Virtual and Digital Library

Mr. Suresh Kumar, Assistant Librarian
Shiv College of Education, Tigaon, Faridabad Haryana India.

Virtual libraries rely on interactivity to allow patrons to explore sites and to use resources. While the terms Virtual library and Digital library are used interchangeably, they are in fact not the same thing. A digital library consists of a networked collection of multimedia information typically available in one location, while a virtual library comprises a set of links to various resources on the Internet, such as documents, software or databases. The links in a virtual library are transparent to users and it provides them with one interface to information.

Today, we live in an era of technological revolution. New tools and instruments are designed and marketed in the field of communications and mass media and also living in the age of Information Technology (IT). The storage and retrieval of information has taken various forms and formats like on-line databases, microfilm / fische, telecommunications facilities, videotext etc. Now, a modern library has to provide a package of many related services with the help of computer networking which enable the interlinking of libraries and information centers to pool resources and services irrespective of their physical location.Library profession should use these technical aids such as telecommunications, computers and information technology in the provision of library service to convey useful information to the people in the Third World Societies.

Virtual library:Many institutions use the concept of a virtual library in their integrated library systems as a means of collocating electronic resources. This collocation may be either complete or partial. If all of a library's e-resources were cataloged to the Virtual Library, the collocation would be comprehensive. When users initiated a search limited to this "library" they would search across all of the library's electronic resources on all campuses. A comprehensive Virtual Library in the IU Libraries system would include all electronic resources, whether or not users on a particular campus had access to them.

Alternatively, a library may decide to catalog only a portion of the e-resources to the Virtual Library and catalog others to individual libraries, such as Kokomo or the Bloomington-Music Library. Users would need to be aware of this distinction and appropriately direct or limit their searches.

The proposal below is an example of a plan to catalog only a portion of the e-resources to the Virtual Library—those that are available to all users in all locations. Materials only available to users in selected locations would only be cataloged for those locations. To relieve users of the need to understand this distinction and thus to direct or limit their searches appropriately, the proposal seeks to use the newly available search groupings (aliases) that allow a group to include multiple libraries to put the Virtual Library into each campus' search.

Characteristics of the Virtual Library:

1. Contents: The Virtual Library includes ONLY resources that are 1) available via the World Wide Web or similar system wide technologies, and 2) available to all members of the Indiana University community statewide. This will include both materials that are purchased on subscription/require IU affiliation for remote access and materials that are freely available to everyone.

2. Access:

➢ Access to Virtual Library materials would be transparent to the user if the library used as its default library search limit its alias grouping that included the Virtual Library. The new geographic alias groupings would have an alias group for each campus that included the physical library and the Virtual Library.

➢ Materials that use the same bibliographic record for both paper and electronic formats would have two or more copy/call records—one for the library or libraries holding the paper copy and one for the Virtual Library.

- The best chance for user access in all libraries is for every library to participate in creating records for the Virtual Library. PLEASE NOTE: Libraries, even if they participate in generating Virtual Library records, may choose which default library to use for searching on the machines in their libraries. They may choose to search only that physical library, without the Virtual Library contents. In that case, their users would need to be taught the distinction between the Virtual Library and the physical library, and what electronic resources they could expect to find in each.
- Catalog records would include one 856 field with no ownership specified, based on standards adopted in July 2001.

Advantages:

- Users would be able to access all resources to which they had access, whether or not their libraries had added a copy/call record, while still retaining the value of the library limit.
- Allows all libraries in the system to share cataloging of electronic resources.
- IU-affiliated users would not, in a standard search limited to a default library or geographic alias grouping, see resources for which they have no access.

Digital Library:

Digital Libraries are being created today for diverse communities and in different fields e.g. education, science, culture, development, health, governance and so on. With the availability of several free digital Library software packages at the recent time, the creation and sharing of information through the digital library collections has become an attractive and feasible proposition for library and information professionals around the world. Library automation has helped to provide easy access to collections through the use of computerized library catalogue such as On-line Public Access Catalog (OPAC). Digital libraries differ significantly from the traditional libraries because they allow users to gain an on-line access to and work with the electronic versions of full text documents and their associated images. Many digital libraries also provide an access to other multi-media content like audio and video.

What are Digital Libraries?

A digital library is a collection of digital documents or objects. This definition is the dominant perception of many people of today. Nevertheless, Smith (2001) defined a digital library as an organized and focused collection of digital objects, including text, images, video and audio, with the methods of access and retrieval and for the selection, creation, organization, maintenance and sharing of collection. Though the focus of this definition is on the document collection, it stresses the fact that the digital libraries are much more than a random assembly of digital objects. They retain the several qualities of traditional libraries such as a defined community of users, focused collections, long-term availability, and the possibility of selecting, organizing, preserving and sharing resources. The digital libraries are sometimes perceived as institutions, though this is not as dominant as the previous definition. The following definition given by the Digital Library Federation (DLF) brings out the essence of this perception. "Digital Libraries are organization that provide the resources, including the specialized staff to select, structure, offer intellectual access to interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities." (DLF 2001) The point in this definition is on the digital library as a dynamic, growing organism. As digital libraries evolve and become the predominant mode of access to knowledge and learning, institutionalization of digital libraries appears to be on the increase.

(Lynch, 2002) For years, information providers have focused on developing mechanisms to transform the myriad distributed digital collections into true "digital libraries" with the essential services that are required to make these digital libraries useful to and productive for users. As Lynch and others have pointed out, there is a huge difference between providing access to discrete sets of digital collections and providing digital library services.

According to Arms a digital library is a managed collection of information with associated services where the information is stored in digital format and accessible over a network. A digital library is an organized collection of digitized material or it's

holding in the digital form, which can be accessible by a computer on the network by using TCP/IP or other protocol. Digital library: It is a later stage of electronic library. In digital library high speed optical fiber are used for LAN and the access is over WAN and provide a wide range of Internet based services i.e. audio and video conferencing and like other. The majority of the holding of a digital library is in the computer readable form and also acts as a point of access to other on line sources. Digital library is the product of the technological development which enriched the field of library and information science and the accessories we use in these libraries are CD-ROM, DVD, floppy disks, multimedia computers etc. and now the Internet.

Benefits of Digital Libraries Digital libraries bring significant benefits to the users through the following features:

i. Improved access Digital libraries are typically accessed through the Internet and Compact Disc-Read Only Memory (CD-ROM). They can be accessed virtually from anywhere and at anytime. They are not tied to the physical location and operating hours of traditional library.

ii. Wider access A digital library can meet simultaneous access requests for a document by easily creating multiple instances or copies of the requested document. It can also meet the requirements of a larger population of users easily.

iii. Improved information sharing. Through the appropriate metadata and information exchange protocols, the digital libraries can easily share information with other similar digital libraries and provide enhanced access to users.

iv. Improved preservation. Since the electronic documents are not prone to physical wear and tear, their exact copies can easily be made, the digital libraries facilitate preservation of special and rare documents and artifacts by providing access to digital versions of these entities.

Differentiate of virtual and digital library:

Sr.No.	VIRTUAL LIBRARY	DIGITAL LIBRARY
1	it saves and/or reduces the physical space taken up by library materials	Space: Whereas traditional libraries are limited by storage space, digital libraries have the potential to store much more information, simply because digital information requires very little physical space to contain them
2	It often adds enhanced searching capabilities in a digital format.	Digital libraries can be accessed at any. time, 24 hours a day and 365 days of the year.
3	The library materials are available at the user's desktop, regardless of where the user is physically located.	Digital library provides access to much richer content in a more structured manner i.e. we can easily move from the catalog to the particular book then to a particular chapter and so on.
4	It allows for the inclusion of materials only available on the Internet or in digital format.	The user is able to use any search term bellowing to the word or phrase of the entire collection. it provide very user friendly interfaces, giving click able access to its resources.
5	It provides the user with the capability to download and manipulate text. It often allows for multiple, concurrent users. It eliminates the problem of a book being missing or off the shelf.	An exact copy of the original can be made any number of times without any degradation in quality.

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