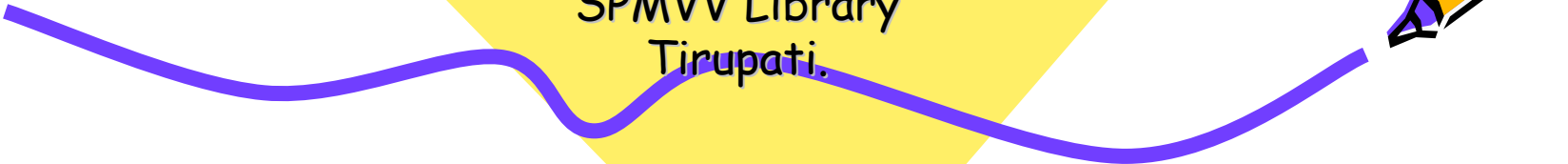




THE FUTURE OF INDIAN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN E- PUBLISHING ERA

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Introduction



- Library Professional education is rapidly changing to meet new demands. Less importance is placed today on skills for managing books on shelves, papers in files, and references in indexes; rather, readers are expected to master a wide range of new technologies and resources. Network technology is allowing the functions of the traditional library... reference services, cataloging, indexing and abstracting, preservation, information packaging, assistance in searching, collection development. licensing of databases, and publishing... to be restructured into units quite different from today's.



Budget Allocation

- The Internet Revolution has begun to transform scholarly communication and we can see that scientific and technical information will increasingly be distributed at low cost over the Internet.



Resource Sharing



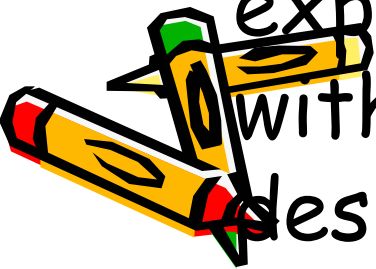
- The digital option became more attractive when they assumed a faster decline in the costs of hardware and software. The key to saving costs through digitization is not technological, but organizational. To achieve the highest savings, libraries will need to form creative partnership and alliances with other libraries and stakeholders.



Inter-library loan



- The integration of online catalogs within regional or national networks has helped users find materials regardless of location. A library is free to send its materials to anyone it chooses. In practice, however, libraries have found it more expedient to answer ILL requests with a photography of the article desired, rather than with a bound



Document Delivery

- When libraries need materials that can no longer be supplied within an ILL community, they can turn to one of many services for document delivery. These services have emerged to improve the efficiency of sharing photocopies.



Collection Development

- Document delivery systems are improving dramatically as they move from sending copies through the mail or by fax towards providing bitmapped copies more cleanly and efficiently over the internet.

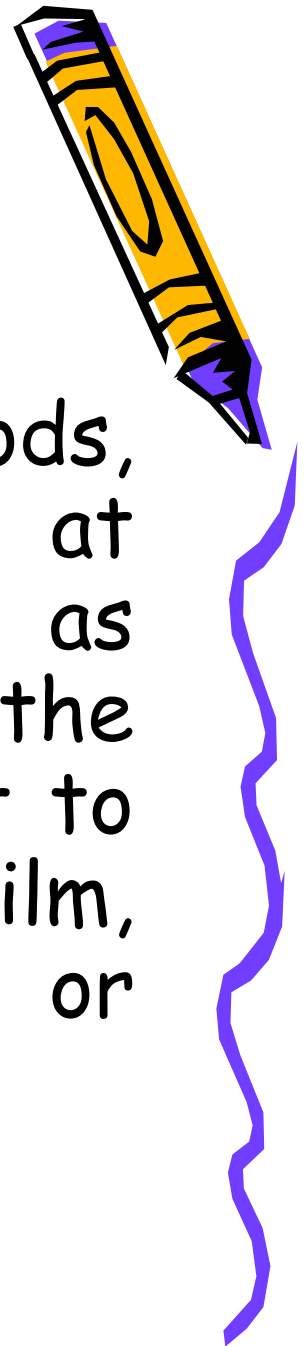


Publishing

- Libraries have traditionally been in the business of collecting and preserving materials published by others. However, the use of new technologies to perform these tasks is effectively turning libraries into publishers themselves. Whether by creating Web repositories of a university's research output or by using scanners to digitize books and journals from their existing print collections, they are starting to make intellectual content available in a form easily sharable by other libraries and user communities.



Preserving our collective memory



- Traditional preservation methods, such as de-acidification, aim at maintaining the historical object as such. Others aim at transferring the intellectual content of the object to a new medium, such as microfilm, acid-free paper, fresh celluloid, or videotape.



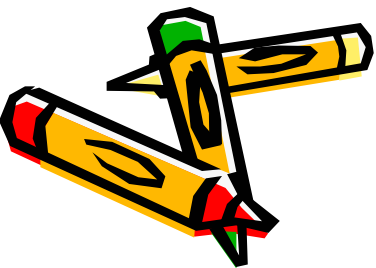
Recommendations

- A digital library is not necessarily a single building or organization. Network technology allows the traditional functions of a library, such as reference services, cataloging, collection development, and licensing of databases, to be handled over networks by autonomous teams. Here are some possible strategies and roles for librarians in the Web age.





- Know your users
- Create a welcoming environment
- Educate the staff
- Save money and improve access through cooperation
- Seek a balance between subscriptions and purchase on demand
- Tend the print collection
- Promote online alternatives to expensive print journals
- Create a Web-based access catalog
- Use digitization to preserve physical resources
- Use digitization to preserve physical resources
- Digitize the print legacy
- Formulate strategies for preserving digital information



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