

Electronic Resources Collection Development: Policies, Challenges, and Solutions

Vinod Singh¹ and Rajesh Kumar Diwakar²

Department of Library and Information Science,

Mangalayatan University, Beswan, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India-202146 ^{1,2}

Email: 20211340_vinod@mangalayatan.edu.in, drrajeshkdiwakar@gmail.com

Abstract:

Collection development is a library's first priority. This procedure enhances library reading items to satisfy readers. The collection development policy guides the selection of library content. It supports libraries. Library staff collaboration and communication. This procedure enhances library reading items to satisfy readers. Written collection development policies outline goals and evaluation criteria for guiding decision-making when adding items to a library collection. Large e-resource collections pose a challenge to libraries, as public access to information has increased without traditional library visits. American Library Association defines collection development policies as defining existing collections, planning resource development, identifying strengths, and establishing the relationship between selection philosophy, institution goals, criteria, and intellectual freedom. To build an electronic environment collection policy, select tools and methods, establish guidelines for managing resources, and allocate budget for e-resource purchases. Most libraries share e-resources in various ways due to information technology. The collection development policy should specify whether the collection is in print or electronic form and meet user demand. This article examines various collection development policies for e-resources. Information in this article is derived from secondary sources. This article provides generic information applicable to all types of libraries.

Keywords: Electronic Resources, Collection, Development, Library

Introduction:Information is crucial to any institution or group. Rapid developments in information generation have made it challenging to collect, organize, and retrieve information. In the 21st century, libraries serve as a source of knowledge and information, providing both conventional and new material. Before ICT, libraries exclusively collected print items, requiring significant space for organization and management. Additionally, the information seeker has ample time to assess and study their pertinent data. In general, information seekers prefer not to spend much time searching for appropriate print items. As time progresses, information acquisition shifts from print to electronic formats, which are handier yet require more time to obtain. Prior until recently, the library's collection development policy limited material selection and removal of outdated or irrelevant materials. In the ICT era, libraries have altered their collection development policies. Print items are easy for libraries to acquire. The procurement of e-resources, including books, journals, and databases, differs from print materials in terms of pricing, vendor selection, technical assistance, and license difficulties.

Objectives of the Study:Study objectives are as follows.

- Determine policies governing electronic resource collection development procedures;
- Identify tools for developing effective electronic resource gathering.
- To identify criteria for evaluating electronic resources.
- To find out the solutions of challenges.

Research Methodology:The researcher used secondary sources. The researcher examined the collected material and wrote the article based on the analysis. As the paper is theoretical, it does not include library-specific data. The entire idea focuses on implementing e-resource collection development policies in libraries.

Review of Literature

Bentil, Winifred, Liew, Chern Li and Chawner, Brenda (2021) investigated the management and usage of ERs in academic libraries in Ghana to explore the connection between the electronic resource management and usage of electronic resources. Twenty-four library staff and three library consortium executives were interviewed. Faculty members and postgraduate students from four institutions were surveyed. In this study the use of different electronic resources were not analyzed and name of different electronic resources are not given.

Dhuri, Keshav Ramesh and Lobo, Jovita (2021) this study is about the influence and use of e-resources by the patrons of Engineering and Medical Colleges in the state of Goa. Present research study is about information needs of users in engineering and medical colleges. A structured online questionnaire using Google Forms were prepared for collect data from the users of 5 medical and 7 engineering colleges in Goa. This is a general type of study, type of databases with name, of e journals packages, e books were not discussed.

Emery, Jill and Stone, Graham (2021) explained of the study about the collection management of open access in libraries. Although these titles are free to publish and free to read, costs bear by the publisher. They described collection management of open access in six techniques. They also discussed about the management of open access books. This study revealed the major issues on the collection management of open access in libraries. This study could be in simpler and clearer cut for the better management the open access of electronic resources.

Kalita, Hira (2021) in an analytical study tried to find out the usages of ERMED consortium of e-journals in Medical College. He also finds out satisfaction level of library users regarding usage of ERMED consortium and had done some literature review of ERMED consortium. ERMED (Electronic Resources in Medicine) Consortium is a medical science consortium which was developed by National Medical Library (NML), New Delhi. In ERMED consortium there are 5 Five publishers have with total 243 e-journals. It is revealed that PG students have proposed to add more e-journals related to their subject, physicians and faculty members have proposed to add more e-journals. Sometimes users also get problem for accessing e-resources due to non-availability of relevant topics. In this study other e- resources were not discussed. Indian journals related to medical science may be included in ERMED Consortium for the maximum utilization of national e-journals also.

Naik, Lokesh and Subramanya (2021) revealed the use of the internet and digital information sources among the graduate and under graduate students in the library of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute. They examined the concepts of digital information sources usage through extensive Review of related literature. It is found that majority of the respondents poorly rated the different features of digital information. About the subscribed E-Books package and E-Journals package was not discussed.

Baba, Sumaira and Ganaie, Shabir Ahmed (2019) described the use of online resources among college library users. The scope of present study is confined to four disciplines i.e., Medicine (Med), Surgery (Sur), pediatrics (Pea), Orthopaedics (Ortho) of Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar. The present study utilized a, questionnaires as well as personal interviews for data collection. As the scope of this study is limited to four departments only so this study does not fulfill the criteria of usage of online resources among college library users.

Collection Development:Collection development is a library's first priority. This procedure enhances library reading items to satisfy readers. The collection development process allows libraries to tailor content to user information and service demands. The Encyclopaedia of Library and Information define Library Collection Development as the collection of materials, such as books, manuscripts, government documents, pamphlets, catalogs, reports, recordings, microfilm reels, micro cards, microfiche, punch cards, and computer taps, that make up a library's holdings. The fifth law of library science states that libraries are a developing organism, indicating a steadily rising collection. While collection creation is a continual activity, it must be dependable, authentic, and suitable.

Collection Developed Policy:

Policy is a statement and portfolio for staff and users. According to ODLIS, a library's selection policy includes criteria for field coverage, specialization, difficulty, language formats, and balance. The American Library Association defines collection development policies as a document that defines the scope of a library's existing collections and plans for future resource development. (ALA, 1987). Harrods' glossary defines Collection Development policy as a range of activities related to library collection development, such as selection policy, user needs assessment, collection evaluation, selection, and intellectual freedom. Library collection development policies outline goals and evaluation criteria for decision-making when adding new materials. An efficient collection development policy guides library workers in selecting credible and authentic items and documents.

Collection Development Policy for Electronic Resources

The policy is to characterize a collection based on personal experience, knowledge, and common sense. Similarly, collection development policy adheres to these qualities. Collection development policy guides library item selection. It fosters cooperation and communication among library professionals. To build an electronic environment collection policy, choose tools and methods, establish guidelines for managing resources, and allocate budget for e-resource purchases.

Value of electronic resources:

Electronic resources store and provide access to information through electronic systems and networks. Electronic resources, broadly defined as computer-accessed information, can serve as bibliographic guidance but are rarely mentioned in their own right. Many libraries now rely on electronic resources rather than print materials due to the rise of ICT. Electronics are bulky. The majority of people favor e-materials over print ones.

Some of the major features of electronic resources are:

- a) User access to electronic materials is possible from any remote place to their desktop.
- b) Full networking capability is available for electronic resources. It can preserve and utilize electronic information relationships. Effective searching can help locate specific information.
- c) Can be easily revised, altered, and merged. Digital resources enable quick and easy information presentation. It creates a distributed learning environment that benefits all users at all time.
- d) Easy copying, storage, and dissemination of electronic materials. Electronic resources can store and make vast amounts of data accessible to users.
- e) Information is added to digital resources more quickly. Electronic resources enable fast cataloging, editing, referencing, and indexing. Delivery speed is another factor.
- f) Electronic collections save time for users. They also increase consumer satisfaction. It encourages remote user involvement. Effective education and training can be offered using digital tools.
- g) The online functionality of electronic resources allows for user tracking. Resources can be bought and sold online.
- h) Web-based content offers additional benefits such as charts, animations, and virtual reality compared to print versions. It is cost-effective and affordable. Distribution and feature additions cost money.

Types of Electronic Resources:

Electronic resources fall into two categories. This includes both online and offline electronic resources. Online resources, such as newspapers and electronic journals, are available on the World Wide Web. Offline materials, such as CD-ROMs and e-dictionaries, are also available electronically.

Many electronic resources are available in the ICT era. These are

- E-books: A digital book or e-edition is an electronic book. E-books are often viewed on a reader or tablet via an app. Ebooks are available online, with some free, some open access, and some at a low fee. E-books are often purchased after thorough product evaluation and understanding of publisher terms and conditions.
- Electronic journal: E-journals are scholarly publication accessible by computer and communication technology, typically published online. Most publishers offer online access to licensed users for e-journals. Several publish both electronic and print versions. The library should prioritize subscribing to journals with strong impact factors and user demand.
- Electronic databases are searchable electronic library collections. Libraries acquire indexing or bibliographic databases and full-text databases. The library purchases the product with proper review and at a low cost.

Selection Criteria of Electronic Resources:

Traditionally, the selector or acquisition librarian decides on print material procurement with limited collaboration, while other departments follow set standards and guidelines. For electronic resources, librarians and staff must focus on the following key areas.

- Content: Library authorities must analyze and review e-resources before procuring them. Content in these resources must be legitimate, current, dependable, and meet the needs of the intended audience. Consider some e-resource-specific content criteria. The same criteria apply to both print and electronic resources, determining the appropriate media.

Technical requirements: Accessing electronic materials involves multiple technical challenges. Service providers should provide comprehensive technical support. The library should offer continuing, cost-effective access to materials. When libraries use e-resources online, service providers should offer updates, optimal access, and reduced storage, preservation, and maintenance burdens. Additionally, the library accessing electronic resources must be valid and compatible. Web browsers installed by libraries for resource access should be current, standard, and compatible with various databases.

- E-resource functions and reliability: The interface should be user-friendly, straightforward, and easy to traverse. The search engine should be powerful, adaptable, and user-friendly. The system should provide keyword, Boolean, full-text, and truncation searches. Support multiple export choices, including email, printing, and downloading. The system should be accessible 24/7.
- Vendor support: Reputable, well-established, and reliable vendors are essential. The library should examine and test the vendor-subscribed resources. The vendor should offer training to library personnel and customers. The library should establish service levels for system availability and reaction time for technical issues. The seller should design and trademark the product, backup system data, offer user statistics, and supply metadata such as bibliographic information.
- Cost is a key consideration when libraries choose e-resources. It must be affordable. E-versions should cost the same or less than print. If resource prices rise, functionality and accessibility should be enhanced.

Licensing Issue:

E-resource purchases typically require a license agreement. A license review and negotiation are necessary to assist the evaluation process.

The main licensing characteristics are-

- It should be user-friendly.

- Define authorized users and sites broadly.
- The database should allow printing, downloading, and sharing.
- The service provider should supply statics directly to libraries, whether they are participating individually or as a consortium.
- Service provider should be held accountable for unauthorized resource use.
- The license shall protect the privacy and security of user information when accessing e-resources.
- The license should cover fair use, termination, refunds, agreement period, and language concerns.

• Supply:

E-publications lack a uniform packaging and price methodology compared to print goods. Selectors should carefully consider pricing models, including purchase, subscription, pay-per-view, and rental. The service provider should allow access for both single and many users. The cost should also be maintained. The picker may cancel offers and focus on the chosen content.

• Duplication of material:

E-resources are costly. The selector must ensure that resources are not duplicated when selecting materials.

Review and Renewal Process

As technology advances, evaluation and renewal become complicated. E-resources, like conventional resources, may have varying renewal dates, as subscriptions or leases may last for many years. To ensure effective resource renewal and review, vendors should notify libraries in advance. To reevaluate resources, the library should assess statistics to determine their relevance to users, comparing rates to past years or similar offerings.

Cancellation Process:

E-resources should be reassessed before renewal. If difficulties arise, the selector must cancel these resources. Resource cancellation depends on budget. Cancelling resources from a collection involves:

- If the resources are no longer available or maintained.
- If resources fail to be reliable and relevant.
- If the service provider cannot offer comprehensive subject covering.
- Product cost is not proportional to usage.
- The existing product given by the service provider is defective or in poor shape.

Solutions to Address Challenges

Strategic Budget Planning Strategy: Focus on the core resources, seek options of consortial buying and look at open-access sources to maximize budgets. Result: Improved allocation of resources and increased access.

Strong Licensing Negotiations: Negotiate with flexible access, usage rates and renewal rates. Result: Increased access and usage control.

Far-reaching Selection Criteria: Design a uniform system of assessment based on content validity, material source, user requirements and technical requirements. Result: Quality and relevant resources will be obtained.

Investing in Technology and Infrastructure: Discovery tools, link resolvers, and integrated platforms to consumers can be used to improve accessibility. Result: The better user experience and unproblematic access.

User Education and Training: Hold seminars, classes and sensitization programs on the available electronic resources. Result: More utilization and satisfaction among the users.

Introduction of Digital Preservation Strategies: Partner with digital preservation projects, have back-ups locally where acceptable, and audit link integrity. Result: More extended access to online information.

Analytics and Feedback of usage: Adopt usage tracking software and take user comments to make decisions on the collection. Result: Collection development that is data-driven and more relevant resources.

Conclusion:

Organizations and institutions constantly generate collections. The use of traditional resources like books and microfilm has reduced in recent years. The material is accessible electronically using several methods. The selection criteria and procedure for e-resources in the library have been modified. The library collection development policy outlines how to discover and pick good and unsatisfactory resources. The collection development policy requires library staff to evaluate material duplication, subscription costs, and item utility. The collection creation policy should clearly indicate whether the collection is in print or electronic form and meet user demand.

References:

- Baba, Sumaira and Ganaie, Shabir Ahmed, (2019) 'Use of Online Resources among College Library Users in Kashmir Region', *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal), 2939.
- Bentil, Winifred, Liew, Chern Li and Chawner, Brenda (2021) 'The management and the usage of electronic resources in academic libraries: A bi-directional relationship', *Information Development*, 38 (1) , pp.114-124.
- Dhuri, Keshav Ramesh and Lobo, Jovita (2021) 'Exploring the Boundless Influence of Electronic Resources on the Patrons of Medical and Engineering College Libraries', *Library Philosophy and Practice*, (e-journal) 5657. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5657>
- Emery J. and Stone G, (2021) 'Electronic resource management in a post-Plan S World', *Insights*, 2021, 34 (21), 1–14. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.554>
- Johnson, P. (1994). Collection development policies: a cunning plan. *Technicalities*, 3-6.
- Kalita, Hira (2021) 'Utilization of ERMED Consortium by the Library Users of Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Assam, India: an Analytical Study', *Library Philosophy and Practice*. (e-journal). 5853. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5853>
- Kumar, S., & Verma, S. (2016). Collection Development and Policies of Central Library IIT, BHU and Indore: A Comparative Study. *Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, 4.
- Naik, Loksha and Subramanya (2021) 'Use of Digital Resources among Medical Students in the age of Digital Technology: A Survey of BMCRI, Bangalore, India', *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal), 5429. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5429>
- Natarajan, S. P. (2018). Collection development policy for e-resources in University Libraries: A study. *Indian Journal of Information Sources and Services*, 8(1), 64–68. <https://doi.org/10.51983/ijiss.2018.8.1.501>
- Odini, C. (1994). Collection development: the experience of Kenya polytechnic library. *Library Management*. 15(4), 12-16
- Okogwu, F. I., & Ekere, F. C. (2018). Collection Development Policies of Electronic Resources in University Libraries in Southeast Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice* (eJournal), 1–26.
- Rank, D. (1993). The relevance of collection development policies: definition, necessity and application. *RQ*, 65-74.
- Reddy B, Subhash and Shashikala, H.M, (2021) 'E-resources Utilisation Pattern among the Faculty of Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences, Bangalore: A Study', *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal). <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/4929>
- Shukla, P., & Mishra, D. R. (2011). Collection Development Policy in the Electronic Era. *Asian Pacific Journal of Library and Information Science*, 69-76.
- Sreekumar, M. G. (2012). Strategies on e-resources management for smart information systems. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 155-169.
- Srivastava, P., Parabhoi, L., & Sonkar, S. K. (2016). E-resources collection development policy. *International Journal of Library and Information Studies*, 6(3), 69–76.
- Vignau, B. S. (2006). Collection Development in a digital environment: An imperative for information organizations in the twenty-first century. *Collection Building*, 139-144.