

WEB-BASED LIBRARY SERVICES FOR PRESERVING AND PROMOTING INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (IKS)

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Abstract :

This article emphasizes the importance of intergenerational transfer of culturally distinct knowledge through online library services to benefit future generations. It discusses how library web services are vital for preserving and promoting Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) by allowing for digitization, secure archiving, and dissemination while upholding Indigenous community protocols. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) represents a rich cultural heritage covering various subjects, yet it faces threats from technological advancement and globalization. Libraries, traditionally centers for knowledge preservation and intellectual exchange, play a crucial role in safeguarding this traditional knowledge. This research reviews the current state of traditional knowledge preservation.

Key Words: Web-based library services, e-resources, repositories, digital library, Indian Knowledge System (IKS), Knowledge Preservation.

Introduction :

The World Wide Web is a major internet service that provides access to integrated information via web pages and browsers. It comprises a global network of servers enabling access to interlinked documents. A library webpage acts as a portal for library-related information, offering integrated access to a library's databases, e-journals, and catalogues. This access includes various services such as online catalogues, digital repositories, virtual helpdesks, and user feedback, thereby enhancing libraries' ability to communicate their offerings to a broader academic audience. The rapid evolution of digital media presents opportunities for improving knowledge preservation, management, and sharing. The study advocates for web-based library services in knowledge management to engage more users, highlighting concerns regarding the risk of extinction of traditional knowledge practices among indigenous peoples ^[2].

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) encompasses a vast and varied body of knowledge cultivated over centuries, shaped by historical insights, scientific advancements, and cultural legacies. Libraries serve as crucial custodians of this knowledge, integral to its creation, enhancement, and preservation. They are essential for the protection and dissemination of India's knowledge systems, promoting learning, literacy, and information accessibility. By capturing, digitizing, and documenting traditional knowledge, libraries play

a pivotal role in ensuring its preservation, housing both traditional materials (like books, journals, and newspapers) and non-traditional formats (such as charts and maps), contributing to civilization's advancement.

Knowledge within this framework is typically categorized into three types: instrumental, intellectual, and spiritual. Libraries excel at connecting individuals with both knowledge and each other. Additionally, there is an active advocacy for policies that support libraries and their patrons, raising public consciousness about the importance of libraries and their professionals. They offer essential educational resources and support networks for communities. A technique called "selective dissemination of information" is employed to provide readers with the latest information tailored to their interests. Preserving information is vital for passing it to future generations. In today's information-driven society, libraries and information centers have adapted, increasingly relying on electronic services and online information sources ^[6].

Objective :

- 1) The main objective of this research is to explore how libraries contribute to the digitization of the Indian Knowledge System and to utilize web technology for sharing digitized IKS information with users.
- 2) Investigate the ways in which libraries maintain, organize, and distribute IKS resources by leveraging web technologies, thereby enhancing their accessibility and relevance for users.
- 3) To analyse the different web-oriented library resources and methods to facilitate web-based library services.

Web-Based Library Services :

Libraries have evolved significantly from being mere storage facilities for books to dynamic information services. Initially, libraries only allowed limited access to documents, but over time, they introduced document delivery and circulation services. By the mid-19th century, library services transformed with the introduction of diverse offerings. The rise of computers in the mid-20th century catalyzed dramatic changes, leading libraries to adopt new offline services and later online services. The advent of the internet in the 1960s marked a critical turn, as industrialized nations began using computers for library operations, ushering in the information age, a period where universal access to information became paramount. Library services now include cataloguing, circulation, reference services, and access to databases in various formats like text, audio, video, and images. The impact of web technology has allowed libraries to reshape their identity, enhancing their services and products to meet modern user needs effectively ^[3]. The Following Web-Based Library resources and Services used in Library listed bellows ^[5]:

Web-based Library Services	A Dedicated website for Library
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	Web-OPAC
	Online Database
	Collaboration with National international Network
	Link to e resources
	Subject Portals and repositories
	Virtual Library Tour
	Web Help
Web-based library services (E-mail based)	E-mail
	Ask a Librarian
	Question point Reference Services
	Customized News to Users
	Latest Library addition
Real-time web-based library services	Chat
	Instant messaging
	VOIP
	Video via reference
Web-based library Reference Services	Bulletin Boards
	Web Contact
	Search Engine reference Service
	Web Base User Education
	On line Tutorial
	Web-form
	FAQ
	User Feedback Services
Collaborative web-based library Reference Services	Consortia Resources
	Union Catalogued
Web-based Referral Services	Link to Publisher Sites
	Link to other Institution
	Inter library loan
	Link to Directory

Indian Knowledge Systems :

Indian Knowledge Systems signify a profound and diverse intellectual legacy that encompasses a broad spectrum of disciplines, including medicine (Ayurveda), spirituality and philosophy (Yoga, Vedanta and other Darshanans), linguistics and literature (Sanskrit and regional languages), mathematics and astronomy (as demonstrated in the works of Aryabhata and Bhaskaracharya), education (Gurukul and oral traditions), architecture (Vastu Shastra), and the fine arts (classical music, dance, theatre, sculpture, and painting). This tradition illustrates a holistic perspective that integrates science, art, and ethics. For centuries, these knowledge systems have been preserved and conveyed through oral traditions, scriptures, and practices.

However, the rise of globalization and technological advancements has posed challenges to their relevance and accessibility. Media, as a significant tool for communication and dissemination, has emerged as a crucial enabler in the preservation and promotion of ancient Indian knowledge systems. These systems are deeply rooted in the Vedas and other ancient texts, which are viewed as the foundation of Indian culture and philosophy. The preservation of these knowledge systems is vital for maintaining cultural identity and enhancing holistic well-being. Ancient Indian knowledge systems are intricately connected to the principles of holistic living, sustainability, and harmony with nature. They emphasize the interdependence of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, offering solutions to numerous modern challenges, such as chronic diseases, mental health issues, and environmental degradation. Important categories of ancient Indian knowledge systems are listed as follows^[6]:

1. **Ayurveda** : Ayurveda is a conventional medical system that focuses on natural healing and preventive care, and it has received worldwide acclaim for its comprehensive approach to health.
2. **Yoga** : Apart from its physical poses, Yoga integrates mental and spiritual disciplines that encourage mindfulness and inner serenity, thus becoming a global sensation.
3. **Sanskrit and Ancient Texts** : The Vedas, Upanishads, along with epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana, encompass ageless knowledge on ethics, governance, and human conduct.
4. **Traditional Arts and Sciences** : India's cultural identity is deeply rooted in classical music, dance, and crafts, which continue to motivate current art forms.

Digitization of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) :

Libraries are involved in the processes of identifying, collecting, codifying, digital transforming, archiving, organizing, safeguarding, transferring, linking, applying, distributing, and sharing knowledge about the livelihoods and environments of indigenous communities to promote sustainable development. Libraries play a crucial role in the digitization of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS), carrying out three essential functions: preservation, curation, and dissemination that allow for the blending of traditional wisdom. As protectors of India's intellectual heritage, libraries not only maintain ancient knowledge but also evolve it into a dynamic asset for current educational practices ^[1].

Preservation of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) :

Traditional knowledge refers to the insights and practices that indigenous and local communities have accumulated over generations. This knowledge is vital for the preservation of cultural heritage, the promotion of environmental sustainability, and the enhancement of social cohesion. However, in the context of globalization, environmental degradation, and cultural homogenization, the need to maintain traditional knowledge has become increasingly crucial. Materials like manuscripts on palm leaves, fragile paper scrolls, and oral histories

passed down through generations are at risk of physical decay, environmental damage, and cultural erosion. To preserve these items, libraries leverage advanced technologies such as high-resolution scanning, optical character recognition (OCR), and audio-visual recording, ensuring their continued existence ^[4].

Dissemination of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) :

The purpose of digitization is to facilitate dissemination, making IKS reachable to users through channels improved by web technology. Libraries realize this by embedding digitized resources into online portals, mobile applications, and educational software, ensuring a broad reach and user-friendliness. The National Manuscript Mission (NMM), the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), and the National Digital Library of India (NDLI), which contains more than 60 million items, are just a few examples of libraries and information centers dedicated to preserving traditional knowledge.

Library Promotion of IKS :

- 1) Supporting Education and Research Libraries serve as vital resources for scholars, researchers, and students interested in the Indian Knowledge System. They provide access to both primary and secondary knowledge sources, fostering learning and research.
- 2) Libraries regularly engage in outreach efforts within the community to raise awareness and understanding of the Indian Knowledge System. They conduct discussions, exhibitions, and a range of cultural events that celebrate India's extensive literary history.

Conclusion :

Indigenous communities and individuals are often deprived of the knowledge and resources necessary to protect their property within a framework that is based on different cultural values. These communities have rich knowledge about their local environment, which includes its plants, animals, and seasonal patterns. It is only fair and logical that they have a considerable influence in decisions regarding the study, extraction, and commercialization of biodiversity. A significant aspect of preserving and promoting Ancient Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) is to raise awareness of India's intellectual and cultural heritage, particularly among younger audiences and those in the diaspora. It rejuvenates interest in practices such as Ayurveda, Yoga, and classical arts, providing opportunities for engagement. However, challenges persist, including the commercialization of traditional knowledge, cultural appropriation, and risks to authenticity caused by oversimplification. Libraries act as repositories of traditional documents, back educational initiatives, and facilitate research, all of which enhance the Indian Knowledge System. The research also looks into the difficulties libraries encounter in this effort and provides recommendations to improve their standing in the digital landscape. By analyzing literature and case studies, this

study highlights the significant role libraries have in protecting India's intellectual heritage and promoting its advancement in today's world.

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