

DIGITAL LIBRARY GATE WAY FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE: A STUDY

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The new electronic world, which is transforming not only libraries but also the organizations that they serve, makes the role of every information professional more complex; all of us now need additional knowledge and skills. This paper deals with the tools required for information professionals in handling the Internet in order to satisfy the users. How these sources are helpful in building a digital collection and which resources are selected for gateways, method of searching have been discussed.

KEYWORDS/DESCRIPTORS: Digital library; Subject gateway; Library and information science; Online resources.

1 INTRODUCTION

Recent advances in Information technology have provided new ways of dealing with information in academic libraries. The explosion of the Internet and Information technology in general has created challenges and more opportunities for information professionals that are redefining our roles for the present and future. The present phase with all the rapid development digital computers and Internet technologies seems to be a period of rapid change for information professionals and information centers. The Internet contains information on a wide range of subjects.

2 DIGITAL LIBRARY

Digital library, the electronic library, the virtual library, the hybrid library without walls, are all concepts that librarians seem to be dealing with all the time. Arms defines digital library as follows: "A managed collection of information, with associated services, where the information is stored in digital formats and accessible over a network". The resources of information, which are available in the form of digital or electronic format are known as digital resources. According to Greenstein "Digital libraries are organizations 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".

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3 ROLE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSION IN THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

Librarians have, in recent years, by introducing OPAC, CD-ROM databases and Internet access to their libraries, convincingly demonstrated their ability to master, manage and use advanced technologies. Internet has become a major source of information for all the academicians in additions to the library services they have from the libraries and information centers. The information in digital medium is so vast and varied cannot be over looked by the researchers in any field of study. However, the major problem with the information on Internet is that it is very difficult to know what information is available on which site. This complexity in the process of getting right information could be minimized, if the information professional design and develop provide innovative service in the networked environment. In order to work in this direction, we have been carrying out a project on designing on line resource in academic libraries. The project covers developing a system to: (1) access electronic journals; (2) developing a system to link do local network; and (3) developing a system to digitize books and journals of importance of Indian Statistical Institute libraries. We have identified the kind of sources required by experts in different disciplines. The resources available through Internet need to be organized systematically to users. The Library and Information professional in many academic libraries have made efforts to locate internet resources and services in their subject home page so that users can make use these sources. These resources provide greater opportunities for transfer of information through networking, CD-ROM's, Internet, electronic texts and journals. Keeping these objectives in view, the library has started collecting the resources and providing services to its users.

4 DIGITAL LIBRARY GATEWAYS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Though the Internet is commonly defined as a network of networks, it comprises of a tremendous amount of information. It can therefore be defined as the world's largest source of information. Gateways are the Internet search tools to help users to find resources on the Internet. Gateways information are electronic journals, data sets, e-books; educational institutions; institutional home pages. Gateways are needed to improve the effectiveness of Internet searching. The establishing of the gateways as a process of identification, filtering, description, classification, and indexing before they added to a database which is freely available via the world wide

web. As one of the practical applications, **Internet** as a source of information is included in this website of library and information science as a gateway. These sources are online and often linked up with other relevant and related sites for more information on the same area. Thus Internet as a source of information becomes an indispensable tool for the purpose of study of subject. The sub-menu Internet sources is divided into the following groups.

- * Electronic Journals
- * E-Books
- * ISI Journal subscribed in LIS
- * Reference Sources
- * Library Software
- * Publishers
- * Important Digital Library Software
- * Library and Information Schools
- * National Libraries
- * Library Professional Associations
- * List of Librarians
- * Librarians Yellow Page

The database pages establish links with mainly to sites which have produced e-journals, reference sources etc., The WWW search engines page offers access to mainly sites and documents related to Library and Information science. Popular browsers like Netscape and Internet Explorer enable them convenient linking to many of these search tools through a click search button on the browser screen. The following important search engines are used for creating this web site. These are Google.Com; Northern Light.Com; Yahoo.Com; AltaVista.Com. This web site is developed by using Front page Editor.

5 HOME PAGE

The aim of the digital library gateway website is to serve as a library guide to the resources and services. The role of the information professional has changed from one dealing with traditional print-based resources to the one handling electronic resources. Internet is the host of worldwide resources. It has to provide well organized, rich information to users. The planned content of the website has influenced the approach to library and information science gateway. There are 12 hot links designed to enable fast access to the most important headings and connections to the LIS gateway of home page. To save the user time, however, there is a direct link from the main home page. Moving through the screens was made possible by the gateways through the use of a series of on screen buttons. A search could retrace the steps of a search by using the back button. Fig 1 shows the home page of the LIS.

DIGITAL LIBRARY GATEWAY - Netscape

File View Go Communicator Help

Back Forward Reload Home Search Netscape Print Security Shop Stop

Bookmarks Go to: <http://www.isibang.ac.in/Digital Library Gateway.htm> What's Real

Instant Message WebMail Calender Radio People Yellow Pages Download Customize...

**INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE LIBRARY
BANGALORE CENTRE**

DIGITAL LIBRARY GATEWAY

for

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

ELECTRONICS JOURNALS	ELECTRONIC BOOKS	LIS JOURNALS IN ISI
REFERENCE SOURCES	LIBRARY SOFTWARE	PUBLISHERS
IMPORTANT DIGITAL LIBRARY WEB SITES	LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCHOOLS	NATIONAL LIBRARIES
LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS	LIBRARIANS	LIBRARIANS YELLOW PAGE

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Fig.1 Home Page

Fig. 2 shows that information on electronic journals on the Internet are listed alphabetically. Users can click the information on electronic journals. It allows users to perform a search, find journals in Library and Information Science. It also gives detailed information about the documents and how to acquire them by online ordering of the documents.

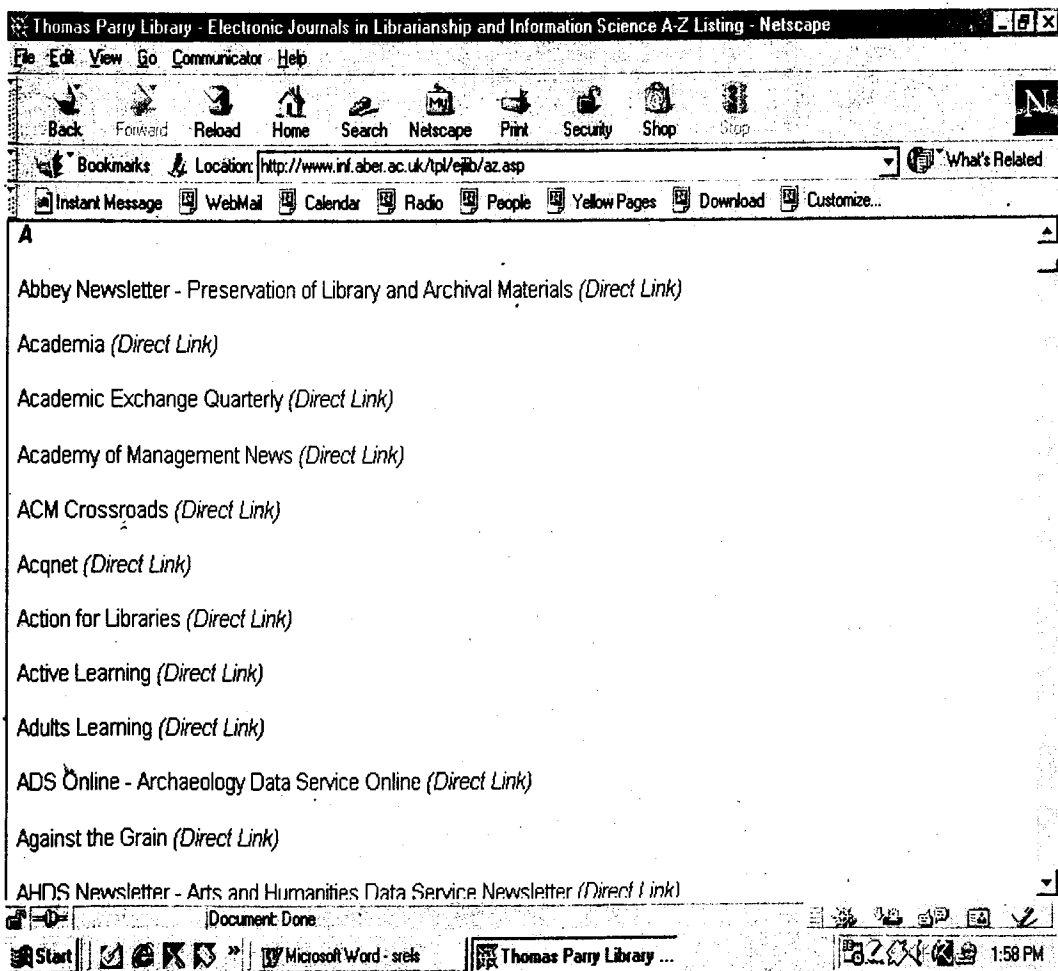


Fig 2. Electronic Journals in LIS

5.1 E-Books

An electronic book is the content of the book made available to the reader in electronic format. University of Virginia Library Electronic Text Centre has taken a project to produce the e-books. In this website information is added about how to download, how to access, and how to create a book. These are all the information available from our website.

E-Book Library at the Electronic Text Center, University of Virginia - Netscape

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A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L

M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z

Document Done

Start Microsoft Word - etext E-Book Library at the... 2:00 PM

Fig 3. E-Books

5.2 ISI Subscribed Journals in LIS

Library subscribes to 70 titles both national and international in the field of LIS. Information resources on the Internet are stored as computer files with IP address. Each file has a file name and path name in which it is stored. Immediacy, accuracy and currency of information are the most important factors in fulfilling users information needs. The database gives details of title, publisher, year of the volume available in the library. It gives virtual access to journals. The library is the interface to electronic data providing access. Navigational aides and resources are provided in the form of 'hotlinks' web pages.

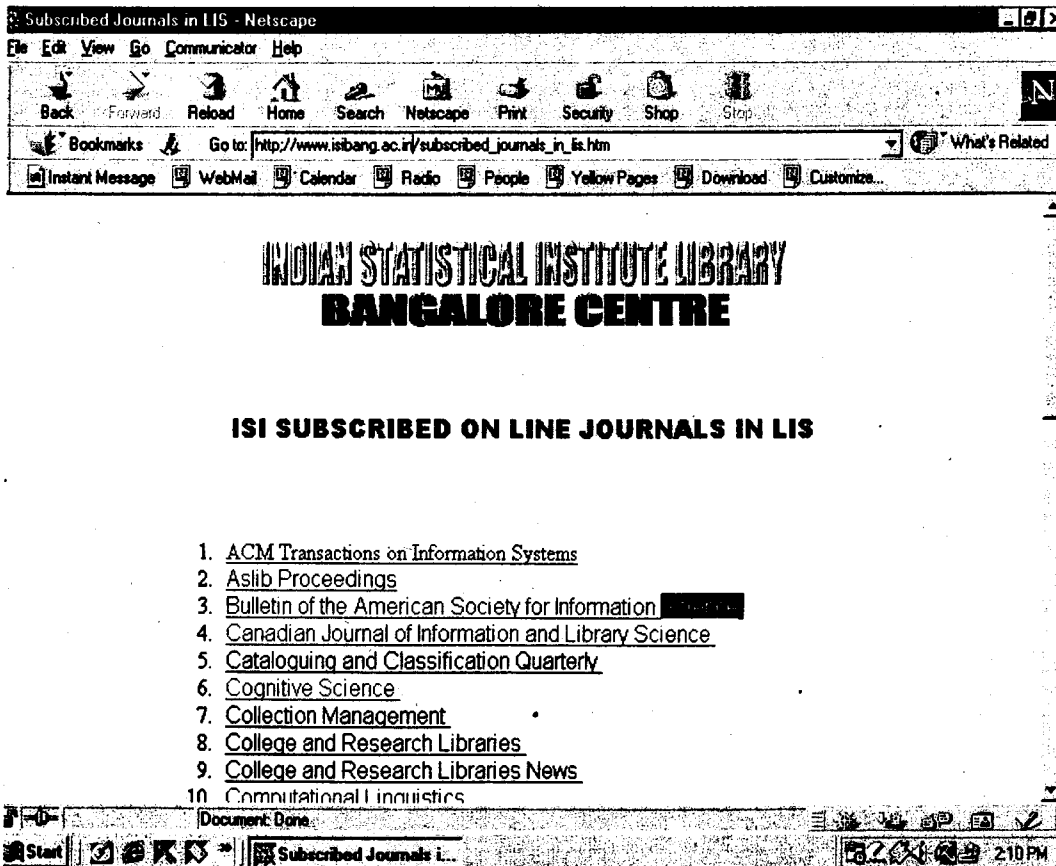


Fig 4. LIS journals in ISI

There are a number of hybrid reference services on the web that are something of a cross between a traditional database service and a web search engine. It covers book chapters, maps, encyclopedias, dictionaries, almanacs and different kinds of reference sources. Users can click the button to get information. The choice of which one to use should be driven by user need. The information is an excellent tool for students and other researchers, as an authoritative source of facts and pointers for further investigation.

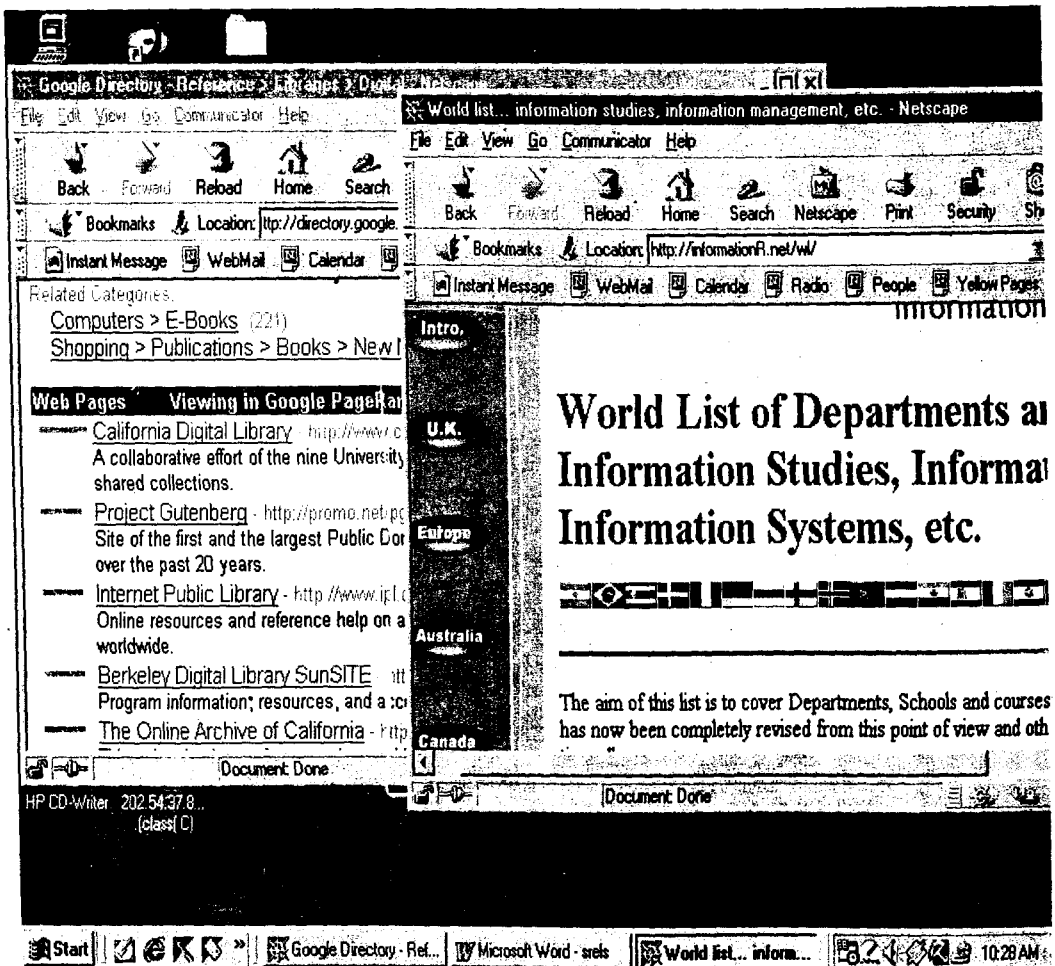


Fig 5. Digital Library Websites and Library Schools

This provides information on digital library websites' addresses including digital sources and stages of the projects, data structures, standards and various kinds of techniques they have used for digitization. It also gives address of library and information schools and courses. Library schools have recognized the potential technology and the Internet have opened up for students and professionals.

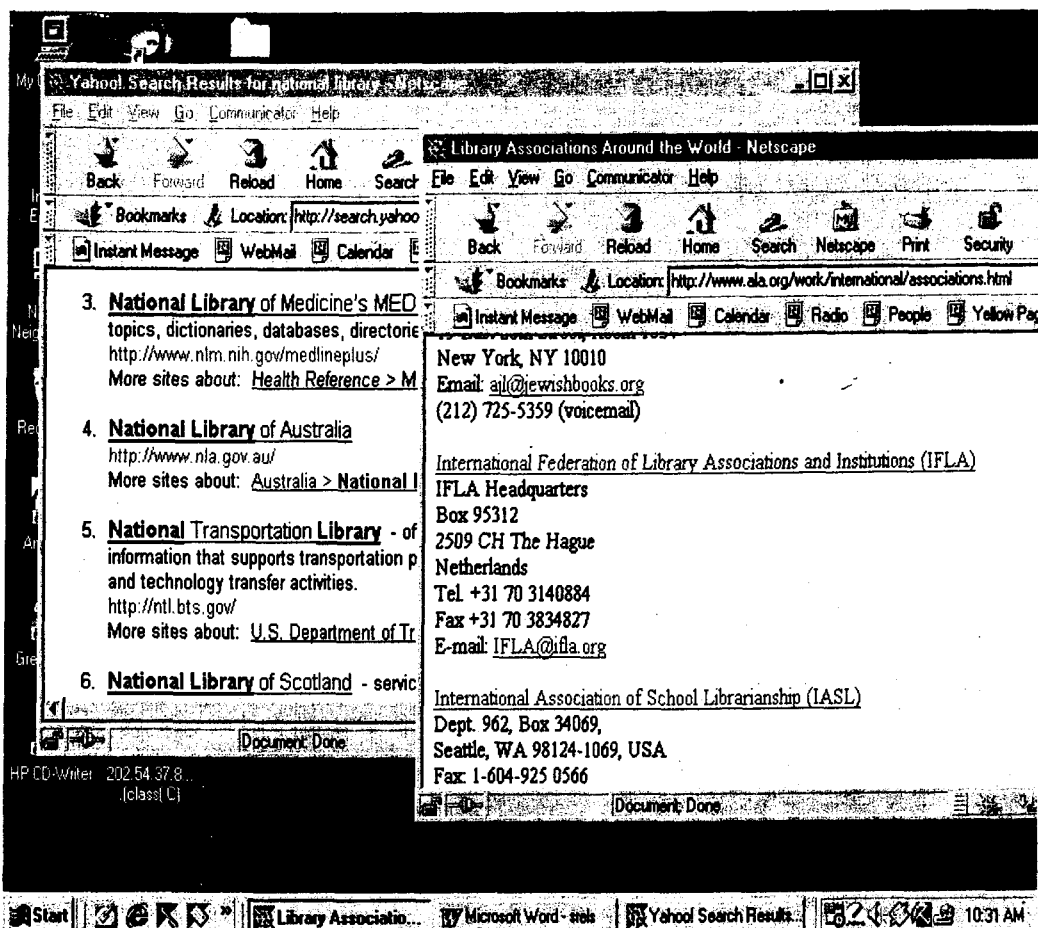


Fig 6. National Libraries and Library Associations

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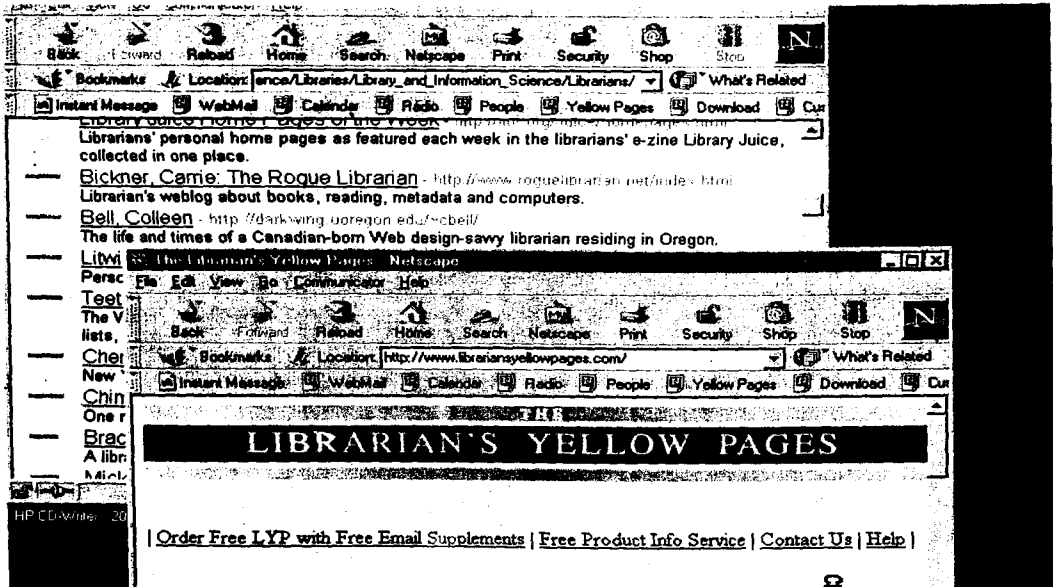


Fig. 7

6 CONCLUSION

Indian Statistical Institute Library has applied few digital information techniques and is providing the information services to its users. The explosive growth of information has made it clear the importance of Internet to libraries and its users. The Internet is only the latest of the important technological advancements that librarians have enthusiastically adopted in their quest to deliver improved information services to library users. Computerization of library process enables existing functions to be performed with more speed and efficiency. In the future we plan to regularly update and review the structure and contents of the website.

7 REFERENCES

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