

Information Management Resource Kit

Module on Digitization and Digital Libraries

UNIT 1. CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

LESSON 2. DIGITAL COLLECTIONS AND LIBRARIES IN DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS

NOTE

Please note that this PDF version does not have the interactive features offered through the IMARK courseware such as exercises with feedback, pop-ups, animations etc.

We recommend that you take the lesson using the interactive courseware environment, and use the PDF version for printing the lesson and to use as a reference after you have completed the course.



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Learning Objective

At the end of this lesson you will:

- know more about the different **types of digital libraries** that are operational today.



Introduction



Though different digital libraries appear to be functionally similar, **each collection is unique** in some way.

This uniqueness may be due to the emphasis given to one or more of the following features: purpose of the digital library, user community, types of source documents and their formats, subject domain(s) covered, services provided (including search and retrieval), and technology used.

Your experience with each digital library collection may also be different because each has its own 'look and feel'.

Introduction

For anybody interested in developing digital libraries, it is of immense practical value to study the features and creation of as many related digital libraries as possible. In this lesson we introduce you to a few operational digital libraries in the following four areas:

Education and research

Scholarly publishing

Development and health

Preservation and heritage

You may find it useful to actually **visit these digital libraries on the web** and study them using the **features templates** provided for each example. You may also want to identify and visit other digital libraries in your field of interest using the resources provided towards the end of this lesson.

Note on the selection of examples

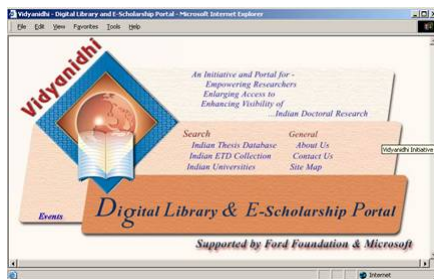
Please note that selection and discussion of these examples in this module does not constitute endorsement or promotion of these collections (or their organizations) in any manner by either UNESCO or FAO. These have been randomly selected using resources mentioned towards the end of this lesson.

Contents of and information about these collections may be updated. You will find relevant information on the IMARK website: <http://www.fao.org/imark>

Open learning digital library resources

The following are two examples of digital libraries that organize and provide open access to educational and research material.

Education and Research - Example 1: 'Vidhyanidhi' - Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) Project, University of Mysore, Mysore, India



<http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in/>

FEATURES TEMPLATE

Purpose and User community

Content and document formats

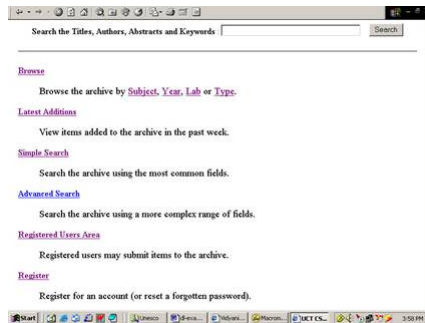
Services

ALL FEATURES

Click on each feature to read it, or click on ALL FEATURES to download and print all the features. (See Annex_1.pdf)

Open learning digital library resources

Education and Research - Example 2: Research Documents Archive, Department of Computer Science, University of Cape Town, South Africa



<http://pubs.cs.uct.ac.za/>

FEATURES TEMPLATE

Purpose and User community

Content and document formats

Services

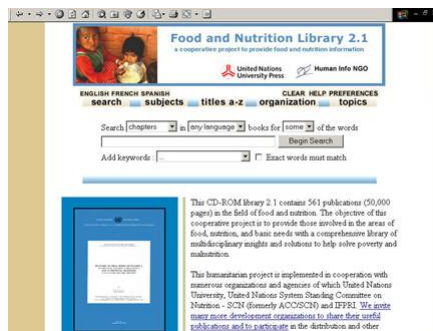
ALL FEATURES

Click on each feature to read it, or click on ALL FEATURES to download and print all the features. (See Annex_2.pdf)

Distribution and access to development and health information

These are two examples of digital libraries that disseminate development related information.

Development and health – Example 1: Food and Nutrition library 2.1



http://humaninfo.org/main_projects.html

FEATURES TEMPLATE

Purpose and User community

Content and document formats

Services

Unique features

ALL FEATURES

Click on each feature to read it, or click on ALL FEATURES to download and print all the features. (See Annex_3.pdf)

Distribution and access to development and health information

Development and health – Example 2: World Bank – Documents and Reports



 <http://www-wds.worldbank.org>

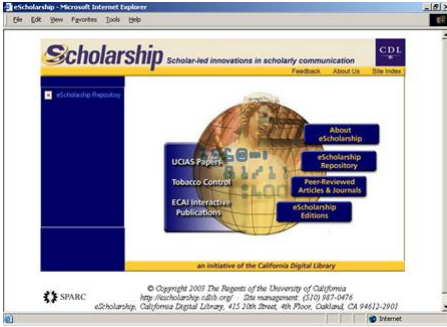
- FEATURES TEMPLATE
- Purpose and User community
- Content and document formats
- Services
- Unique features
- ALL FEATURES

Click on each feature to read it, or click on ALL FEATURES to download and print all the features. (See Annex_4.pdf)

Scholarly publishing

The following two examples illustrate the use of digital library technology in the publishing domain.

Scholarly publishing - Example 1: eScholarship



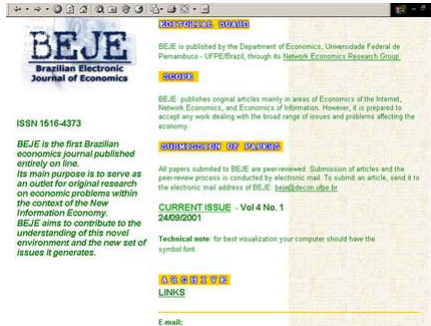
 <http://www.escholarship.cdlib.org/>

- FEATURES TEMPLATE
- Purpose and User community
- Content and document formats
- Services
- Unique features
- ALL FEATURES

Click on each feature to read it, or click on ALL FEATURES to download and print all the features. (See Annex_5.pdf)

Scholarly publishing

Scholarly publishing - Example 2: Brazilian Electronic Journal of Economics (BEJE)



<http://www.beje.decon.ufpe.br/>

FEATURES TEMPLATE

Purpose, Content and User community

Services

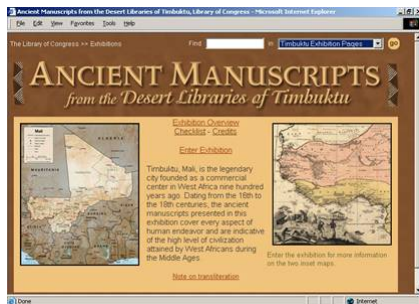
ALL FEATURES

Click on each feature to read it, or click on ALL FEATURES to download and print all the features. (See Annex_6.pdf)

Preservation and heritage

The following three examples illustrate collections where the focus is on archiving and preservation.

Preservation and heritage - Example 1: Ancient Manuscripts from the desert libraries of Timbuktu



<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/mali>

FEATURES TEMPLATE

Purpose and User community

Content and document formats

Services and Unique features

ALL FEATURES

Click on each feature to read it, or click on ALL FEATURES to download and print all the features. (See Annex_7.pdf)

Preservation and heritage

Preservation and heritage – Example 2: Library of Congress – Omaha Indian music



<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/omhtml/omhtml.html>

FEATURES TEMPLATE

Purpose and User community

Content and document formats

Services

Unique features

ALL FEATURES

Click on each feature to read it, or click on ALL FEATURES to download and print all the features. (See Annex_8.pdf)

Preservation and heritage

Preservation and heritage – Example 3: The State Hermitage Museum – Digital Collection



http://www.hermitagemuseum.org/html_E/index.html

FEATURES TEMPLATE

Purpose and User community

Services

Unique features

ALL FEATURES

Click on each feature to read it, or click on ALL FEATURES to download and print all the features. (See Annex_9.pdf)

Summary

A large number of digital library collections are available today with content related to education, science, culture, development, health, governance and so on.

Before embarking on a digital library creation project, you may find it useful to study a few related digital library collections. An effective and purposeful way of undertaking such studies is to use a **features template** covering features such as the following:

- purpose of the digital library,
- user community,
- types of source documents and formats,
- subject domain(s) covered,
- services provided (including search and retrieval),
- technology used and unique features.

In this lesson we have introduced you to a few digital library collections in four areas:

- education and research;
- development and health;
- scholarly publishing; and
- preservation and heritage.



If you want to know more...

Online Resources:

- UNESCO/IFLA Directory of digitized collections (UNESCO Memory of the World) (<http://www.unesco.org/webworld/digicol/>)
- Vidyanidhi' - Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) Project, University of Mysore, Mysore, India (<http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in/>)
- Research Documents Archive, Department of Computer Science, University of Cape Town, South Africa (<http://pubs.cs.uct.ac.za/>)
- Food and Nutrition library (http://humaninfo.org/main_projects.html)
- World Bank – Documents and Reports (<http://www-wds.worldbank.org/>)
- eScholarship (<http://www.escholarship.cdlib.org/>)
- Brazilian Electronic Journal of Economics (BEJE) (<http://www.beje.decon.ufpe.br/>)
- Ancient Manuscripts from the desert libraries of Timbuktu (<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/mali>)
- Library of Congress – Omaha Indian music (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/omhtml/omhhome.html>)
- The State Hermitage Museum – Digital Collection (<http://www.hermitagemuseum.org/fcgi-bin/db2www/browse.mac/category?sellLang=English>)
- American Memory/Library of Congress collection (<http://memory.loc.gov>)
- Example Greenstone digital libraries (<http://www.greenstone.org/>)
- Directory of Open Access Journals (<http://www.doaj.org/>)

