**Introduction**

In one of the most important and significant development even to emerging in the communication industry, the internet is redrawing the economy of communication networks and creating incentive for the expansion of connectivity at a dizzying pace. The resulting network revolution is seeing the introduction of large scale data communication networks that promise broadband access and substantially lower costs to all consumers internet personal computers and wireless telepathy faster an increasing dynamic network of individual, firms, schools and government communicating and interacting with each other. Since the Value of a network increases as its number of users grows, by accessing the global information network each additional user not- only benefits from a new ability to communicate and trade, but also adds value to the rest of the connected world.

Today we are living in an age of information. Survival is not so much a matter of doing as of knowing. Large amount of information is being generated even moment. Information is vital and necessary product of the modern society. It grows from experience, observation influence, interaction and cultivation of knowledge, proliferation of information, knowledge or in any field connected with the universe. The ability to collect, store and disseminate this large amount of information needs application of new technologies. In the modern era of the fast changing world the processes and procedures have also changed. The activities in the library, the way in which the data is being handled and provided to the users have also changed. It is essential to know what are the information resources and services and, how they can be shared through library networks and information sharing services.

Libraries are considered both as pilots and lifeboats, of new information age. Information technology since last decade, have radically changed the perspective of the whole information systems with the emergence of computer applications in the library services such as telecommunication network, CD-ROM, FAX, E-mail, optical scanning hypertext and hypermedia. By the application of information technology in the process of library work, the job of the library staff becomes easy interesting and pleasurable and on the other hand new types and forms of information like electronic hooks and electronic
journals are going to be poured in and the process will be completed when we will have
the renaissance on information technology with the process will be completed when we
will have the renaissance on information technology with the advent of electronic age.

University libraries are considered to be the heart of the university. They play a
vital role in teaching and learning environment of the information society; faculty,
research scholars, and the students of graduate and postgraduate level. The information
needs and urgency in acquiring the needed information has made libraries to change
rapidly. The rapid development of information and communication technologies, during
the past two decades, has had many points of contact with education and training. The
main purpose of application oil information science is to provide information services to
increase the productivity and efficiency in handling records and finally disseminating
information, efficiently to serve the users efficiently and quickly.

Recently ICAR has taken up a massive project of agriculture university libraries
through network known as AGRONET and INFLIBNET. There are other networking
programmes such as NICNET, INDONEI'. DEL NET, CALIBNET etc. which are based
on modern computer technology. The university has a number of decentralized libraries
or a system of departmental libraries. The university libraries are joining other libraries to
create a network for sharing their resources in various library spheres.

1.1 Agriculture research and Information System in India

Agriculture research in India is at the point of major breakthrough. Indian
scientists are among world leader in field of agriculture engineering. These are more than
25000 scientists engaged in agriculture research in 35 state agriculture universities and
colleges. In 1991, Govt. of India decided to undertake a major project Agricultural
research Information System.

World Bank and ICAR are funding this system. The objectives of ARTS are to put
information on the doors of scientists, to improve capacity of research organizations, to
develop regular procedures and mechanisms for those organizations to share information
and therefore, to improve the capacity of those organizations, to plan, monitor and
evaluate their research programs.
1.1.1 Agriculture University in India

As agriculture plays a very important role in the Indian economy, setting up of adequate number of agriculture universities was considered very important in India. While the Royal Commission, set up in 1926, emphasized the importance of a strong research base for agricultural development in India, the second National Education Commission (1964-66) headed by the then University Grant Commission Chairman Dr. D.S. Kothari recommended the establishment of at least one Agriculture University in each of the Indian State.

1.1.2 Importance of Agricultural Universities

The importance of Agriculture Universities, has increased tremendously in the recent years as the growth of the agricultural sector has seen a sharp decline (or over a decade now, It has not been able to keep pace with the other sectors of the Indian economy although nearly 60% workforce is still engaged with agriculture in India.

The contribution of agriculture to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country's economy has been below 25% in the recent years. As such a juncture, people involved with agricultural universities and other research organizations will have to come up with innovative ideas for dealing with the challenges that the sector is currently facing.

There are at present 45 agricultural universities in India. Out of these five are deemed universities and two are central agricultural universities. All these universities are deemed universities and two are central agricultural universities. All these universities are members of the Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA). It was established primarily to promote agriculture research and education in the country. IAVA holds annual convention and also brings out a journal in order to exchange and promote idea.

1.1.3 Concept of Digital Library

There are three over-researching guiding principles:

1) The DL field is imposed of focused on serving research, scholarship and education, but in order to achieve their full benefit for society and a commitment viable business model.
2) DL is primarily as a means for accessing information, but in order to reach their full potential, it must go beyond that and support new ways of intellectual work.

3) DL provides services primarily to individual users. But it must also support collaboration and communities of practice.

On the other side an alternative principle for a digital library would be to promote social inclusion by providing simple, low cost solutions, to enable as many people as possible to contribute digital contents within coherent library framework. Therefore, digital library covers the creation and distribution of the types of information over networks, ranging from covered historical materials to kinds of information that have no analogues in physical world. A digital library is a collection of information that is stood and accessed electronically.

1.1.4 ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The advancements in information technology, communication technology and information (literature) explosion all together have forced the libraries & information centre to go in for the changes in the information services. The use of CD-ROM database is fast becoming population in university libraries. Since last ten years, a few university libraries are using the non-line information retrieval for rendering the information services. In the 21st century many libraries are likely to rise the online information retrieval facility for the services.

1.1.5 Information Services

The information services include the current awareness services and such other services. The Glossary meaning of information service is "A service provided by, or for, a special library which draws attention to information possessed in the library or information department- in anticipation, of demand; this is done by preparing and circulation news sheets, literature surveys, reading lists, abstracts, particulars of articles in current periodicals, etc which it is anticipated will be of interest to potential users of the service."
The abstracting service which is an important area of information service is likely to have change in its structure in the 21st century. At present the abstracts are being prepared and, published in the form of abstracting journal by libraries, professional societies, some private and government agencies etc. there is a delay in the preparation of abstracts. The printing and publishing of abstracting journals lakes some more time. By the time the abstracting journals are received by the users, there is a delay of about six months.

Bourns observes that, "The print equivalents of some of the CD-ROM products (for example, abstracting and indexing publications) are available in the developing countries. Thus the basic information is available. However the on-line services and the CD-ROM products often contain more sources than is, available in the corresponding print product. Thus computer based searching of a database (online or CD-ROM) can provide an answer, that might not be found in a search of a printed like report number or contract number is not provided in the printed index, or it might provide an answer in minutes to a topic, that would take hours to search in the equivalent printed index. This is a great way to increase the productivity of a limited number of skilled, professionals". The use of CD-ROM databases information services in India, to increase the maximum productivity, which is very essential.

AUL are organizations that employ and display a variety of digital especially the intellectual resources embodied in specialized staff. AUL are providing useful products and hence these may have many credits:

1) It select, structure, offer intellectual access, interprete, distribute, preserve integrity, and ensure persistence. It is subject to the special courtraints and requirements of operating in a rapidly evolving electronic and network environment.

2) It preserves integrity.

3) It ensures persistence. The “integrity of digital object is measured in terms of contents, fixity, reference, provenance and context."
4) AUL need to develop criteria for measuring their performance in an evolving and highly competitive environment.

5) One essential measure of the quality of service evaluates performance in terms of cost.

6) A second essential measures of service quality takes account of how willing and how responsively. Digital library makes information available to its patron community.
   a) Access databases containing titles and descriptions of digital objects.
   b) CDs containing folders of hundreds of images.
   c) Web pages offering prototype public access to images and documents.
   d) A library catalogue system holding MARC records of object metadata.

1.1.6 Collection Development

In the early stages of the AUL, collection development is not a big issue because the focus is on establishing a collaborative framework for library operation, involving all project partners. There are three main provisions for collection developments.

(i) To make use of physical collections held by project partners,

(ii) To establish collections by pooling resources that might otherwise result duplication of efforts.

(iii) To create contents.

A coherent collection policy is essential but cannot be created in a vacuum. The policy is likely to require periodic updating and should be reviewed at least once a year. »

Organisation and methodology of management of diverse collections of digital objects is a number of servers, spread over the internet, that internet with each other to meet user requests. The digital library is not, initially concerned with interactions between distributed services, but it did need a system for managing its content. This is
less simple than it sounds, with multiple contributors, collections, file formats and access methods involved. Information is held and maintained in several different forms.

There are almost endless possibilities in providing complex search facilities for a digital library, such as, indexing, relevance making, case sensitivity, phrase searching, stemming, pattern matching, Boolean searching and result paging.

(i) To establish referral center for maintaining on-line union catalogue of library resources.

(ii) To create database of projects, specialists for providing online information service.

(iii) To take initiative for promotion of agriculture research, development and innovation of information technology in agriculture.

1.1.7 Agriculture information sharing

The Voluminous growth of published documents in agriculture information, increasing cost of information sources, technological advancement that offer newer methods of information processing, retrieves and dissemination are some of the factors which have made resource sharing a necessity. Information sharing cooperate in two broad areas:

(i) Developing the collection on shared basis.

(ii) Developing services for exploiting such collection.

Modern information technology has made the task of resource sharing very suitable and convenient.