Introduction:

Libraries of all sizes and types are embracing digital collections, although most libraries will continue to offer both print and digital collections for many years to come. New purchases and purchases of journals, magazines, and abstracting and indexing services are heavily weighted toward digital, while digital books (e-books) are only beginning to become a presence in library collections.

Advances in computer applications during the past few decades have brought radical changes in the way information is gathered, store, organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed. The application of computers in information processing has brought several product and services modes of scholarly communication; their potential for delivering goods is quite vast, as they overcome successfully the geographical limitations associated with the print media. Further, the distribution time between product publication and its delivery has been drastically reduced. The Internet can be used for efficient retrieval and meeting information needs. In this work the important fact is convincing many libraries to move towards digital e- resources, which are found to be less expensive and more useful for access. This is especially helpful to distant learners who have limited time to access the libraries from outside by dial up access to commonly available electronic resources, mainly CDROM, OPACs and internet, which are replacing the print media. Libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis in recent years both in their collection development and in their service structure.

The society is moving in different directions and fascinated by developments through accessing information from varied sources. It has consequently imposed greater demand on libraries in their transformation and to sustain onslaughts and impact of information and communication technology, the electronic information resources particularly e-journals, e-books, e-databases, e-reports, e-patents etc serve as the life blood for the academic, research and extension activities for any type of institution and organization (Okello Obura & Magara, 2008). These offer many resources and services across the globe either fee based or free based. The fee based resources may not be offered at ease by developing and under developing countries more particularly in Science and Technology related resources as the subscription cost of Science and
Technology journals are increasing steadily which doesn’t match with the allocated grant. Therefore, many libraries seek alternatives to overcome this problem and thanks to Open Access Initiatives now a plenty of resources are available on the Web.

Libraries prefer digital collections for many reasons, including, but not limited to, the following: digital journals can be linked from and to indexing and abstracting databases; access can be from the user’s home, office, or dormitory whether or not the physical library is open; the library can get usage statistics that are not available for print collections; and digital collections save space and are relatively easy to maintain. When total processing and space costs are taken into account, electronic collections may also result in some overall reductions in library costs Montgomery and King (2002).

Electronic resources are revolutionizing academic libraries. Many librarians believe that these resources have changed the principles of selection radically; some believe that they will virtually eliminate selection. Although, it is true that the art of selection is undergoing profound change, the selection of materials is still crucial for libraries. The four basic criteria for selection - quality, library relevancy, aesthetic and technical aspects, and cost remain the same in the electronic era of information. What they mean and how they are used has changed.(1999) Commenting on the advantages of electronic resources, Dadzie (2007) writes that electronic resources are invaluable research tools that complement the print – based resources in a traditional library setting. Their advantages, according to her include: access to information that might be restricted to the user due to geographical location or finances, access to more current information, and provision of extensive links to additional resources related contents. This rapid emergence and development of electronic information technologies therefore makes it possible to envision radically different ways of organizing the collections and services the library has traditionally provided.

While libraries approach a crisis point in financing collection development, these new technologies offer possible ways to mitigate costs and revolutionize ways to access information. Navjyoyi (2007) also finds that speedy publication and availability on the desktop are the key advantages that attract research scholars. (2008)
The context of the study was a Computer Science 101 class within University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA's) Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The class is organized as a series of lectures on important computer science topics that all sophomores need to be acquainted with; their grades were based on attendance, quizzes, a short essay, and presentations on a wide variety of self-selected topics in computer science. Lecturers included experts from University of California, Los Angeles and industry such as Sun Microsystems, Microsoft Research, and Caltech JPL Laboratory. Students who participated in this study were typical engineering undergraduates, mostly sophomores completing their second year of study. Copyright 2009, Zorana Ercegovac. Used with permission. (2009)

We have always believed that if you teach engineering students how to find information they will return, physically, mentally, bearing gifts for years to come. Therefore over the past 25 years the McKinney Engineering Library at the University of Texas has been involved in an active user education program. This program has operated in two areas: class integrated instruction and open walk-in classes both of which reach around 1,400 students a year. These tend to reach undergraduates; however graduate students are the most politically and pedagogically important group because they make the most demands on our collections and services. This is important but even more important is the fact the in engineering graduate students form the "workforce" of research. Their library and information access experiences can influence how faculty feels about the library. We needed to find an efficient, exciting, dynamic, and relevant way to reach this important group. Whatever we do should also be fun.

Today's engineering graduate students are part of a generation that has been using computer technology for a lifetime to communicate, for entertainment, and as an information source. A large number of students come to the library with experience using search engines such as Altavista.com or Google.com. Consequently, they are quite facile in using keywords. Thirdly, their use of search engines has firmly convinced them that finding information is easy--it's all just a couple of "clicks" away. Finally we have noticed that they have a tendency to give up if they cannot easily find what need. However, we know from experience that they often confuse search engines with online
indexes and they have a limited idea of what specialized engineering tools exist, where to find them, or even how to use them. (2001)

For many years, the UA Science-Engineering Library employed a service model similar to many other libraries. There were several simultaneously staffed service desks: circulation and photocopy desks were staffed by paraprofessionals and students while the reference desk was staffed by librarians. Reference librarians were also available to answer in-depth questions by referral or appointment. These desks had various configurations over time, but at the beginning of the project both the geography and staffing of service areas were problematic. All public service areas were on the ground floor of the building. Immediately inside the front door were reference and circulation desks in very close proximity to one another. The photocopy desk was in the process of being closed due to cost considerations. There was also an expansive information commons, as well as a reference collection adjacent to the reference desk. The information commons initially contained approximately 40 computers, a number that was nearly doubled after a reduction of the reference collection that cleared additional space to expand the commons. (2008)

**Electronic Resources:**

Academic libraries have a particular contribution to accomplish the goals of the institution. It serves more than repositories for materials and knowledge; they are of an access point to acquiring knowledge and skills. Technology provides better access to information, especially electronic resources play a vital role in supporting academic activities. In recent years, academic users have become more dependent on article databases and electronic journals to obtain information pertinent to their needs. In India, especially higher education has tremendous growth in providing quality education for past two decades, most of the universities and colleges are providing pin pointed electronic information to their users. It is right time to evaluate or assess the library electronic collections. This paper presents preliminary findings of the present status of availability of electronic journals in engineering institutions in Tamil Nadu.(1999)
Information Communication Technology (ICT) are being increasingly used in library and information services for the acquisition, processing dissemination of information. Libraries and Information centers have been using ICT infrastructures and services to satisfy the diverse information need of their users. However, these infrastructures and services are not used fully. Under sudation of these infrastructures and services has been a cause of concern to librarian world wide. The use of Information Communication Technology infrastructures has become increasingly important in self financing engineering college libraries. Self financing engineering college libraries are switching over to ICT infrastructures at an accelerated pace. E-Journals, CD-ROM databases, online data bases, e-books, web based infrastructures and a variety of other electronic resources are fast replacing the traditional resources of self financing engineering college libraries. (2007)

The electronic resources empower and enrich the academic system. But, the increase in information generation at an estimated rate of 13 per cent perineum has made the task of collection, organization and retrieval of information very difficult (Subba Rao, 2001). Alternatively, the academic libraries often prefer electronic resources to substitute print collections for optimum use. Many reasons including physical space, escalation in journals’ prices, digital literacy, discovery system, and skilled manpower force the academic libraries to opt for electronic resources in meeting needs of the large community of users. (1999)

The growth in online learning or e-learning, in which education is delivered and supported through computer networks such as the Internet, has posed new challenges for library services. E-learners and traditional learners now have access to a universe of digital information through the information superhighway. New information and communications technologies, as well as new educational models, require librarians to re-evaluate the way they develop, manage and deliver resources and services.(1998)

Technological advances have enabled libraries to create new services that would never be possible before. The Web 2.0 technologies are having an important impact on library services, resulting in the Library 2.0 model. Social networks, virtual access, tagging, blogging and wikis are just some of the tools that offer new dimensions to
library users to constantly engage in meaningful change with regards to library services. India stands to gain with the right blend of approaches in the implementation of ICT tools. These tools offer an opportunity for taking research and advancing practices in the application of technology to enable the advancement of knowledge on unparalleled scale and at unprecedented rates.

A confluence of changing user behaviors, a changing budget situation and efforts throughout the University of Arizona (UA) Libraries to realign its services with strategic priorities drove the UA Science-Engineering Library to engage in a process of restructuring its service model. The library was facing several budget cuts in the recent past and it became a priority to use existing resources effectively while maintaining the same level of quality reference service expected by customers. Although the primary customer base of the Science-Engineering Library has steadily increased over the past several years due to an increase in science and engineering undergraduate and graduate students, the number of librarians serving this customer base has decreased because of budget cuts. The original model – consistent with traditional services in many academic libraries – included three service points (reference, circulation, and photocopy) where staff delivered a suite of distinct services. Staff at these sites spent a significant amount of time redirecting customers to another desk either because customers lacked the ability or patience to distinguish between service points. The end result was often confusion and frustration by the redirected customers. It became clear that the existing model was no longer effective and thus warranted a change in approach which yielded cost savings and maintained the same level of customer satisfaction. (2008)