

The Digital Library - a New Challenge in Modernizing the Higher Education in the Moldova Republic

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Abstract

The paper presents several key- coordinates for the actual importance of creating a modern university library – which is a desiderate imposed by the Bologna Process, but also a real necessity for any efficient educational environment. It also presents the way in which the digital library that serves the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova meets the requirements of their users, the opportunities and limits of this system and the relevance of the personnel involved.

Key words: *digital library, education, modern university library, students*

In modern society, the information is evaluated in terms of the context, the circulation speed and the way it is used. All information instruments have their origin in libraries. As humanity accumulated knowledge, their systematization on the basis of accurate principles, meant to facilitate the information interrogation was to gather way.

The information technologies launch new challenges either for the training process or for the information and documentary activity of the users from the digital library.

Modernizing the higher education in the Republic of Moldova in the context of the Process of Bologna, imposed new strategies in developing the university libraries, which occupy a special place within the educational environment, supporting the change in an active way. The quality of this change depends on the active involvement of the libraries in achieving the higher education reforming objectives.

The new requests create different levels and ways of acquiring the information. It is obvious that the education library must meet the requirements of the new performances. The mediation as an information instrument and informational source must be performed by the librarian, but by using other means – the computer and other techniques – the hypertext, the Internet - other ways of presentation – Web pages, multimedia etc. The computer usage proved its efficiency in information storage, organizing and diffusing. Within the library, many work processes are achieved being assisted by the computer.

The text becomes electronic by means of its user and the navigation possibilities. The information presentation change imposes a series of other changes at the level of institutions. In order to operate the same environment, the library passes through an e-library process. The

imaginary started to turn into a new reality, its development being strictly linked to the new techniques development and electronic documents.

The specialists from the developed countries argue that, within a decade, the traditional studies from the universities shall be replaced by the electronic sources. But, the library shall play the mediator role in accomplishing these studies and shall become a virtual structure. These few conceptual prognoses prove that in this world of science and technologies, the libraries will be the main knowledge transmission systems.

By developing the evening training, besides the specialists in education, a very strong challenge will be for the specialists in libraries and information science. All studies based on the Internet new technologies will contribute in a significant way to the society development and democratization. At the time being, there are certain requests for classes in daily and evening education technology. The main problem in this case is to develop the existent programs and creating others, on the basis of a pedagogical theory for evening education.

The main objective of the educational system reforming is ensuring best education quality at all levels. The e-education system will constitute a model to integrate the new information and communication technologies in the educational systems based on pedagogical or psychological principles according to the European standards.

The digital library represents a reference point for the educational virtual systems development. The accomplishment process subscribes the standard paradigm of developing a model of electronic collection of didactic materials, combined with a didactic approach of creating a new education module.

Regarding this stage, the digital library *objectives* are the following:

- Facilitating the citizen's access to the historical, cultural, national and scientific patrimony using the Internet network;
- Forming and developing the mentalities specific to the concept of Informational Society based on knowledge;
- Offering the necessary resources to the continuous education, formation and personal development;
- Creating a new collection of digital didactic materials (structural change) and digitized (only support change) resources.

By using a system based on the new Internet technologies, combined with national educational standards, we shall demonstrate an accurate didactic and informational process.

It is to be remarked the conditional character of most definitions which refer to the "digital library" notion. The digital library is characterized by the creation of the electronic resources or ensurance of the access to the diffused information. The difference is to be felt by evidencing the users' role and analysis of problems which the librarians face. What will the beneficiaries receive as a result of creating the digital libraries? An improvement of their work with documents, which already exists in the library in the traditional form or a huge world of electronic resources, billion of new sources of information.

Unfortunately, such a library cannot be really created by means of the collection in time and space of the existent publishing.

At the same time, the thousands of volumes collected in just one place always produced powerful impressions towards their users, becoming potential readers, willing to get access to the huge quantity of information accumulated by the libraries in the whole world. At the time being, the user wants to use the democratic principle of access to all resources, the so-called global access.

In order to create the digital library, the specialists in libraries, in collaboration with the professors must decide what is to be turned into electronic format, who shall be the user of this information and which are the costs of the traditional library transformation.

The specialists argue that the decision regarding the materials transfer in electronic format is justified *by*:

- The commodity of the access to the information;
- The rapid transfer of the information;
- The documents access automation;
- The simultaneous consulting of documents from many access ways.

The virtual library represents a dream came true regarding the collection in one single place of all materials written and preserved. The communication networks development conditioned the creation of the free access concept, without physical and time limits.

We conclude the above mentioned by determining the digital library *components*:

- Digital collections of books, magazines, doctorate thesis and other documentary sources;
- Reference publications, dictionaries, encyclopedias, full text indexed data bases;
- An exceptional set of searching instrument that the librarians will use and will instruct the beneficiaries to use for an efficient interrogation on the Web;
- Ability of participating to the creation of the digital sources.

Discussing about the virtual library, we should mention the librarian's role in the digital environment. He is instructed to use the software instruments and he creates impressive informational products. The librarians will become familiarized with the multiple digital collections and study the necessary conditions for accessing them. The librarians recognize the digital resources and instruments as a part of the informational environment, which ensures professional information. The access to the information, creation of the new investigation methods and the new quantities of digital information shall change the content and the organization of the university library.

The libraries will remain supporting structures for the university and the digital librarians will be only searchers (researchers) through the volume of information that the beneficiary is confronted with in the absence of certain skills and abilities within the electronic space. In this context, the library becomes an important informational training center of the user.

The Economic Studies Academy of Moldova assumed the initiative of creating virtual libraries on the own servers. This fact also revealed the possibility of our library progress.

The passing to the informational society is impossible without a managerial system and the usage of the modern informational and communication technologies. During the last period it was said that the management of using the informational technologies is one of the strong points of the organizational management.

We realize that there will take a lot of time until a universal university virtual library will be created in the „cyber-space”. But we are convinced that, at the same time its accomplishment becomes more and more real. The informational technology will facilitate the digital library development in favour of university training.

Functioning in an environment with multiple suppliers of informational and educational services, the university libraries will place in the middle of their preoccupations the need of identifying their own place on this concurrenial market. This place must be permanently maintained and consolidated with informational and communication means in order to accomplish its mission and its basic library role.

The essential element for a modern university library is the way in which it can be adapted to the environment changes, responding to the training, research and practical necessities. The library must be an organism in full process of development, a flexible system, adaptable to any change.

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Biblioteca digitală - o nouă provocare în modernizarea învățământului superior din Republica Moldova

Rezumat

Acest articol prezintă câteva coordonate-cheie privind importanța actuală a unei biblioteci universitare moderne – aceasta fiind atât un deziderat aferent Procesului Bologna, dar și o necesitate pentru orice mediu educațional eficient. De asemenea, se prezintă modul în care biblioteca digitală a Academiei de Studii Economice din Moldova îndeplinește exigențele utilizatorilor săi, oportunitățile și limitele unui asemenea sistem, precum și relevanța personalului implicat.