

# E-Learning Initiatives in Digital Libraries Environment At International Level

Mr. Amit Maurya\*

---

## ABSTRACT :

Libraries have the potential to offer unprecedented resources for supporting e-learning. This paper addresses and discusses such aspects as what is meant by “e-learning”, and how can it be supported by the library environment, the functionality of the digital library; and how e-learning resources are included and organized in the digital library. The paper explores the advantages of digital libraries for e-learning and the types of learning that can be supported by digital libraries. There is undoubtedly a need to use online information resources for research and teaching, but this seems to be matched by a lack of awareness of how best to integrate these resources into the e-learning environment.

**Keywords:** *Digital libraries, E-learning, Internet, Worldwide web, Library services*

## Introduction:

While exploring the issue of what role a Digital library can play in pursuing the objectives associated with implementing an E-learning strategy, the study also outlines some of the opportunities and challenges that a Digital library may face in these circumstances.

E-learning has been referred to as ‘learning facilitated and supported through the use of information and communications technologies’. In these networked times, when the Internet appears to be worldwide and the online environment is part of almost everyone’s way of life, web 2.0 and social networking technologies are used for many and varied purposes. It is not surprising that these information and communications technologies are being used to facilitate and support E-Learning education and training in many different contexts.

## E-Learning: Definitions

E-learning as a means of accessing knowledge (through learning, teaching, or training). In other words, the focus of these definitions is the accessibility of resources and not the results of any achievements. Some definitions are following-

- According to Koohang and Harman, “E-learning is the delivery of education (all activities relevant to instructing, teaching, and learning) through various electronic media”
- According to Lee & Lee, “E-learning is an on-line education defined as the self-paced or real-time delivery of training and education over the internet to an end-user device”
- According to Li, Lau, & Dharmendran, “E-learning is the delivery of a learning, training or education program by electronic means”
- According to Liao & Lu, “E-learning is defined as education delivered, or learning conducted, by Web techniques”

## Need of E-Learning:

Technology is ubiquitous, and each one of us is entangled overly with it. It has affected the way we shop, read, play, write, learn, and study. With the rising need of technology, it has become that imperative part of our lives without which we cannot survive. E-Learning is a relatively new and advanced form of educating students through the use of technology as an instructional medium. Nowadays, eLearning is required to educate people of all different ages. Some reasons for need of E-Learning are following-

- *Elearning is cheaper than classroom teaching.*
- *Students’ progress can be tracked easily*
- *Accessibility to course materials are easy*
- *Exposure for sharing ideas*
- *Students can be prepared for the real world.*
- *Inexorable education*
- *Retention power*
- *Time saver.*

Elearning has been in an excessive application for longer than most would realize though it has now become an extremely popular competitor with conventional classroom teaching. eLearning would certainly be the first choice for students and learners grappling with the busy life.

---

\*Assistant Professor DLIS, Multanimal Modi College, Modinagar

**E-Learning Tools:**

A diverse range of technological tools that can be used by capable teachers to enhance learning and teaching situations. These tools make learning more interesting, interactive, meaningful and stimulating for the students. These tools are powerful as they are capable of bringing a change and reform traditional forms of learning.

Internet, YouTube, Skype, Twitter, Smart-boards, Blogs and Podcasting are some of the successful tools that have changed the way of E-Learning.

**Efforts of E-Learning at International and National Level:**

*Numbers of Library and Information Science Institutions have started E-Learning project. Some E-Learning projects are following :-*

**1-University of Minnesota Libraries :-**

The University Libraries' eLearning Support services can help you redesign your course to make use of high quality, affordable content such as **library licensed materials, open textbooks and open educational resources, freely available content, new material purchases**, and lawful **fair use** claims.

**2-NELINET:-**

NELINET was the not-for-profit membership cooperative of academic, public, school and special libraries and other information and cultural organizations in New England in the United States. It was formed as a program of the New England Board of Higher Education in 1966, and became independently incorporated in 1979.

NELINET's primary services included member education, technical and general support, and consulting. NELINET was also a regional service provider for OCLC. In addition, NELINET provided regional resources, such as New England Regional Depository, the New England Collections Online.

Another activity was to act as a cooperative purchasing agent for electronic resources such as an academic databases, online journals and e-Books. Since it has over 600 members libraries, and since they include many of the strongest academic library programs in the United States, the combined buying power is very great, and they are one of the major economic forces in academic publishing

**3-IIT-Kanpur-Brihaspati:-**

The software developed by IIT Kanpur. It is the open platform of learning. Brihaspati provides the features of glossary, calculator. The login & password of guest. Every instructor is independent to register student in their specified course. Instructor & student have their unique password of login. Brihaspati gave full freedom both to the instructor & Student to come in contact with each other through Mail, chat etc.

**4-E-PG Pathshala:-**

An MHRD, under its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT), has assigned work to the UGC for development of e-content in 77 subjects at postgraduate level. The content and its quality is the key component of education system.

High quality, curriculum-based, interactive content in different subjects across all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts & humanities, natural & mathematical sciences, linguistics and languages is being developed under this initiative named e-PG Pathshala.

**5-E-ShodhSindhu:-**

The MHRD has formed E-ShodhSindhu merging three consortia initiatives, namely UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, NLIST and INDEST-AICTE Consortium. The e-ShodhSindhu will continue to provide current as well as archival access to more than 15,000 core and peer-reviewed journals and a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different disciplines from a large number of publishers and aggregators to its member institutions including centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges.

**6- E-Shikshak:-**

E-learning is an innovative technology that removes the barriers of distance and time, and provides greater flexibility allowing the learner to learn at his/her own pace. E-Sikshak, is an e-Learning environment developed by C-DAC, Hyderabad to support this new learning paradigm

**7-Gyanvani:-**

**Gyan Vani** is an educational FM radio station in several cities of India. Gyan Vani stations operate as a media cooperative with the day-to-day programmes being contributed by various educational institutions, NGOs, government and semi-government organizations, UN agencies, ministries such as Agriculture, Environment, Health, Women and Child Welfare, Science & Technology,

**Advantages Of E-Learning:*****Let us have a look at the advantages of E-Learning:-***

- You are able to link the various resources in several varying formats.
- It is a very efficient way of delivering courses online.
- Due to its convenience and flexibility, the resources are available from anywhere and at any time.
- Everyone, who are part time students or are working full time, can take advantage of web-based learning.
- Web-based learning promotes active and independent learning.
- As you have access to the net 24x7, you can train yourself anytime and from anywhere also.
- It is a very convenient and flexible option; above all, you don't have to depend on anyone for anything.
- Not only can you train yourself on a day to day basis, but also on weekends or whenever you have the free time to. There is no hard and fast rule.
- Through discussion boards and chats, you are able to interact with everyone online and also clear your doubts if any.
- The video instructions that are provided for audio and video learning can be rewound and seen and heard again and again if you do not happen to understand the topic first time around.

**Disadvantages Of E-Learning :-*****Let us have a look at the disadvantages of E-Learning :-***

- Most of the online assessments are limited to questions that are only objective in nature.
- There is also the problem of the extent of security of online learning programs.
- The authenticity of a particular student's work is also a problem as online just about anyone can do a project rather than the actual student itself.
- The assessments that are computer marked generally have a tendency of being only knowledge-based and not necessarily practicality-based.

**Conclusion:-**

E-learning is not intended to replace conventional methods and learning in classroom. Its aim is to create an augmented learning environment

where technology is used to deliver a combined range of teaching and learning techniques aimed at maximizing the individual's participation and achieving the goals in the learning and teaching process in all over the world.

**References:-**

- E-moderating: The Key to Teaching and Learning Online – Gilly Salmon, Kogan Page, 2000, ISBN 0-7494-4085-6
- Baath, J. A. (1982) "Distance Students' Learning – Empirical Findings and Theoretical Deliberations"
- Salmon, G. (2005). E-moderating, the key to teaching and learning online. Routledge Falmer.
- Ho, S. (2002). "Evaluating students' participation in on-line discussions"
- Galanouli, D., C. Murphy, et al. (2004). "Teachers' perceptions of the effectiveness of ICT-competence training." Computers and Education 43(1-2): 63-79.
- brahim, M., Antonenko, P. D., Greenwood, C. M., & Wheeler, D. "Effects of segmenting, signalling, and weeding on learning from educational video." Learning, Media and Technology, 37(3), 220-235, 2012.
- Smith B, Reed P & Jones C (2008) 'Mode Neutral' pedagogy. European Journal of Open, Distance and E-learning."

