kinds of electronic resources. Quick changes of information looking for behaviors and use of internet and online access of e-resources have turn out to be a vital part of information needs. The online journal i.e. e-journal is the extremely significant of research community. It provides online journal which saves the time of its users. The basic inspiration of libraries is facing revolutionary changes with the development of technology. The recent developments in e- publication and web technologies have brought significant changes in concept of past library services.

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