

# DIGITAL LIBRARIES: HISTORY AND MODERNITY

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## Abstract

The article examines the development of digital libraries from the first attempts at digital storage of information to modern global network resources. The article analyzes the stages of evolution of digital libraries, their role in transforming access to knowledge, as well as current trends, including open archives, digital collections and copyright issues.

**Keywords:** digital libraries, digitalization, access to information, digital collections, open archives, preservation of cultural heritage.

## Introduction

The development of information technologies at the end of the 20th century led to the emergence of electronic libraries - new forms of organization and dissemination of knowledge. The purpose of electronic libraries was to provide quick and wide access to information resources, preserve rare materials and expand educational opportunities for various groups of users.

## Body

The history of digital libraries begins with projects for the digitization of texts and the creation of electronic catalogs at universities in the United States and Europe in the 1970s and 1980s. One of the first such projects was the "Gutenberg Project", founded in 1971, the purpose of which was to create free access to literary works in electronic format [1].

With the development of the Internet in the 1990s, digital libraries received a new impetus. The first online catalogs, repositories of scientific publications and virtual collections of museums and archives appeared. Digital libraries began to provide round-the-clock access to books, articles, documents, images and audiovisual materials [2].

Modern electronic libraries are distinguished by their scale, variety of formats and a high degree of integration with other information systems. Projects such as Europeana, the World Digital Library, and the National Electronic Library of Russia provide millions of pieces of digital content in the public domain [3].

One of the key trends of our time is the development of open archives of scientific publications (Open Access), which provide free access to research results, contributing to the dissemination of knowledge and increasing scientific transparency [4].

At the same time, digital libraries face a number of challenges, including the long-term preservation of digital assets, copyright protection, and the need to standardize metadata to ensure interoperability between systems.

Digital libraries play an important role in the preservation of cultural heritage. Digitization of rare manuscripts, early printed publications, audiovisual archives makes it possible to preserve unique historical and cultural monuments for future generations [5].

### Conclusion

Digital libraries have become an integral part of the global information space. They provide wide access to knowledge, contribute to the development of science, education and culture, and also play an important role in the preservation of historical and cultural heritage. In the future, digital libraries will continue to develop, integrating new technologies and responding to the challenges of the digital era.

### References

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