3.1 Introduction

The information resources that libraries acquire have changed as a result of the electronic era of the twenty-first century, necessitating the implementation of new strategies, the modification of structures, and the development of new acquisition principles.Libraries come in a variety of forms and now play an expanded role in the modern information society. Libraries are managed more democratically, have more flexible communication systems and work organizations, and in today's information society, where the usage of electronic resources and services, as well as web-based information sources, is constantly increasing, the development of their services is dependent on their quality and user-friendliness. The expansion in user needs, as well as the development and application of information and communication technology, has encouraged the digitalization of today's libraries, particularly special libraries. The use of information and communication technology in special libraries has grown in importance. The speed and ease with which library users can now find information has increased. In the twenty-first century, the bulk of library contents are now available online in electronic formats such as e-books, e-journals, and e-databases. Libraries are banding together, either individually or as consortia, to shift from print to electronic resources.

Special libraries are shifting from being custodians of legacy information sources to suppliers of service-oriented digital information sources. Libraries were forced to develop new techniques for storing, retrieving, and transferring information as a result of the widespread use of computers, increasing reliance on computer networks, rapid expansion of the Internet, and explosion in the quality and quantity of information. Libraries and information centres have used ICT and electronic resources and services to suit all of the information demands of their audience members. E-books, CD-ROM databases, online databases, e-journals, and other electronic media are quickly displacing traditional library collections. The expanding LIS characteristics have had a significant impact on web-based information and electronic publishing. A publishing revolution has had a significant impact on authors, users, journal editors, publishers, libraries, and subscription agencies in the LIS sector. Despite a major growth in the use of online products and services in the 1990s, the present digital

revolution is primarily reliant on the internet and web technologies, with electronic journals serving as its primary content source.

The electronic infrastructure and resources that libraries use to enhance and deliver efficient services are collectively referred to as new information technology in libraries. These facilities, which enable the sharing of electronic resources, notably library networks, often include hardware, software, and communication links between the service outlets of various libraries.

3.2 E-Resources

The Internet and the World Wide Web (WWW) are the most convenient and comprehensive sources of information. It is the most effective tool for information transmission and international communication. The amount of knowledge that has been published and is available online is constantly and astoundingly increasing. It has transformed how people access information and created new opportunities in fields such as digital libraries, information retrieval and dissemination, education, business, entertainment, and even government and health care. Despite the difficulties in locating high-quality web pages on the WWW, it is possible to conduct research on a wide range of topics there.

A resource is considered to be electronic if it requires computer access or if it offers data in an electronic format. Documents can now be written and transferred electronically thanks to the many techniques and standards that have been developed in recent years. Therefore, in order to connect with the technologically advanced scenario, librarians are focused on new media, in particular, electronic resources for their collection enhancements to better meet the document needs of users.A database that can be accessed online, on or off campus, is considered a digital resource. Material encoded for computer processing, which may include data and/or programmes. To access this information, you may need to use a computer network or a peripheral device that is directly connected to a computerised device (such as a CD-ROM drive) (e.g., the Internet).

An "e-resource" is any electronic product that provides a collection of data, such as image collections,text referencing full text databases, electronic journals, other multimedia items, or data that is numerical, graphical, or time-based. According to the

definition of an "e-resource," it is a commercially available work that has been released with the goal of being marketed.Thanks to electronic information sources, users now have unique opportunities compared to their predecessors. The user can select only the information required to answer the specific question and store the information only if the user decides to do so. By getting the information when it is needed rather than "just in case," the user can choose to act "just in time" rather than "just in case." These are the advantages of using digital resources for users.

3.3 Types of E-Resources

The electronic resources are organised into the following categories:

3.3.1 Electronic-Journal

Electronic periodicals and newsletters are called "e-journals" since they are published and delivered online. Electronic journals are frequently used to refer to any journal, newsletter, magazine, webzine, e-zine, or other sort of electronic publication that is accessible via the internet and can be accessed using numerous technologies such as www, email, ftp, telnet, Gopher, or listserv. Many traditional publications are now available in both print and online formats. Journal and article issues in electronic format for publications to which the library has a subscription. Full-text and bibliographic databases are included. The entire text of an article, including the text, citation information, photographs, and tables is available in full text databases.

3.3.2 Electronic- Book

E-books are also known as electronic books, digital books, and e-editions. It is a book-length publication that contains text, images, or both and was generated, published, and may be read on computers or other electronic devices. E-books are electronic books. However, e-books can and do exist in the absence of a printed counterpart. An e-book can also be defined as an electronic reproduction of a printed book. An electronic book collection is typically built in a computer-based database that includes full-text, advanced, and bookmarking search functions. Full-text electronic books are available online in HTML and PDF formats. A digital manuscript that can be viewed on a computer screen is known as an "e-book." E-books are similar to more conventional books in that they may be downloaded and read on a computer screen or with a specialised e-Book reader such as Gemstar eBook.

There are also some more modern technologies under development, such as talking books in MP3 format and electronic paper, which is similar to paper but allows for text editing. E-books have various benefits, including portability, 24/7 accessibility, text search, annotation, linking, multimedia, and self-publishing options. Before e-books may be widely used, challenges such as interoperability, e-book readers, accessibility, and intellectual property rights must be addressed. E-books are only now becoming popular.

3.3.3 On-Line Database

It is feasible to search and obtain data from databases electronically. Journal papers, newspaper pieces, book reviews, conference proceedings, and other materials are included. Databases with relational data structures, structured cross-document search and retrieval, and efficient query algorithms are used to organise and store information. All are contained in a thorough online database that may be searched from various access points for maximum flexibility. An online database is a frequently updated collection of data that essentially covers the whole publisher, distributor, and wholesaler market. The Standard Address Number (SAN) and ISBN prefix are included with each name and address information, along with full ordering and editorial access. The information that is directly provided becomes the input data. Online A database is a group of data that has been divided up into various fields. Keyword and subject searches are available in the majority of databases. An electronic database is a well-organized collection of information on a particular topic or a group of topics that are closely connected.

3.3.4 Websites

Since that time, the web's capacity as a platform for the dissemination of electronic information has steadily increased. Most electronic resources on the World Wide Web aren't open to the public, thus they might not come up in searches on Google. An electronic resource can be an electronic version of a book, journal, or newspaper, as well as a full-text or bibliographic database that allows us to search for materials pertinent to our subject of study.

Information can be shown on web sites using the most appropriate media, which have been carefully chosen. Websites can be static or dynamic, and depending on the kind,

their content will either be the same for everyone who views them or will be drawn from a database that is frequently updated with new data. For example, if a website's home page featured a "news" section describing recent news about a firm or event, the old news item would be removed when a new one appeared or when it reached its expiration date.The content and presentation of a website are its most important aspects.Users visit the website as a result of it and, ideally, recommend it to others. Text and images are the most common and easily accessed content presentation options for websites. A non-visual website, for example, that focuses spoken word, sound, and text (which may be heard using a text to audio web browser) will be oriented at those who are blind or partially sighted.

3.3.5 E-Thesis

The thesis serves as documentation for a unique addition to knowledge. Despite the fact that every university receives a lot of doctoral theses each year. An electronic thesis (e-thesis) is a description that is typically accessed online. Open access repositories like CORA, the institutional repository for the Uniform Commercial Code, usually make it easier to obtain and store electronic theses. To guarantee that postgraduate research produced in UCC is widely shared, UCC is creating an e-thesis programme. The UCC institutional repository, CORA, is where electronic theses are kept. Based on D-Space software, this repository is free to the public.

3.3.6 Computer Database

A database is an electronic document management system. The fact that a database enables data storage, retrieval, and modification is crucial. There are two types of databases: analytical databases, which typically contain archived, historical data used for analysis in read-only, static databases. Search parameters are used to produce web pages dynamically. While databases in use allow for data modification. Real-time data is typically tracked using these types of databases.

3.3.7 Aggregator

Databases, collections of electronic publications, or—most commonly—searchable databases of electronic journals are all examples of aggregators. It gives consumers access to a variety of e-journals from various publishers. Since it is no longer necessary to contact every publisher in order to make their publication available,

aggregater has become a key solution for libraries. It has made it possible for electronic content to be presented as streamlined access to numerous publications and the acquisition of a significant collection, allowing libraries to.

3.3.8 Consortia

The expansion of information makes it more challenging for librarians to meet users' growing information needs. No library is able to purchase all of this knowledge in print or another form due to financial constraints. Consortia of librarians are forming to share resources as a result of cost effectiveness. Some of the consortia in India that provide services to various types of institutions are the CSIR Consortia, FORSA, IIM Library Consortia, INDEST Consortium, and UGC-info net e-journal consortium.

3.3.9 E-Reference Source

As a result, many retailers and publishers offer a variety of reference resources in electronic form through their databases and websites, such as dictionaries, yearbooks, and encyclopedias. Online dictionaries (WWW.dictionaries.com, www.dic.leo.org), yearbooks (www.uja.org), and directories (www.people.yahoo.com) are among them. etc. Wikipedia is an entirely new type of reference source because it has no print analogues. Wikipedia has a ton of material available, but the most fascinating feature is that users may contribute new information and edit already existing information.

3.4 Selection Process of E-Resources

Since the libraries began acquiring printed materials years ago, selection is not a concept that is unfamiliar to librarians, staff, and users. Though as technology advanced, libraries are increasingly concentrating on adopting e-resources instead of printed materials. The selection procedure should take into account the needs of the committee, focus group, users, and so on. Furthermore, the following acts should be taken into account:

- to pinpoint library demands;
- to define the e-resources' content and scope;
- to assess the usefulness and searchability of that specific resource;
- to figure out the cost
- to ascertain whether a purchase is web-based or subscription-based;
- to assess the technical assistance and systems;

- to examine licensing contracts;
- to assess application software and installation, whether it is frequently updated or not; and
- to assess the resources available for training and education

3.5 Advantages of E-Resources

It is widely agreed that the advantages of usability, readability, affordability, and accessibility are the primary factors influencing consumers to begin purchasing electronic content. Over print media, e-resources have the following benefits.

- **Speed-** It takes less time to explore or search through an electronic resource, extract information from it, use it in other content, and generate cross-references between publications.
- **Multiple access-**A networked device can give many entry points in various locations. 24/7 to multiple people at the same time.
- **Functionality-**With the easy click of a mouse in search mode, an e-resource will allow the user to approach publications and analyse their content in novel ways.
- **Content-** E-resources may contain a large quantity of information, but they may also incorporate mixed media, such as photographs, videos, and audio animation, which cannot be duplicated on paper. Other benefits include portability, physical space savings, convenience, and time and money savings.

3.6 Disadvantage of E-Resources

Electronic resources are becoming more and more popular today since they can help people save time and money compared to traditional ones. However, as more and more electronic resources are made available, people are becoming more aware of their shortcomings.

- An issue with e-resources is that they require specialised hardware or personal computers. Numerous web tools are frequently developed to function with certain software that may not be readily available. E-resources may be impacted by hardware or software failure because they depend on other devices.

- An e-resource reader's electronic documents are useless if the hardware, Internet connection, or battery life are not readily available. E-resources are even more vulnerable to damage than conventional books due of their reliance on technology and software.
- Many potential users of e-resource technology are concerned about eye strain and screen glare. Reading from an e-resource reader raises severe issues about eye health. In terms of print quality, the display resolution of computer screens and other electronic devices is far inferior to that of a printing press.
- The cost of e-resource reading devices is undoubtedly higher than that of printed books. Power is needed by all electronic resource devices. There are growing concerns that existing e-resources may not function properly or be compatible with new e-resources software or technology.
- Reading on a computer does not provide the same level of comfort and familiarity as reading from a book. When compared to an electronic document, the simplicity of opening and flipping through a physical book.
- E-resources' life spans are unreliable. Compared to most digital storage methods, paper has a significantly longer lifespan. Because new computer systems are developed so quickly, it is difficult to forecast when software or hardware will become old.
- In order to transfer old materials to the new platforms and maintain access to them, structures must be put in place when new hardware is created. Establishing methods for safeguarding electronic papers is also required. The electrical technology that regulates the substitution of printed books must be extremely reliable.
- Many titles published in print books also have electronic book editions, however they are still in their early stages.
- To fully utilize new technologies, resources such as time, expertise, and money are constantly necessary.

3.7 Some Important E-Resources

- **EBSCO**: Customers can access library electronic resources through EBSCO in the academic, medical, K–12, public library, legal, corporate, and governmental markets. Among its offerings are EBSCONET, a comprehensive

electronic resource management system, and EBSCO host, a paid online research service that provides 375 full-text databases, a collection of more than 600,000 e-books, subject indexes, point-of-care medical references, and a range of historical digital archives. A collection of journals and periodicals can be searched using EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS), which was made available to institutions in 2010. EBSCO Industries Inc.'s EBSCO Information Services business has its corporate office in Ipswich, Massachusetts.

- **ProQuest:** Eugene B. Power launched University Microfilms, a global provider of information content and technology, as ProQuest LLC in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1938. ProQuest offers goods, services, and solutions for libraries. Its electronic services and tools aid in learning and conducting research, disseminating publications, and acquiring, managing, and discovering library collections.
- **Elsevier:** The original source of scientific, technological, and medical information is Elsevier, an information and analytics organization. It began as a publishing concern in 1880. It is a component of the RELX Group, formerly known as Reed Elsevier until 2015. It includes journals like The Lancet and Cell, as well as the Science Direct electronic journal collection, the Trends and Current Opinion journal series, the online citation database Scopus, and the Clinical Key solution for doctors. The entire academic research lifecycle is covered by Elsevier's goods and services, which also include tools for training and evaluation.
- **Emerald Insight:** Emerald Publishing Limited is a respected publisher of academic e-books and e-journals in the fields of management, business, education, library studies, medicine, and engineering. Its headquarters are in Bingley, and it was established in the United Kingdom in 1967. Over The company is in charge of managing around 2650 books and book series volumes as well as 290 magazines.
- **JSTOR:** JSTOR is a 1995-founded online library. It originally included digitized back issues of scholarly journals but has now expanded to include books, primary materials, current issues of journals, and more. It offers over 2,000 journal full-text searches. JSTOR was accessible as of 2013 to more

than 8,000 organizations across more than 160 countries; while most access is through subscription; some older public domain content is openly accessible to all users

3.8 Services of Online E-Resources in Libraries

1. **Content pages**-Journal article content pages are copied or scanned, then given to the user. The user is also provided the complete text of the item upon receipt, should they need it for any reason.
2. **Current awareness**-The major goal is to keep the user informed about changes in his or her area of interest. The librarian communicates with the user by sending information on the most recent articles, newly added books, news, etc. through a variety of periodicals, websites, and library book additions.
3. **Indexing**-It will be most helpful to have a subject index of pertinent reference sources, especially grey literature that isn't covered in databases.
4. **Abstracting-**Although the abstracting periodicals cover the majority of journals, there are still a lot of magazines and other types of grey literature that are not covered even if they are valuable information sources in specialized libraries. Offering abstracts of pertinent papers can help people find information.
5. **SDI-** periodically gives the user access to a finely curated set of reference materials, such as the most recent articles, additions, etc. This service enables readers to stay up to date on new publications related to their desired and interested topics.
6. **Bibliographies-**When a user begins a research endeavor, having a list of books, journals, and web resources relevant to the topic is helpful.
7. **Document delivery**-No library can support itself. Therefore as result, if the necessity arises, access to articles, books, patents, standards, etc. from other libraries will be required. NISCAIR, Delnet, and the British Library (UK) are a few of the sources that arrange for the sending of papers for small fees.
8. **Translation-**While a considerable portion of the world's research output is published in English, significant research is also reported in other

languages, including Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Russian, and Chinese. If necessary, arrangements will need to be made for the needed documents to be translated.

3.9 Conclusion

The most important feature of the special library is the emphasis placed on the supply of information services in anticipation of meeting the clientele's information wants. Such a library offers proactive services to help its users conserve their valuable time. On the other hand, users in public, college and university libraries are directed or provided with resources to locate the desired information themselves.