

Collection Development in the Electronic Era

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Abstract

An attempt has been made to discuss the collection development in the Internet era with the help of some of the sources available on the Internet in the area of pharmacology. It is argued that the Internet itself is a better tool for accessing the collection, rather than possessing it locally. A list of sources of information in the area of Pharmacology is also given,

1. INTRODUCTION

Library is a social structure to serve the community. By its definition it is expected to provide the documents to its users. Thus the function of a library is to develop a document collection to meet the requirements of its clientele. But in the context of recent developments in IT, a mere development of collection is meaningless because much of the information can be accessed through various networks and the users can be satisfied. In this context an attempt has been made to discuss the potentials of networks, particularly the Internet.

2. CHANGING ROLE OF LIBRARIANS

Recent developments like Internet and the emergence of digital libraries have forced to change the way the librarian functions at

present. They have to think of 'access' rather than simply 'possession' of documents.

Every librarian has to keep himself aware of how to search information in the networks, besides he has to act as a navigator/intermediary, etc. His function is not to identify a document but to deliver the actual information to cater to the needs of the users.

3. INTERNET AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Internet is a network of networks providing access to the remote databases (full text or bibliographic) housed elsewhere. Nobody owns Internet It is a co-operative effort.

Previously, it was on-line information retrieval using remote login to a fewer number of databases pertaining to a subject domain, but now due to Internet we can have access to a large number of databases both bibliographical and full text located anywhere in the world. Apart from this some of the advantages it has got over other media necessitates the existence of Internet, which includes the following:

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- People of like interest can share the discoveries and inventions by participating the 'Usenet', etc
- Instantaneous access to the large volumes of textual, non-textual information, both in the bibliographic and full text form.
- Cost of accessing is negligible.
- Repackaging of information is possible.

There are access tools available on the Internet with which one can browse for his pertinent information and can download it. These access tools consist of Telnet, Archie, Gopher, Mosaic, Www, Wais, Ftp, etc.

In almost all subjects various documents are available on the Internet. In this study an attempt has been made to give a list of documents/ sources of information in the area of Pharmacology.

The following are the information sources available on the Internet in the specialized subject area of Pharmacology.

Pharmacology and Toxicology
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/dms/pharlox>

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Queens
<http://meds-sslO.meds.queensu.ca/medicin/pharm>

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
<http://www.umdj.edu/howland/home.html>

Net-Linked Pharmacology/Toxicology Departments
<http://meds-sslO.meds.queensu.ca/medicie/pharm/others.html>

Hardin Meta Directory-Pharmacy and Pharmacology
<http://www.arcade.uiowa.edu/hardin-www/md-pharm.html>

New Net Medical Resources 2
<http://www.uoeh-u.ac.jp/MMI/NEWMED2.html>

TOXICOLOCIST
<http://meds-sslO.meds.queensu.ca/medicine.pharm/posit.html>

BCSM Laboratory of Neuroinformatics Home Page
<http://biogfx.bgsm.wfu.edu>

The British Pharmacology Society: Home Page
<http://cbl.leeds.ac.uk/raven.pha/bpstxt.html>

Department of Pharmacology
<http://www.med.vifginia.edu/som-bs/pharm/pharm.html>

Creighton University Pharmacology Home Page
<http://www.unmc.edu/Pharmacology>

Department of Pharmacology
<http://www.unmc.edu/pharm.html>

Department Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics Home Page
<http://www.kumc.edu/research/medicine/pharmacology/dhp.html>

Pharmacology Home Page
<http://www.mcw.edu/pharm/index.html>

Institute of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology
<http://www.uniud.it/ifct/welcome.html>

LSUMC Department of Pharmacology
<http://www.lsumc.edu/campus/phar/pharinfo.html>

UNC-CH Pharmacology
<http://www.medunc.edu/pharm>

Pharmacology/Toxicology resources
<http://www.uwo.ca/pharm/rcsource.html>

View: Committee on Clinical Pharmacology Home Page
<http://www.bsd.uchicago.edu:2001/Docs/roule.cgi/5001290>

Research Activities
<http://bimbo.pharmacol.su.oz.au/research.html>

Department of Pharmacology
<http://nrc.med.auth.gr/dep-ph.html>

Department of Pharmacology Toxicology
<http://www.med.und.nodak.edu/depts/phartox/home.htm>

Pharmacology and Molecular Toxicology, UMMC

<http://www.ummed.edu:800/pub/d/drw/pmt.html>

4. ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

Apart from Internet another important development is the availability of journals (journal articles) in the electronic form both full text and bibliographic, particularly in the form of CD-ROMS. If such CD-ROMS are available in the networks, many can access such CDs and select their relevant articles of interest. Then why subscription of journals?

The factors that economy and technology have brought problem and paradoxes in the library and information provision.

Some of the merits of electronic publishing are:

- Publication can be more timely.
- Can be more readily accessed. Do not need to be bound/shelved.
- Missing issues and missing pages do not need to be replaced.

Digitizing of information do help a great deal. However there are problems for handling and using this large volumes of digitized information, for instance:

- Browsing on the electronic form is difficult when compared to printed form.
 - Remote access to documents are uncomfortable to spot access.
 - Disappearance of nascent information on the Internet.
 - Some documents are used only when it is seen.
 - Inadequacy of the libraries to predict the future use of documents, irrespective of the form (printed/electronic).
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- Navigating (locating) the information on the Internet.
- Problems of intellectual property rights of the author and publisher, etc

Under these circumstances, especially labs like CSIR, DRDO, etc., can think of certain alternatives like co-operative resource management sharing of resources, etc, in the networked era.

5. CONCLUSION

In the context of networks, there is a need to think of information resources development rather than collection development. Well defined policy should be formulated in the present situation to meet the information hungry and impatient users. Nevertheless the librarian should provide services which should encompass and enriches the potentials of the Internet.

6. REFERENCES

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