



Web based information services in Academic Libraries: A Brief Note

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Abstract: Academic libraries play a crucial role in supporting the research, teaching, and learning needs of higher education institutions. With the advancement of digital technologies and the proliferation of web-based information services, academic libraries have evolved to provide enhanced access to digital resources for their users. This Article provides an overview of web-based information services in academic libraries, highlighting their significance in facilitating information discovery, supporting research, and learning, and enhancing the scholarly communication process.

KEYWORDS: Web, Information Services, Academic Libraries, Online Database

I. Introduction

Web-based information services have significantly impacted academic libraries, transforming how they acquire, organize, and provide access to information for their patrons. Web-based information services in academic libraries have transformed the way researchers, faculty, students, and other library users' access, discover, and utilize information for their scholarly pursuits. These services have expanded the availability and accessibility of scholarly resources, enhanced research capabilities, and facilitated efficient information retrieval and management, contributing to the advancement of research and education in academic institutions

II. Here are some Important Web Based Information Services in Academic Libraries

1. Online databases: Academic libraries subscribe to various online databases, which provide access to scholarly journals, articles, conference proceedings, and other academic resources. Examples of popular academic databases include JSTOR, PubMed, IEEE Xplore, and ProQuest.

2. Research guides and subject portals: Academic libraries create web-based research guides and subject portals, which provide curated lists of resources, tools, and tutorials tailored to specific disciplines or research topics. These guides help patrons navigate through the vast amount of information available online and identify relevant resources for their research needs.

3. Reference and citation management tools: Many academic libraries provide access to web-based reference management tools, such as EndNote, Mendeley, and Zotero, which help patrons organize, store, and cite their research references. These tools facilitate efficient citation management and academic writing.

4. Virtual reference services: Academic libraries may offer virtual reference services, such as chat or email reference, which allow patrons to seek assistance from librarians remotely. These services provide convenient access to expert assistance and guidance on information resources and research strategies.

5. Online catalogue and discovery tools: These services allow users to search and access the library's collection of books, journals, articles, and other resources. They often provide advanced search



capabilities, filtering options, and access to e-resources, such as e-books and e-journals.

6. Electronic resource management systems: These services facilitate the acquisition, licensing, and management of electronic resources, such as databases, e-journals, and e-books. They enable librarians to handle subscriptions, access permissions, usage statistics, and other aspects of electronic resources efficiently.

7. Institutional repositories: These services provide a platform for hosting and disseminating the institution's scholarly output, such as research articles, theses, dissertations, and other publications. They often support open access initiatives and provide tools for managing and showcasing institutional research.

8. Research guides and subject portals: These services offer curated lists of resources, guides, and tutorials tailored to specific disciplines, topics, or courses. They help users navigate through the vast amount of available information and locate relevant resources for their research or studies.

9. Interlibrary loan and document delivery services: These services facilitate borrowing and requesting materials from other libraries, both locally and globally. They enable users to access resources that may not be available in their own library's collection.

10. Digital preservation and archiving services: These services ensure the long-term preservation and accessibility of digital resources, such as digitized collections, institutional repositories, and other digital assets. They often involve strategies for metadata management, file format preservation, and digital preservation standards.

11. Reference and Chat Services: Many academic libraries provide web-based reference services, where users can seek assistance from librarians via email, chat, or other online communication methods. These services help users with research inquiries, citation assistance, and other information-related questions.

12. Online Workshops and Instruction: Academic libraries may offer web-based workshops, tutorials, and instruction sessions on various topics related to information literacy, research skills, and academic writing. These online resources and instruction sessions help users develop critical skills for finding, evaluating, and using information effectively.

13. Access to E-Books and E-Journals: Academic libraries often provide access to a vast collection of e-books and e-journals, which can be accessed remotely through the library's website. These resources offer convenient and flexible access to scholarly content for research and learning purposes.

14. Social media platforms: These services allow users to create and share content, connect with others,

and access information shared by others. Examples include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

15. Online encyclopaedias and reference websites: These services provide comprehensive information on various topics, such as Wikipedia, Britannica Online, and Dictionary.com.

Conclusion

Web-based information services have transformed academic libraries into digital hubs that provide seamless access to a wide range of digital resources, support research and learning, and foster scholarly communication. Academic libraries need to continue adapting and evolving their web-based information services to meet the changing needs of users and ensure that they remain valuable and relevant in the dynamic landscape of digital information.