

IMPACT OF E-PUBLISHING IN LIBRARIES:A STUDY

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Abstract

E-publishing played a important role in the current scenario of library and information centers. Electronic publishing uses new technology to deliver books and other content to readers. It has become a foundation for the new information society to get the right information to the right person at the right time. The emergence of technological advances of has created a new and repurposed publishing industry where both textual and non-textual information can be published and accessed. This paper deals with the role and impact of E-publishing in the current scenario of library and Information centers. The paper covers the advantage, disadvantages and components of e-publishing.

Key Words - E-publishing, Online database, Open Access, ICT.

E-PUBLISHING:

Electronic publishing has brought a revolution in the publishing industry. The rapid growth of internet and its use immensely affected book publishing to a very large extent. The development of internet and multimedia has led the publishing industry to seriously think over its future. Digitization has made possible processing, retrieval and dissemination of all forms of information in whole world.¹ E-publishing has undoubtedly affected all stakeholders' interrelationships in the scholarly publishing value chain pressuring publishers in their value delivery to libraries and users. It has enabled a powerful function for libraries. E-publishing has enabled access models that actually privilege the wider socializing of science, supporting inclusion of institutions and academics in disseminating their own intellectual creation.²

Today, electronic publishing is spreading quickly. Electronic publishing means the digital publication of e-books and other reads like short stories or collections via the internet. Files may be viewed online, loaded onto CDs, DVDs, and Pen drives or even emailed directly to the computer.

It can be divided into two categories: electronic books and print on demand. E-books are digital files stored on computers and read primarily on electronic displays, although some publishers permit printing of their e-books. Electronic publishing uses new technology to deliver books and other content to readers. Since the technology allows publishers to get information to the readers quickly and sufficiently.

EP is a relatively new channel for scholarly resources has radically changed global availability of scholarly publications. At the moment, readers are no longer confined to print publications but can search, obtain and download scholarly papers from electronic journals, electronic books, and electronic archives. Electronic Publishing played a important role I the development of research in every field.³

Electronic publishing is the publishing process where the manuscripts are submitted in electronic form, edited, printed and distributed to readers via computers and the network of networks of computers. E-publishing realizes the dissemination of information through electronic media in all its various stages. Two major fields of e-publishing are electronic journals and electronic books. Electronic journal is a periodical available online or in CD-ROM format. Electronic journal all the activities of publishing viz., submission of manuscript, editing, layout, and distribution including access can be performed using electronic media. Portable electronic book reader will bring about dramatic changes in the field of e-publishing.⁴

E-PUBLISHING:

According to Lancaster⁵ - Electronic publishing refers to the generation of publication in electronic form or at least with the aid of electronics.

According to Kist⁶ - Electronic publishing is “the application by publishers of a computer aided process by which they find, capture, shape, store and update information content in order to disseminate it to a chosen audience”.

According to Ludwick⁷ - Electronic publishing as non-print materials produced digitally. EP in use of electronic devices in all aspects of production, management and distribution of primary and secondary information.

According to Cuadra⁸ - Electronic publishing as computers and communication network. Computers facilitate the production process, while distribution is handled through the communication networks, enabling the users to access data produced electronically. In other words electronic publishing is the process of production, dissemination, storage and retrieval of information in an online environment.

Basically electronic publishing is a form of publishing in which books, journals and magazines are being produced and stored electronically rather than in print. These publications have all qualities of the normal publishing like the use of colours, graphics and images and they are much convenient also. Electronic publishing is the process for production of typeset quality documents containing text, graphics, pictures, tables, equations etc. This technology has also transformed the process of publishing and distribution of information. Electronic publishing has become a foundation for the new

information society to get the right information to the right person at the right time. All these changes in the publishing industry have a great impact on the Academic Library.⁹

ADVANTAGES OF E-PUBLISHING:

- E-publication can be produced, retrieved and disseminated very rapidly among the users than printed publication.
- E-text can be edited, corrected, any time whereas print publications take long time for change and correction.
- In the same time e-information can be searched by more than one user in globally.
- Electronic publishing provide access of articles to researcher much easier than print publishing.
- Electronic publishing can be accessed through World Wide Web globally.
- Electronic information can be stored for long time use.
- Electronic documents required more & more space day by day.
- Electronic publishing is beneficial for long time.
- Library and Information centers can access and share the information effectively with others through e-publishing environment.
- E-documents are more secured.
- Electronic documents are never misplaced.
- In electronic publishing environment a user may request to deliver any part of required document.
- Electronic publishing offers various conceivable forms of presentation. Apart from texts, pictures and graphics it is possible to include audio recordings, videos, animation, computer program etc.
- Easy to export to a variety of formats, especially PDF for printing
- Space saving in libraries through e-publishing.
- Electronic technology is significant and user friendly.
- E-publishing may be 70-90% less costly than paper.

DISADVANTAGES OF E-PUBLISHING:

- PDFs can sometimes not display correctly on smaller screens such as smart phones.
- Online publications may review e-books, but newspaper and magazine reviewers tend to stick with paper.
- Easily pirated.
- Cannot be signed/autographed, thus losing this small but sentimental secondary market of autographed books and book signings.
- Text can be digitally re-sized, thus losing large print edition market.
- Cheaper price.
- Potentially cannibalizes future paperback sales when released alongside hardcover publication.
- Electronic publishing is advanced technology and costly for publishers and users.
- Electronic material cannot be used without power/battery.
- E-information is uncomfortable to read on small screens as comparison to printed books.

KEY ISSUES IN ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING:

- **Quality of Content:** Another difficulty that needs to be overcome about content security publishers, looking at the Internet piracy problems, tampering with uploaded information.
- **Different Formats:** There are many formats of electronic publications; this has constituted problems to users despite its advantages though it is unlikely that one digital file format will triumph over all the others.
- **Increased Opportunity for Scientific Misconduct:** Allows series of research misconducts like submission of same research results to more than one journal.
- **Copyright Infringement:** Copyright is an issue that stakeholders bothered to tackle, especially in an online environment. Using authors work without appreciation or permission is very common in electronic publications, due to free access. Therefore, it is highly essential to discuss the concept of copyright for adequate awareness and benefits to the stakeholders.¹⁰

COMPONENTS OF ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING PROCES:

The key elements that are involved in electronic publishing process is essential, though similar with traditional publishing but this component does not fade away in the electronic era. The valid content, clarity of expression, and effectiveness of presentation increase as more of the journals are read on the screen. This allows comments and contributions from readers within the shortest period of time contrary to traditional publishing that associated with delay in peer review and editing processes. The elements of the publishing process are:

Author Preparation – To create intellectual content.

Peer Review – Evaluation of scientific, academic and professional work by other working in the same field.

Copy Editing and Typography – for clearness and effectiveness of presentation.

Database Preparation – The core of electronic system, to ensure access and interoperability.

Production and Distribution – To produce and distribute the literature for use.¹¹

ROLE OF E-PUBLISHING IN LIBRARY:

Today electronic publishing has changed the role of libraries, academics, publishers and subscription agents for scholarly publishing and making the e-content to users' through information centers. Current scenario of internet and digital technology has created new initiatives for the creation of institutional repositories and developing digital publishing services for education, outreach and advocacy activities. Library-based publishing activity is just a tiny numerator of the larger scholarly publishing world; these activities fill an important need, providing electronic journals, or to departmental journals that may lack the staff and resources to move their print publications online. They are playing a

useful advisory role to journal editors and publishers on campus who are trying to understand changes in scholarly publishing and the range of e-publishing options available to them. These services emphasizing on journal publishing, and generally offer a no-frills environment emphasizing access and visibility, local control, and preservation – for hosting content and for supporting the peer-review and production activities of journal editors. Academic libraries are also playing an increasingly visible role in advising and educating the higher education community on scholarly communication issues in general. They are engaging in discussions with faculty on matters such as copyright issues, author publication agreements, journals policies on self-archiving and how to execute with new open access policies. Libraries have traditionally focused on acquiring externally produced work to make available to their local communities. The library acts as an information clearinghouse. This means that producers do not need to offer their products to individual users, with all the administrative problems and costs involved. This is especially important in the area of journals, where the library takes out a relatively expensive institutional subscription from which materials are further distributed to end users. In many cases administrative intermediaries such as booksellers and subscription agents handle the distribution of publications. Through this system the publisher only has to deal with a limited number of purchasers, whereas libraries can handle their acquisitions through a limited number of suppliers. The library is an efficient instrument to make available a limited set of relevant publications out of the entire volume of publications available in the market place. The library acts as a selective filter and quality instrument, making available to the user only those publications which are relevant and of sufficient quality. There is no need for individual users to keep themselves informed about the information market and to acquire materials individually from publishers and other producers. Also, since publications are acquired through library funds, information usually is made available to end users free of cost. Libraries must develop new specialists with skills in areas such as digital content production, new metadata formats, software development and systems administration, project management, XML markup and other technical skills. Libraries are about connecting users with information, so let's embrace the role as disseminators of information, as publishers. Service and collections come together in the new role as publishers. University presses have increasingly lost their vitality and they have made themselves largely irrelevant by ignoring new economic models and new forms of publishing. Of course this includes mounting institutional repositories, a significant step in this area, which gives attention to helping shape new forms and venues for publishing.¹² Since libraries depend to a large extent on information resources from publishers, the division of roles between these two parties in the information chain is of crucial importance. One of the problems in assessing the future of libraries is that we do not know the future strategy of publishers with respect to digital distribution and the use of networks. Under this alliance, publishers offer their notable journals to libraries in digital form, allowing them to distribute information in digital form to end-users over the network. This service is governed by license agreements that specify the conditions under which the library may offer this type of service. Basically, this amounts to a digital version of the traditional mode of distribution. Libraries maintain their subscriptions to journals, now in digital form. The advantage to publishers is the efficiency of the administrative process and the availability of detailed information on the use of publications. The advantage to users is the availability of materials in digital form on the desktop. This strategic alliance is only temporary, a kind of large-scale experiment to gain experience with the many technical,

legal, financial and organizational issues involved with digital publishing and distribution. In the networked world, there is no need for resources to be stored in the libraries. A single source is, in theory sufficient and cost-effective. It is therefore not unlikely that in future publishers will not continue to distribute journals through the library, but will make them available through their one network servers or digital repositories'. The library will continue to provide users access to these materials based on license agreements, but will no longer be allowed to store the materials in the library. This will, of course, have many implications for the type of services offered by the library, payment schemes and long term availability.¹³

CONCLUSION:

There is no doubt that the E-publishing industry is now in a period of very rapid transition. Subscription agents have always been keenly aware of changes in the industry, and in most cases lean enough to be able to adapt rapidly to ensure their own survival, by ensuring development of new services and roles and often setting the scene. We have great expectation from the publishing industry that it would play a very important role in taking our society forward by facilitating the establishment of Knowledge Society which alone could lead our country to heights of excellence. Publishers still have roles to play when we are no longer gatekeepers. But we have to renew our relevance in environments where enormous amounts of information are put online by different participants, with ample facilities for commenting and linking. These new technologies and norms force us to look at every area where we traditionally boast of adding quality, and to find new ways to apply our skills. Academic publishers need to become much more service-minded and in particular, they need to understand that their real customers are the producers of the content that they publish. The role of an intermediary is attractive to libraries for publishing activity, as the contacts and experience they bring provide a speedier and more efficient approach to carry out the activity fast. This technology has also transformed the process of publishing and distribution of information. Electronic publishing has become a foundation for the new information society to get the right information to the right person at the right time. These changes in the publishing industry have a direct impact on the Academic Library Systems.

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