

# Digital Resources Management: The Role of the National Digital Library

Bedadyuti Sahoo\* Ashok Kumar\*\* and Sapna Goel\*\*\*

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\*Dy. Librarian  
KIIT Deemed to be University  
Bhubaneswar-24, Odisha

\*\*Chief Librarian  
\*\*\*Library Assistant  
Maharishi Markandeshwar  
(Deemed to be University)  
Mullana - Ambala  
Bharat

Corresponding Author  
Ashok Kumar  
gargasok@gmail.com

## ABSTRACT

ICT has changed the traditional concept of the library. The role of the digital library in collecting varied resources has given a new dimension in the library services. Adding to this concept, the major role of the National Digital Library of India in collecting the digital resources and providing them through a single window system is a remarkable achievement. It is helpful in the teaching-learning process and promotes research and development. Now-a-day, Libraries are more powerful, dynamic and reach before the users easily without any geographical restrictions. Libraries are fast moving in this Internet era from the manual mode of action to digital access. In this direction, the use of communication technologies has redesigned the library services to the borderless world and has become the lifeblood for the users' community. In this context, the aim of this paper is to establish the importance and different roles of the national digital library in preserving and disseminating the digital resources for the academic excellence and research growth.

**KeyTerms:** Digital Resources, Resources Management, National Digital Library, Digital India, Digital Library

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## INTRODUCTION

National Digital library of India is an educational development project under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India which provides digital resources in free of cost. It provides access to books, thesis, audio lecture, article manuscript, video lecture, question paper, web course, annual report, solution data set, report, technical report, manual album, monograph, technical manual, law judgment etc. to the users freely. The library started its pilot form in May 2016. But, it is in the present day has stood as an unparallel facilitator in the field of digital resources management. The user can open his/her account and get the content from popular sources freely. But, some of the registrations work from the World eBook Library, South Asia Archive, OECD library, Satyajit Ray Society (<https://en.wikipedia.org/>)<sup>1</sup>. The pilot form turned in to the full-fledged National Digital Library on the National Reading day on June 2017 at New Delhi. The mission of NDLI is to develop a framework of effective and vital learning repository and it could be available in a single-window system (<https://currentaffairs.gktoday.in/>)<sup>2</sup>. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur has developed

to NDLI which is a single window platform that collects and collates metadata from different learning institutions and other relevant sources from India and abroad.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

It helps the researchers to compute the current problems of analogous interest and increases the fundamental knowledge of the problem and its elucidation for the future. It summarises the literature and helps to locate the gap between the past and present data. It helps the researcher to put suitable methodologies and recognize the problems in the earlier identical research. So for this, in order to unearth the present analytical observation, the following few studies have been taken in to account pertaining to the present topic.

The library organization should be sentient more about the intellectual property rights in creating digital collections. In this regard, Spasser stated that the patrons of the library in the present day expect access to both physical as well as electronic items<sup>3</sup>. So, publisher converts the print model into electronic formats which is substantially less expensive and easy to deliver. Physical versions may be preferred for graphics

objects but electronic versions are easily accessible and time and again vary in PDF, HTML, MS Word, XML and text. Sinha in his writing stated that the main work of the digital library is to acquire, store and retrieve the information in the digital form<sup>4</sup>. It is group inter-linked and connected with the high speed networks. In this situation, Library Professionals face problems in the collection of digital resources and to make it store, format and retrieve the same for the future use. In the same way, Kumbhar supplementing the present context said that the digital library is always user centric which provides information electronically<sup>5</sup>.

To sum up the above statements, the importance of the digital library is inevitable for the users' benefit. It is also in the same way applicable for national Digital Library which provides digital resources to the clients of the digital libraries of the world. The professionals are also well equipped with the digital systems and they are more techno-savvy in providing the services to the users'.

## OBJECTIVES

- To incorporate quite a few national and global digital libraries in a single web-portal
- To make available digital resources and empower, inspire and encourage one and all citizens of the country
- To amalgamate the existing digital contents available in a single window system
- To promote learning facilities and boost research and development of the world
- To highlight the facets of digital India and its substantial impact on modern society through e-services

### ○ National Digital Library: Concepts

Ministry of HRD, Government of India initiated a project under the National Mission on Education through IIT, Kharagpur ([https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/8421097\\_Leeter-NDL.pdf](https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/8421097_Leeter-NDL.pdf)) as a host and coordinating center<sup>6</sup>. The purpose of the project was to establish a National Digital Library and disseminate the digital resources through a single window system. In this context, Minister of HRD while launching the NDLI portal declared his statement before the common masses that: "It is a very good platform for schools, universities, teachers, students and for all learners. He addressed to the media and said that it is a single window platform for educational needs. It will have more than 17000000 books in 200 languages. Around 11 lakh govt. schools would be given library grant between 5,000 and 20,000 every year depending on their size. It will also be helpful for the researchers, competitive preparation and gaining knowledge for all" as the matter published in the Hindu Business Line (<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/>)<sup>7</sup>.

Furthermore, NDLI is a single window access point which facilitates e-learning for primary to higher education. It harvests metadata and contents from various Institutional Digital Repositories (*ibid.*) and allows searching e-contents and full texts.

### ○ Benefits of National Digital Library of India

National Digital Library of India is a free accessible platform which can be accessed through "<https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/>". The types of learning resources are available in NDLI namely, books, theses, audio lectures, article manuscripts, video lectures, question papers, web courses, annual reports, solution data sets, reports, technical reports, manual album, monographs, technical manuals, law judgments (<https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/>) and many more. It caters the needs

of the different users' in the subject domain areas like Computer Science and Information Technology, Religion and Philosophy, Psychology, Social Sciences, Language, Technology, Natural Science and Mathematics, Fine Arts, Literature and (*ibid.*) and many other subjects<sup>8</sup>. NDLI users' get to benefit directly from the web source in the following ways:

- Educational Materials are available starting from primary to postgraduate level
- The materials on Science and Technology, Social Sciences, Humanities and many other subjects are available in the single digital repository
- Over 60 types of learning resources and 10 million items authored by 3 lakh authors are available
- Digital resources are available in more than 70 languages

The featured sources of NDLI cover NPTEL of 10000+ video lectures in engineering domain. NCERT Books of different subjects up to 12<sup>th</sup> Standard in Hindi and English and Krishikosh which covers more than 50000 books, Journal articles, reports on Agriculture, INFLIBNET provided 38000+ theses and synopsis reports written by Indian researchers from different institutions of India. LIBRIVOX is a dataset which covers more than two lakh audiobooks is a better service for special students. In addition to the above features, the NDLI is also providing the news and different events of different knowledge databases, programmes, press release, national and international conferences, medical and legal domain workshops of India.

The above information relating to the availability of digital resources of NDLI clears that, it is not only a teaching-learning supportive platform but also it encourages research on different domain areas of the world.

### ○ Digital Libraries of the World

Digital Library is an easily accessible platform to literature and information (<http://www.faena.com/aleph/articles/the-8-best-digital-libraries/>) where the digital resources are provided to the clients through a single window<sup>9</sup>. The users' store the books in their easy way and read them in the own custody. Thanks to the creation of digital archives at the national as well as the international level which provides digital resources for the benefit of the different users' categories. The worldwide digital libraries contain books, maps, films, audiobooks which are really difficult to find the same in physical form. Keeping in the importance of the digital resources, some famous digital libraries of the world are given for the learners benefit and make the concept more usable.

Table 1 states that the premier digital libraries of the world have started providing their services after 1990. Most of the above prominent digital libraries are from the United States of America. It was possible because of huge investment and provision for enriching the information for the common masses. In the succeeding paragraph, the different digital provisions under digital India are discussed for better understanding of the concept of digital India.

### ○ Major Digital Provisions under Digital India

The vital provisions of digital India are to make the country paperless, faster service and boob free. It also aims to give indemnity the people of India and help the people in getting the things easily. Some of the major digital provisions under digital India are enumerated in given below.

Table 1: Prominent Digital Libraries in the World

Digital Library	Year of Estd.	Country/Institution	Website	Key Features
Bartleby	1993	Los Angeles, USA	<a href="https://www.bartleby.com/">https://www.bartleby.com/</a>	One can browse popular textbooks on Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences and it has a huge collection of books for consultation, fiction, essay and poetry.
Project Gutenberg	1998	Salt Lake City, USA	<a href="http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page">http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page</a>	It offers over 33000 e-books to read and download. It is also worlds' greatest literature available in this digital Library. No custom Apps required for accessing the resources and the institution can never charge any fee for any service.
ibiblio	2000	The University of North Carolina and Chapel Hill's MetaLab, USA	<a href="https://www.ibiblio.org/">https://www.ibiblio.org/</a>	It began as one of the world's first online libraries and to share and supports all kinds of free software. It provides online resources on music, literature, art, history, science, politics, and cultural studies.
Open Library	2001	California State Library and the Kahle/Austin Foundation.	<a href="https://openlibrary.org/">https://openlibrary.org/</a>	It provides more than one million e-books for downloading classic literature. It has over 3million books lining its digital shelves.
Google Books	2004	California, USA	<a href="https://books.google.com/">https://books.google.com/</a>	It is one of the world's most comprehensive indexes of full-text books. It provides over 100000 e-books for consultation, download and online purchase.
Universal Digital Library	2006-07	Carnegie Mellon University and Others	<a href="http://www.ulib.org/index.html">http://www.ulib.org/index.html</a>	The objective of this digital library is to capture books on literature, artistic and scientific works and preserve in the archives. It is available free throughout the world in digital format. One can collect one million e-books from this digital library
Internet Archive	2010	San Francisco, USA	<a href="https://archive.org/">https://archive.org/</a>	It is a non-profit biggest digital library which allows downloading millions of e-books, audio books in free of cost. It provides 279 billion web pages, 11 million books, 4 million audio recordings, 3 million videos, 1 million images, and 100000 software programs on the website.
World Digital Library	2010	Library of Congress, USA	<a href="http://project.wdl.org/">http://project.wdl.org/</a>	This is a big digital Library which allows searching for 19147 items about 193 countries between 8000 BCE and 2000. It is a big source manuscript, rare books, films, maps in multilingual formats.

Sources: (<http://www.faena.com/aleph/articles/the-8-best-digital-libraries/>) & from their own websites

- Digi Locker: It is helpful in storing documents of the citizens like PAN card, Passport, School and college certificates, government documents. It aims to remove the use of authentic documents and to share them through different government agencies.
- Attendance.gov.in: This provision was launched by the present Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015. The main purpose of this provision is to record the attendance of government employees. It was 1<sup>st</sup> launched in Delhi central government using Biometric Attendance System (BAS). Now-a-day, it is mandatory for all organisations to record the attendance for checking the corruption practices.
- MyGov.in: It is a legitimate platform for sharing constructive ideas on matters related to policy and governance.
- SBM Mobile app: SBM stands for Swachh Bharat Mission is an awareness programme. It is done through the Mobile App. It aims to achieve the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- eSign framework: It is a government of India provision which facilitates the citizen to sign a document digitally using Aadhaar authentication.
- e-Hospital: It provides medically related services like online registration, fee payment, doctors' appointment, receive online diagnostic reports, query on the availability of blood through online and many other related services for the benefit of the common people of India.
- National Scholarships Portal: It is an education related programme which solves in the process of the end to end scholarship starting from the capitulation of students' application till disbursement of amount.

In adding to the above provisions, GOI has provided many other related provisions to make the system hassle free. The provisions of digital India give benefits to the common

masses through quick and error free services. It needs time to time training and awareness programme for the common people to adopt the system more useful.

#### ○ New Paradigm: National Digital Library of India

According to Lee, National Digital Library integrates the different collections of the national and international digital libraries<sup>10</sup>. It also improves the environment by integrating past analog collections and new digital resources. It creates a common digital hub for the conversations of the digital resources and enhances the facilities by creating digital reading room, video room, ubiquitous lounges (<https://www.inforum.cz/pdf/2007/lee-chi-ju-.pdf>) and many more<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, it provides services by using high-tech digital equipment and information communication networks and places where active users' interact with each other. Another special provision provided by NDLI is to make available digital resources for disabled persons and senior citizens in worldwide.

#### CONCLUSION

In the concluding remarks, it can be said that the role of the National Digital Library in disseminating the digital resources is a remarkable achievement of Government of India. In this regard, Joshi in his view said that digital information promotes digital learning and digital literacy through the National Digital Library<sup>12</sup>. Digital media has brought a sea change in the digital library. It is fortunate for the top level scholars to the digital resources in a single place. It saves time and money of the user and encourages research and development because of the easy availability of the digital resources at the doorsteps. Supplementing this idea, Lee in his writing stated that, NDLI has created a big digital archive with high-quality service through digital network<sup>10</sup>. Furthermore, it strives to build an open portal website which is considered as the user-friendly and interactive digital library. Last but not least, it is no doubt, National Digital Library of India has offered an easy search environment with comprehensive high-quality databases creating a digital hub in the digital information environment.

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