

Role of Shared eLearning Resources in Teaching Profession

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Abstract- The evolution of internet and proliferation of computing devices all over with the progression of time, the classrooms are going to change. Though the development in the area of e-books is not so rapid, yet people have started realizing its potential as an efficient & effective tool for knowledge storage and dissemination. E-book is a term used to describe a text analogous to a book that is in digital form to be displayed on a computer screen. An e-book can be considered as a book in digital form or book in a computer file format.

The first printing press was invented in 1450 by Johannes Gutenberg revolutionized and the first hypertext novel was published in 1987. The modern concept of e-books became common after Martin Eberhart and Jim Sachs both started their own companies and developed Rocket eBook in 1999. This paper describes the following eight types of E-books; image, rich text, hyper text, tex, portable document, post script, Exe book and Desktop author. This paper also deals with the advantages of e-resources in types like, authors, publishers, libraries, readers, classrooms and society and its descriptions.

Online resources provide teachers with quality professional development through “anytime, anywhere” access. Through e-resources, the teachers will learn to identify and understand the needs of any Language learners, implement strategies for modifying academic content, and put their new skills into practice. The e-

resources focus on the ability of teachers to utilize a variety of resources around them. The goal of the online course is to help teachers create life-long readers who are empowered as independent learners.

This paper also explains the e-journals and its relevance’s and the benefits of e-journals consortia. However, the advancement in e-book technologies and e-book production should not be seen as a threat to paper books as the touch, smell, and feel of a paper book, its longevity and history are in our souls.

Keywords- eBook, eJournal, eResorce, Online Education

INTRODUCTION

The evolution of internet and World Wide Web (WWW) has affected all part of life dramatically. Also the area of education has not remained untouched. Previously, student used to spend their time in library searching for information in books and journals. Now-a-days they use web search engines and figure out the web sites containing the required information. The information sharing has become very easy due to access to Internet.

ONLINE-EDUCATION

In conventional scenario, the education system consists of teacher, black board, chalk, books, students, classroom and laboratory and interaction between them. With the evolution of internet and proliferation of computing devices all over

with the progression of time, the classrooms are going to change. Though the development in the area of e-books is not so rapid, yet people have started realizing its potential as an efficient & effective tool for knowledge storage and dissemination. Recent information handling technologies have significantly influenced the basic nature of traditional print-based libraries and have created electronic, digital and virtual libraries containing electronic documents like e-books, e-journals, etc.

E-BOOKS

E-book is a term used to describe a text analogous to a book that is in digital form to be displayed on a computer screen. An e-book is digital reading material that one views on a desktop or note-book computer or on a dedicated, portable device with a large storage capacity and the ability to download new titles through a network connection. E-book refers to electronic files of words and images that are of book length, formatted for display on one or more devices known as e-book readers and sold and/or distributed as stand-alone products. An e-book can be considered as a book in digital form or book in a computer file format.

ORIGIN & EVOLUTION OF E-BOOKS

The first printing press with movable type that was invented in 1450 by Johannes Gutenberg revolutionized the printing process by making it simpler and more affordable. Although the first hypertext novel was published in 1987 (Afternoon, A Story by Michael Joyce), electronic books did not capture public attention until the online publication of Stephen King's novella *Riding the Bullet* in March 2000. Within 24 hours, the text had been downloaded by 400,000 computer users.

The modern concept of e-books became common after Martin Eberhart and Jim Sachs both started their own companies and developed Rocket eBook and SoftBook, the first two handheld e-book reading devices. In

1999, the e-book industry was dominated by small U.S. start-ups like NuvoMedia (Rocket eBook) and SoftBook and many small, Web-based, often amateur-looking e-book retailers.

FORMATS OF E-BOOKS

There exist many standard formats in which e-books are available. Some of the standard formats are being discussed as under the table:

No.	Type	Description
1	Image files (.jpg)	An e-book can be distributed as a sequence of images, one for each page.
2	Rich Text Format (.rtf)	RTF files are actually ASCII files with special commands to indicate formatting information, such as fonts and margins.
3	Hyper text Markup (.html)	E-books using HTML can be read using a standard browser or Microsoft Internet Explorer
4	Tex (dynamic linking) (.dll)	The TeX format is a popular academic format for technical writing applications in the scientific communities of mathematics and computer science.
5	Portable Document Format (.pdf)	PDF files are created mainly using Adobe Acrobat that provides a standard form for storing and editing printed publishable documents.
6	Post Script (.ps)	It is used for describing the contents of a printed page in a higher level than the actual output bitmap.
7	Exe book (.exe)	It is a compiler that produces an e-book file that, when executed, produces a simulated book onscreen, complete with page texture.
8	Desktop Author (.dnl)	It is used for the creation of digital web books with virtual turning pages, including brochures, e-books, digital photo albums, etc.

One of the major benefits of MOODLE is its ability to allow access to courses outside the campus. Courses can offer syllabi access, online notices, lecture resources, conferencing, forums and quizzes [2].

Over the last five years, information technology in India has revolutionized the way in which scholars can access information and data resources. Education practitioners and scholars are no different. This paper is designed to aid those wishing to learn more about how to use information technology to access electronic resources.

Since the World Wide Web's inception in 1989, more information is available to more people today than at any other time in our history. Such an information-rich environment provides a wealth of opportunities for scholars and practitioners of education to access a variety of electronic resources.

Web resources include reports, papers, policy positions, etc., many of which are available full-text. Online learning is a technology-based learning in which learning materials are delivered electronically to remote learners via a computer network [5].

ADVANTAGES OF E-RESOURCES

No.	Type	Description
1	Authors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o increased readership; o allows monetary return; o ability to control the rights to their work. o Authors are free to publish their own work
2	Publishers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Paperless mass production makes publishing & distribution o Potential end of the "out of print" era; o Easy and multiple distribution channels. o Readily reformatted for independent platforms. o An inexpensive format for works that require colour

3.	Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o instant online activation purchased e-books; o lower production costs could lead to lower prices; o eco-friendly; saves shelf space; o no lost or damaged titles; o Simultaneously share book (if networked) o No risk of damage, No risk of tear or theft
4.	Readers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Speed, Portability, Interactivity, Print on Demand, o Personalization, Add Ons. o Convenient storing (bookcase fitting into one tiny PC); o less expensive (it appears at this stage of the market); o Instantly available through downloads. o Text can be searched, except when in the form of images. o Type size and type face may be adjusted. o Zooming in facility very useful in case of electronic map o Can be used with text-to-speech software.
5.	Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A vehicle for assessment and communications o Linked to additional resources o Capable of customization and annotation o Easily selected and isolated components (learning objects)
6.	Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Economically & environmentally viable by cutting down on paper / ink production

TEACHING COMMUNITY AND E-RESOURCES

Since technology-based e-resources development is a relatively original concept, new ideas about how to use e-resources technology in this form are coming out on a systematic basis. While this field is constantly changing, the future of technology-based e-resources development looks promising. Using the more traditional practices of educational development, educators must usually wait until the next workshop or training meeting to develop their teaching professional skills. With technology-based e-resources development, educators no longer need to wait. Rather, they have immediate access to e-resources. Furthermore, these online resources create a more personalized, individualized learning environment [1].

Teachers need high-quality professional development to help their students meet new academic standards and to meet the goal of having a high-quality teacher in every classroom. Online resources provide teachers with quality professional development through “anytime, anywhere” access. Teaching can be an isolating profession. Becoming a true professional involves reflection, engaging in dialogue with colleagues, and developing a portfolio of personal best practices. Through e-resources, the teachers will learn to identify and understand the needs of any Language learners, implement strategies for modifying academic content, and put their new skills into practice.

Good teaching means researching, making contacts, arranging classroom visits, and organizing curriculum related trips. Creative approaches to identifying e-resources can yield information and free and/or low-cost materials. The best classroom materials should not be from the book. The e-resources focus on the ability of teachers to utilize a variety of resources around them.

Employing these e-resources supports teaching and learning in the classroom. The

most effective teachers actively organize their time, space, materials and students to create and maintain an environment that is truly conducive to learning.

The goal of the online course is to help teachers create life-long readers who are empowered as independent learners. The Web offers a radically different way to provide professional development to teachers.

Online learning modules structure a journey for the adult learner which provides both comfort and success while exploring challenging new concepts and possibilities (Jamie McKenzie, 2009). Learning should be hands-on experience based, rather than abstract, thus meaningful learning results from students working cooperatively on tasks that are also related to their interest (Roblyer, 2003).

Journal and magazine publishers are beginning to offer services for subscribers as well as those who visit their website. Services include full-text versions of articles published in the past as well as upcoming tables of contents. For example, Scholarly Articles Research Alerting (SARA, UK) service allows a user to subscribe to several clusters of journals within certain topic areas.

Within education journals they have different areas: Assessment, Comparative, Policy, Research, Higher, Moral and Religious, Multicultural, Special Needs, and Teacher Education. The results on ‘encourage students to learn via effective e-Learning can give more benefits such as reduce the expenses, increase the learning efficiency and save the time’ are explained neatly in their research [5].

E-JOURNALS & ITS RELEVANCE

Many journals have emerged on the World Wide Web. Normally these are comprised of two types: web-only versions and electronic publishing projects. Web-only journals comprise a rapidly growing sector of the World Wide Web. For example, if we want to use International Education -

Electronic Journal, we can use <http://www.canberra.edu.au> and for “Current Issues in Comparative Education”, we can use <http://www.tc.columbia.edu>. Another type of online-only journal is the Electronic Policy Network (EPN) available at <http://epn.org>.

Similar to scholarly publications, many magazines are becoming available full-text online. Eg: <http://www.theatlantic.com> which offers an online archive of many topic-related articles. To see the complete line of education periodicals and to access the free online publications, visit e-journals at <http://www.triangle.co.uk>. In India, online access to full text of articles are available with images are at <http://dsal.uchicago.edu>. If we want to online access of full text of articles in <http://www.India-seminar.com> and we can use the Consortium under INDEST – AICTE Consortium by <http://paniit.iitd.ac.in> and UGC INFONET by <http://web.inflibnet.ac.in>

BENEFITS OF E-JOURNALS CONSORTIA

- Scope for electronic archives;
- Availability and monitoring of usage statistics;
- Getting lower unit cost of information;
- can be read anywhere in the world, at any time have an internet connection;
- allow the inclusion of audio-visual material as well as the other formats
- articles include links to e-books, and other supporting material
- Developing common resources databases;
- Effective document delivery systems;
- Enhanced search facilities;

- Better scope for developing a union catalogue among participating libraries,

At a time now, surfing by Internet for finding information is part of the process of teaching and learning of our students (and teachers). A website, an article or video are formats to which we are accustomed (or which we have to accustom to) and which naturally equate to classic textbooks [4]. Moreover, we recognize the advantages of these new media and try to extract the best of them.

The information in electronic form (as well as the access to this information) has very specific characteristics and the aim of all of us who make use of this information is getting the most out [3]. Our experience has shown that the students are ready and eager to learn using new technologies. Students found animation, colour and movement attractive and time spent learning passed more quickly.

Mobile technologies enable us to be remotely active, anywhere and anytime. Mobile devices are constantly used by almost everyone, allowing communication even in the most rural areas. Various mobile devices are also available: PDAs, cellular phones, audio and video players. The use of mobile technologies in higher education enriches the teaching and learning experiences [8]. Students can remotely participate in the on-line course, as well as remotely access course materials such as lesson recordings.

CONCLUSION

Even the e-resources are having some limitations. They are; Future e-book technologies can be incompatible with the present hardware or software configurations and require care in handling and storage of the files, to avoid damage or loss; reading can put strain on eyes; some publishers may not allow printing and lack of awareness of software application compatibility for the readers [7].

The development of e-book technology that is revolutionizing the whole book publishing industry has started having an enormous impact on the society. E-books are changing the methods by which people read, as it is easy to use and are rapidly becoming a viable alternative. It is providing growing advantages over the traditional printed medium. Several companies all over the world are working towards making electronic publishing the rule rather than the exception.

The e-readers are still in the early stages of development due to the technical snags and the research is being undertaken to perfect an e-book reader, related standards and copyright concepts.

In spite of technological, language and political borders, the book industry will be global, like much of the rest of the economy, with many publishers being part of multinational media companies and e-books, in one form or another will stay. However, the advancement in e-book technologies and e-book production should not be seen as a threat to paper books as the touch, smell, and feel of a paper book, its longevity and history are in our souls.

Applying technology-based methods requires lecturers to acquire adequate skills and capabilities. Adopting and applying these new eLearning methods and techniques generates a role-transition, turning lecturers from knowledge-providers into mentors. Enriching the Indian teacher education curricula with eLearning-based courses improves efficiency, without reducing academic effectiveness.

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