INTRANET AND INTERNET

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Intranet

Libraries are turning to a relatively new concept call the INTRANET to gain competitive advantage, expedite information sharing, and provide enhanced readers service, conduct online training, improve productivity and quality, and bring the library to new levels of effectiveness with one stroke.

Simply defined, an INTRANET is an internal application of technologies developed for the INTERNET.

Intranet is the result of applying internet technologies to a company, University, College, Hospital or any organization. It is the way of technology adopted by an organization to enhance its productivity by supporting its applications using Internet Standards. It is an "Internal Internet".

Privatization of Internet services will definitely motivate the corporate sector to go for organization wide intranet in a very big way. The evolution of Intranet is dynamic, non-stop and continuum.

Why of Intranet:

Intranets are like digital warehouses for storage & retrieval of organization's Information, Which is of Vital and significant importance for organizations. The main purpose of an intranet is to share information within the organization and computing resources among employees. The following reasons may be cited for its popularity:

- Saves huge amount of money.
- Easier to install.
- Simplicity of operation.
- Save time of workers by sharing common and new resources.
- Reusability of the same internet technology.

Importance of Intranet in Academic Libraries:

- Video conferencing
- One to – one communication
- Group discussion
- Online electronic forms
- Telecommuting
- Information of demand
- Information publishing and sharing
- Research & Development
- Searching database
- Directory of people and resources.

Online Advantages of Intranet
1. Faster
2. Cheaper
3. Easier
4. Instant Updating
5. Instant Global Distribution

Internet

Internet is a network of networks. It is the worldwide collection of multiple computer networks. Internet is a network of thousand of computer networks. It is capable to transfer information across the geographical boundaries in an electronic format at a very fast speed. It is a huge reservoir of information. It is a facility, which can be used by libraries for navigating through globally distributed and electronically accessible knowledge resource.

Internet Connection:
While there are hundreds of companies that will offer to connect us to the internet access comes in some basic flavors. These are the three basic types of Internet services

1. **Internet Service Provider**
   This is either a local company or a national firm with local phone numbers whose only business is connecting via phone no. directly to the internet.(i.e. www.msn.com (Microsoft Network), www.aol.com (America Online), www.netcom.com (Netcom), etc.)
2. **Commercial Online Service**
   Four major worldwide services (America Online, CompuServe Interactive, The Microsoft Network, and prodigy Internet) can provide with proprietary content, a proprietary interface, and as an added feature-access to all or part of the Internet
3. **WEBTV**
   This service to offered to purchasers of the WebTV set-top box sold by any company. Actually, WebTV is both a type of electronics devices and a specific internet gateway.(http://www.webtv.net)
4. **Others**

There are four ways to connection to the public internet by Host, Network, Terminal, and Or Gateway Access. Host access is usually either done with local area networks or with the help of telephone lines and modern combined with Internet Software on a personal computer. Host access allows the attached computers to fully interact with any other attached computers limited only by the bandwidth of the connection and the capability of the computer. Network access is similar to the host access, but is usually done via online or similar proprietary services or other networks such as Bitnet, fid on etc.

Importance of Internet in Academic Libraries:
The importance of internet in libraries in general and Academic libraries in particular cannot be ignored. For the cost effective information services in libraries,

librarian has no other alternative than using or exploiting the Internet. The use of such tool has made librarians to be very much familiar with non-print media or web media. Further its use will eliminate or overcome the geographical barriers in the searching of required information.

As far as academic libraries are concerned, the internet can be used/applied or exploited in the following areas;

1) Acquisition Section/Collection development.
2) Technical Section-Classification.
3) Technical Section-Design & Development of OPACs/web OPACs.
4) Circulation Section.
5) IT based information services/Bibliographic services.
6) Resource Sharing.
7) Consultancy services.
8) Academic Sites and library schools.
9) User education and Training.

Conclusion:

The information explosion and information technology revolution has led to the emergence of the Intranet and Internet. Rapid advances in information processing, storage and communication technologies have revolutionized the role of worldwide libraries in disseminating information services to their users. With the help of internet and intranet redesigning their services, and information products, incorporating ne technologies, upgrading information resources, training people, changing information objects, modes of communication and information delivery in order to add value to their services, and to satisfy the changing information needs of user community.

The use of intranet and internet in academic libraries has increased the efficiency of LIS professionals and has provided the users with an opportunity to access information without entering library. The use of intranet provides a much –enhanced interface between the user and the information. By use of fixed or moving images, combined with text and voice, information can be provided in forms, which are more easily interpretable, by the recipient. Some of the applications listed above may appear frivolous but impact on many aspects of business and social life will be significant. Internet, through its tools and services really makes easy to access the global information at a high speed, crossing the barriers to communication. The intranet has now been accepted by a small domain but its multi-benefits to individual organizations is making it more attractive day-by-day. Of course, the increase in size and complexity of internet probably makes it difficult to use its resources.

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