American Research Library – A Digital Research Library of R&D World

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Abstract

This paper depicts the profile of American Research Library (North American Research Library Network) –NARESLIBNET as Conference of American Research Librarians – CARAL at International Institute for Research and Development-IIRND USA aims to provide research and development information to the researchers and academics worldwide. Unified access to global researchers in a variety of research institutions and libraries. ARL Service offers integrated discovery of and access to the collections, products and services of American Research Libraries. It is aimed at users world-wide who want a powerful and easy way of finding research and development resources. ARL as Digital Research Library online portal offers quick and easy access to the collections.

Key Words: American Research Library; Research Library; CARAL; Research Digital Library; IIRND; North American Research Library Network

The American Research Library - ARL offers the opportunity to unite the resources of American Research libraries by providing a discovery and access tool to the benefit of American informed citizens, of researchers and academics in a variety of institutions, and of the libraries themselves.

The American Research Library, ARL, is a pioneering collaboration between a number of American Research Libraries. Created under the auspices of CARAL, the Conference of American Research Librarians, it will establish a professionally designed and maintained single access point to their holdings spanning a range of collections in all the partner research and academic libraries[1] so that the informed citizen in any country can use the resources not only of his or her own library but also, during the same search session, the resources of any other partner libraries which may hold material relevant to his or her interest. This discovery and access tool will be multilingual and it will support the various character sets in use in CARAL libraries.

Initially, the feasibility of this venture is being tested, with part-funding from IIRND [2] in a project as titled "**US Research Library -**CARAL", "**North American Research Library Network - NARESLIBNET**" in which the participants are CARAL. In time it is anticipated that more and more of the CARL member libraries will join the enterprise as full partners. In order to achieve this goal the participants are working towards the establishment of mechanisms whereby a common portal will enable access to the collections of the united research libraries to any citizen via the Internet.

The Mission of the American Research Library

ARL Service offers integrated discovery of and access to the collections, products and

services of American Research Libraries. It is aimed at users world-wide who want a powerful and easy way of finding research and development resources. ARL Service displays the richness and diversity of research information through cooperation in innovation

ARL as Digital Research Library Portal [3]:

o Portal giving access to the combined resources of the American research libraries[4]
o Free resource discovery for digital and non-digital materials
o Delivery of digital objects (both free and priced)
o Incremental growth of collections and partners

The vision of ARL stems from the unique characteristics that the Research libraries offer. These include:

o To meet the needs of the research community worldwide, our online portal offers quick and easy access to the collections
o Researchers can cross-search and reuse digital items and bibliographic records
o To facilitate further research, links are also provided to other websites
o The American Research Library is an aggregator for American research information system
o To provide a comprehensiveness of the collections held by each of the research libraries, a feature that is greatly enhanced when the research libraries integrate their resources; since many of the resources in the research libraries are unique, the libraries should invest in creating added value to the digitized

documents: the research libraries are in many cases the only source of information for a user;
o To integrate the research libraries' holdings of outstanding historical and special collections, offering a richness and diversity that cannot be found anywhere else;

Bringing together of disparate collections

o Cross-collection searching
o Integrated results
o Delivery of digital objects
o Launch-pad for new research

Technical Options for ARL:

o A Central Portal through available commercial software
o A distributed portal
o Use   of https:usresearchlibrary.iirnd.org portal for one of the partners

Management of ARL

o CARAL as Top management
o Management Board
o ARL Service Team
o ARL Partners Agency
o Relationship with American Research Library Association[5]

Benefits of the ARL

o Increase use of their collections
o Improving and broadcasting access
o Platform for collaborative access and programmes
o New and dynamic research tool
o Easy access to digital resources
o Possibilities innovation research

Conclusion:

It is one of the most important reasons for an internet user to use the services of the research libraries are the reliability of

information and the high quality. The fact that research libraries are the institutions that are the most dedicated in their own countries to the long term preservation of the intellectual output, both traditional and digital, of their own country; when the various research libraries unite in their service offerings the worth of this feature is greatly enhanced. The American research libraries are in a unique position to show the cultural diversity within each country and in all the participating countries acting in unison; and that the research libraries are aware of the American identity of their collections alongside their research identity. American Research Library (US Research Library) could envision becoming R&D World Library.

References:

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