**CHAPTER ONE**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Libraries form a vital part of the world's systems of education and information storage and retrieval. They make available through books, films, recordings, and other media- Knowledge that has been accumulated through the ages. People in all walks of life including students, teachers, business executives, government officials, scholars, and scientists use library resources for their research. Large number of people also turn to library to satisfy a desire for knowledge or to obtain material for some kind of leisure-time activity. In addition, many people enjoy book discussions, and other activities that are provided by their Libraries.

The Library of the future will be less a place where information is kept on a portal through which students and faculty will access the vast information resources of the world. The Library of the future will be about access and knowledge-management, not about ownership. The main products of the library and information professionals in the 21st century will be introduction of the Electronic Libraries (E-Library) and the archives.

Electronic Library System (ELS) also known as digital or e-library extends and integrate approaches adopted in traditional libraries as well as in distributed information systems, to yield high-end information systems, services and institutions. Here we will explore some of the parts or components of E-libraries and discuss several of the developments in this emerging field.

Building a comprehensive E-library system will help users to manage all phases of the information lifecycle. Of particular importance is to simplify the authoring and creation process so that wider population can participate by adding all types of multimedia content directly into E-libraries. Downstream access allows readers to benefit from this type of computer-mediated communication, across time and space. Ultimately, it is believed that knowledge will be shared and then lead to yet another cycle of discovery, authoring and utilization that is facilitated by E-libraries.

Times are fast changing; we now live in a jet age which is mainly characterized by rapid changes in technology, lifestyle and value. This is indeed an age of information explosion.

One of the major inventions that have driven the world to a fast pace of technological advancement is the computer. The computer is primarily an electronic information processor that is rapidly changing the way we acquire, organize, recall, access, analyze, synthesize and apply information. The effectiveness with which the information is generated and communicated determines the rate of progress of a society and the fulfillment of its people. Modern society is information driven and information today is a universal need.

Moreover, computers have affected the ways which people use information. It has changed the rate of work done, the method for accomplishing the work alongside the relationship among the people carrying and using the information. However, computers and libraries are not left out in the utilization of computer to carry out their day-to-day activities especially as it concerns the amount of information generated. Libraries have evolved over the years which gave rise to Electronic Libraries.

The twentieth century was shaped by sweeping changes in communication technologies. The emergence and use of information technology is the century’s most significant development affecting scholarly communication. The application of computers to information processing has brought several products and services to the scenes. Consequently, the academic community has undergone tremendous changes during these years, assuming new dimensions influenced by technology-driven applications. Libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis in recent years both in their collection development and in their service structures. Thus Libraries are using technology to improve the management of scholarly information to strengthen and speed access to scholarly information not held locally. Over the last several years a significant transformation has been noticed in collection development policies and practices. Print medium is increasingly giving way to the electronic form of materials (Sharma, 2009).

Ani (2008) states that “the transition from print to electronic medium apart from resulting in a growth of electronic information, has provided users with new tools and applications for information seeking and retrieval. Electronic resources are invaluable research tools that complement the print-based resources in a traditional library setting.

Writing 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.

**1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

There are numerous problems with the traditional libraries. These in-adequacies are enumerated below.

1. The users of the traditional library need to go the library physically which most times could lead to congestion of the library.
2. Inability for the library resources to be accessed 24/7.
3. The library resources cannot be simultaneously used. It is one at a time.
4. Traditional libraries are limited by storage space.

**1.3 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The proposed system Electronic-Library System has it’s general objectives which it is set out to achieve. They are as follows:

1. To create variety of access services for searching, browsing and discovering resources.
2. To organize and index electronic or digital objectives for different purpose which includes cataloging, finding aids and database.
3. Comprehensive storage of large repository of data that can be accessed by authorized users.
4. Reduce the cost of maintaining a traditional library.

**1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

In implementing the objectives of this study, the advantages of an Electronic library over the traditional library are enormous. Users will be able to access library resource electronically or digitally without the inconveniences of users carrying books, journals, magazines etc which could result in rapid wear and tear of this library resource. Besides, it will afford users the opportunity to access electronic books simultaneously without waiting for the book to be returned to the library.

The proposed system will provide security to help track library resources through the development of a comprehensive database that will be used to house the library resources. The system will also eliminate some of the routine manual work prevalent in a traditional library.

**1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The findings of this research work for the proposed system (Electronic Library System) was carried out in the Ho Technical University (HTU) in their library section. The scope of this study will include the following:

1. Information indexing/cataloging.
2. Classification of library resource.
3. Searching and retrieval (downloading).
4. Registration of books/uploading of electronic or digital resources
5. Registration of users.
6. Database management.

**1.6 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

This proposed system will not take into consideration audio collections. It is web based not a standalone delivery system with its own user file and login ID and password. Also, time constraint during the time for this project work is short. Financial resources is a limitation encountered in the course of this research work.

**1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE PROJECT**

Chapter 1 of the project introduced the Background of the Study, Problem Statement of the Project, Aims and Objectives of the Project, Significance of the Project, Scope of the Project, Limitation of the Project and Organization of the Project.

Chapter 2 presents the

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Chapter 5