A Comparative Study Of Usage Of Traditional And Web Based Resources

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	The article discusses in length traditional and web-based services. A comparative account has been discussed and tries to list these services against each other. Author also explains the befit and challenges of web-based services. At the end futuristic vision of library services has been explained. **1.Keywords:** LIBRARY; LIBRARY SERVICES; TRADITIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES; WEB BASED LIBRARY SERVICES; COMPARISION OF WEB BASED SERVICES AND TRADITIONAL; BENEFIT OF WEB BASED LIBRARY SERVICE, DIGITAL LIBRARY

1.0 Introduction:

The advancements in digital technology have transformed many sectors, and library services are no exception. The traditional library services have been augmented by rapid rise of the internet and cloud-based technologies, libraries are increasingly adopting web-based systems to expand their reach, improve accessibility, and offer more value-based services. The growing use of web-based information and library services enable users to access vast resources from anywhere in the world, often with just a few clicks, which in fact supplementing traditional library services. This transformation represents a significant shift from traditional library services, which were mostly limited to physical spaces and in-person interactions.

Library services refer to the range of resources, facilities, and support offered by libraries to meet the needs of their users, including students, researchers, and the general public. Libraries have evolved from being simple repositories of books and printed materials to dynamic, information-rich hubs that provide diverse resources, both physical and digital, to support learning, research, and community engagement.

2.0 Understanding Library services

Library services aim to foster education, promote lifelong learning, and provide equitable access to information. Library services can be divided into traditional services, digital services, and specialized services. Below are key categories and examples of library services offered in modern libraries.

2.1 Understanding Web-Based Library Information Services:

Web-based information services refer delivery of data, knowledge, and resources over the internet, websites, digital platforms, and online databases. Important services of this kind include:

i.   **Online Databases and Digital Repositories:** through these platforms access to journal articles, eBooks, research papers, and more are facilitated. Examples of such platforms are JSTOR, Google Scholar, and specialized databases for fields like medicine, law, and engineering.

ii.   **Search Engines and Discovery Tools:** these search engines, allowing users to search both physical and digital collections from a single interface.

iii. **Subject-Specific Resources:** This offers specialized resources tailored to specific fields of study, for example medical research may provide access to case studies, clinical trials, and medical journals, databases, and literature collections.

iv.   **Real-Time Information and Alerts:** Some web-based library services offer real-time alerts for new publications or updated resources in specific areas of interest

v.   **Open Access and Collaborative Platforms:** Open-access platforms and repositories, such as PubMed Central, encourage the sharing and dissemination of knowledge, making high-quality research

accessible to all. Collaborative platforms, like Wikipedia and Wikidata, enable community-driven knowledge creation and sharing.

vi.   **Online Catalog and Self-Service:** A key component of web-based library services is the online catalog, which allows users to search the library's collection, place holds on books, and check availability—all from their devices.

vii. **Digital Lending Services:** With the advent of digital lending, libraries can now offer eBooks, audiobooks, and digital journals for download or online reading. Services like OverDrive, Libby, and Hoopla allow users to borrow electronic materials just as they would physical books, without having to leave their homes.

viii. **Virtual Reference Services:** Libraries now provide virtual reference assistance through chat, email, video calls, or even social media platforms. Some libraries also use AI-driven chatbots to handle basic queries, providing 24/7 support.

ix.   **Webinars and Online Workshops:** Many libraries have moved their educational programs and workshops online.

x.   **Library Services Integration with Learning Management Systems (LMS):** Many educational institutions integrate their library services directly with Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Moodle, Blackboard, or Canvas.

xi.   **Remote Access to Physical Collections:** Through digitization efforts and collaboration with vendors, libraries can provide remote access to physical resources, including books and manuscripts that are not available digitally.

Xii   **Mobile Applications:** Many libraries have developed mobile apps to allow users to access services on the go. These apps typically offer access to digital catalogues, eBook checkouts, event schedules, library news, and sometimes even virtual tours of the library facilities.

2.2 Understanding basic Traditional Library Services

It is generally believed that traditional library services are based on the core functions libraries have provided for centuries: lending, referencing, and organizing physical materials. We personally believe two very important functions of traditional library services need attention too i.e., motivating reading habits and carrier counselling. Let us briefly discuss the core traditional library functions:

• **Book Lending and Borrowing:** Through this service users can borrow materials for a specified period, after which they must return them. Few libraries also offer extended lending options such as interlibrary loans.

• **Reference Services:** Reference services are usually offered by trained library staff who assist with questions related to library resources, research, or specific topics.

• **Cataloguing and Classification:** Libraries organize their materials using classification systems. This ensures that materials are easy to locate. Libraries maintain comprehensive catalogue based on author, title, subject, and other criteria.

• **Reading Areas and Study Spaces:** Libraries provide physical spaces where users can read, study, and work focused environment.

1	**Library Services**	
A.	**Web based Resources**	**Traditional Resources**
i.	Digital Catalogue	Book Lending and Borrowing
ii.	E-books and E-journals	Reference Services
Iii	Databases and Online Resources	Cataloguing and Classification
Iv	Online Reference Services	Reading Areas and Study Spaces
v.	Remote Access to Library Resources	
B.	**Specialised**	
	Maker Spaces and Innovation Hubs	Children's Services
	Mobile Library Services	Research Support and Academic Services
	Virtual Libraries and Digital Archives	Accessibility Services
	Artificial Intelligence and Chatbots	Local History and Special Collections
	Cloud Services and Shared Resources	Community Outreach and Events
	Digital Literacy and Educational Programs	

3.0 Comparing Web Based Services and Traditional: The following Table tries to list web-based services with traditional library services with few more added services

5.0 Benefits of Library and Information Services:
Needless to mention that both traditional and web-based library and information services have the same following main purpose for information seekers:

• **Accessibility of information: earlier with geographical barriers and now without** geographical barriers.

- **Convenience:** Traditional ways of searching catalogues, borrow materials, has been replaced with online search and communicate with librarians without leaving home makes library services more convenient. Users can also customize their searches to filter results based on their preferences.
- **Cost-Effective:** Web-based systems has helped libraries reduce the cost of maintaining physical collections, facilities, and staffing. Digital content also reduces the need for printing, transportation, and space for physical storage.
- **Global Reach:** Digital libraries and resources allow libraries to reach an international audience, facilitating cross-border research and learning. For instance, academic libraries can share resources globally, increasing the global visibility of research and scholarship.
- **Increased Collaboration:** Online platforms promote greater collaboration between libraries, researchers, and users, enabling them to share resources, conduct joint research, and create collaborative educational content.

6.0 Conclusion:

Web-based information and library services have revolutionized how users access and work with information. It has increased the scope of traditional library services, making knowledge more accessible, flexible, and user-friendly. There are challenges such access, security, and digital literacy. It is perceived besides challenges these services continue to evolve, offering new opportunities for education, research, and cultural exchange. The optimism is because technology continues to advance and governmental increasing emphasis on digital transformation and innovation.

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