COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES OF DIGITAL LOCAL CONTENT AMONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES: A CRITICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract:

In cutting-edge technology, providing access to digital collections to the local communities is inevitable for public libraries. Public libraries' initiatives toward creating local digital content have become possible through the collaborative efforts between Malaysian public libraries. This paper attempts to critically examine the literature on the collaborative initiatives of local digital content among public libraries and to suggest avenues for further research. Data were collected based on the analysis in all major journals in the library collaborative initiatives area. The results show that there are various dimensions of successful collaborative efforts across disciplines.

Additionally, results differ in various contexts, and there is no universally accepted framework specifically for digital local content creation collaborative initiatives. A general conceptual framework is provided to study collaborative initiatives in creating local digital content by analyzing the different variables used in previous studies. The dimensions of collaborative initiatives identified from the review indicate that future research should focus on the six dimensions of collaborative initiatives: participants, the focus of interaction, the context of collaboration, features of collaboration, collaborative processes, and perceived outcomes of collaborations. The framework developed here provides public libraries with a guide to the factors that may affect the collaborative initiatives and help them develop effective collaborative strategies.

Keywords: collaboration, collaborative initiatives, digitization, local contents, public libraries, library.

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