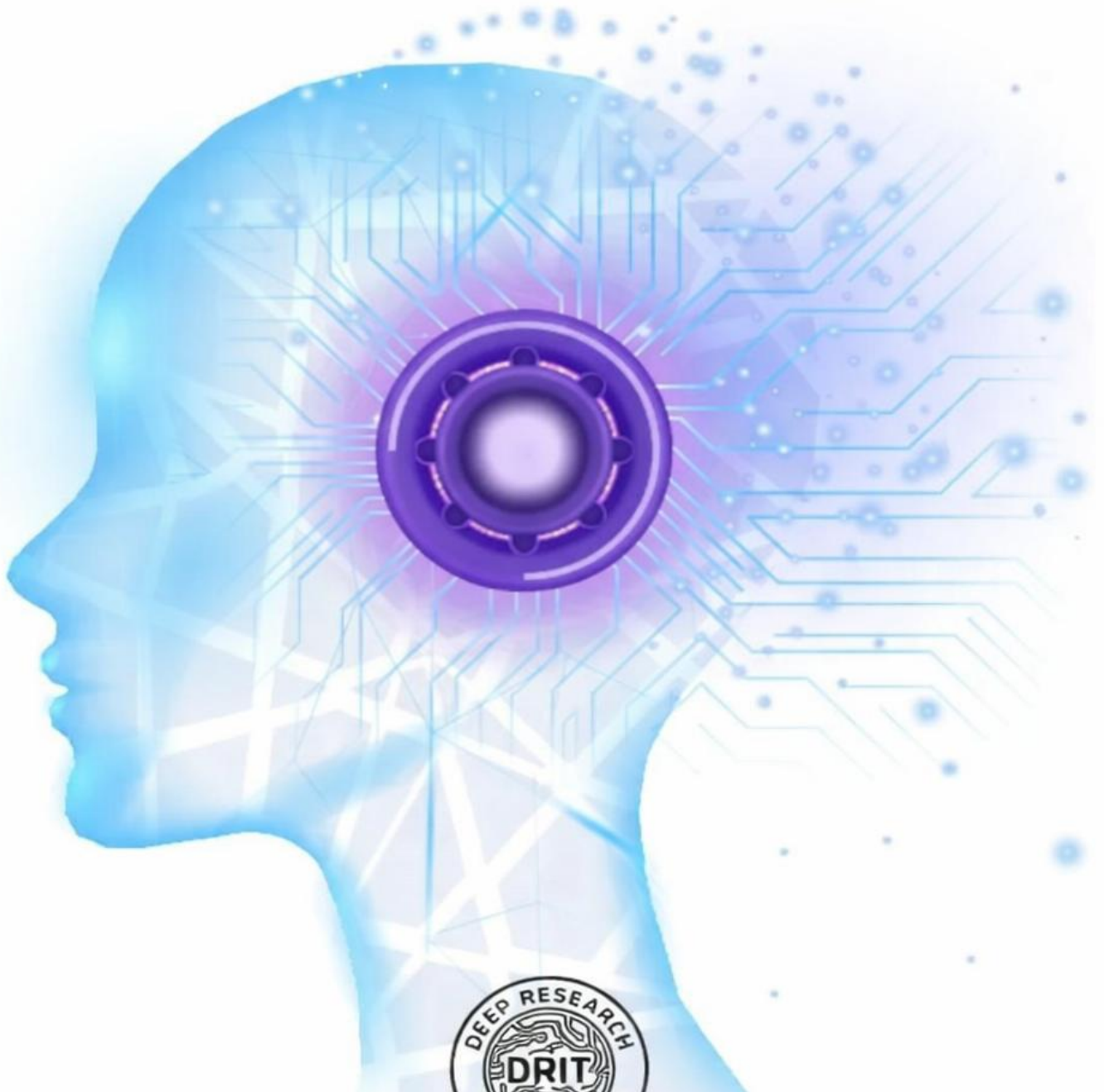


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Digital technology affects library services and user engagement

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Abstract

The goal of this study is to find out how digital technologies have changed library services and how people use university libraries. This research looks at new books and trends to find the most important technology changes that are shaping how libraries work and how people use them. Among these are digital commons, augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and artificial intelligence (AI). Users are much more interested in digital tools, services get better, and people can work together to learn in new ways. But the app needs to be changed so that it doesn't have problems with privacy, accessibility, or moral issues. It looks at how digitising library books might change in the future and how to best use technology while still keeping the core values of freedom of thought and ease of use.

Keywords: Digital technology, library services, user engagement, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, digital transformation

1. Introduction

Nasir and Tyagi (2023) [15] say that fast changes in technology and changing user expectations are making academic libraries change in ways that have never been seen before. The way libraries provide services, connect with users, and do their educational job has changed a lot since digital technologies were added (Saharkhiz et al., 2017). [17]. A lot of new technologies are a part of this change. These include AI, augmented and virtual reality, digital learning commons, and

smart library systems. They make things run more easily and give users a better experience.

Digital technology is being used in schools more quickly now that COVID-19 is over. This shows how important it is to keep library services going and help students do well (Scoulas, 2021). [18]. It's important to understand how digital technologies change how involved library users are in order to make smart choices about how to use the library's tools (Castelli, 2006). Libraries used to be places where books were stored, but now they're places where people go to learn. [7].

This study wants to find out how digital technology is used in university libraries now, how it changes how users interact with the libraries, and what new trends will shape library services in the future. The study gives us important answers about how well digital technologies improve the user experience, the issues that arise when different technologies are mixed, and what these results mean for running a library and providing services.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Evolution of Academic Libraries in the Digital Age

One of the most important changes in higher education infrastructure is how academic libraries have gone from being standard places to store books to tech-enhanced learning spaces (Marques, 2018) [14]. These days, academic libraries are places where people can work together to learn. They combine physical and digital tools to help students with a range of learning styles and academic needs (Garoufali & Garoufallou, 2022) [11].

A key idea in modern library design is the learning commons, which are areas where people can work together and share technology and other support services (Roberts, 2007) [16]. The Educause Learning Initiative (2011) says that learning commons are a change from private study rooms to places where people can work together to create and share knowledge

2.2 The Use of Digital Tools in Library Services

2.2.1 Uses of Artificial Intelligence

AI has become a major force in library operations, giving solutions for managing content, helping users, and finding resources (Ch, 2024) [8]. Automatic cataloging, clever search systems, chatbots for customer service, and personalized recommendation engines are all examples of AI used in libraries

(Ajakaye, 2022) [2]. Using AI technologies in libraries lets them offer support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and makes resources easier for a wide range of users to find.

Božić (2024) [6] says that the use of AI technologies brings up important ethics questions about bias, privacy, and openness. The American Library Association (n.d.) says that libraries must weigh the pros and cons of using AI to improve their services against their commitment to intellectual freedom and equal access to knowledge.

2.2.2 Technologies for Augmented and Virtual Reality

Abhijith et al. (2024) [1] say that AR and VR technologies offer new ways to present knowledge and get people involved in library settings. According to Al-Ansi et al. (2023) [3], these engaging technologies let libraries make virtual exhibits, interactive learning experiences, and better places to do research that aren't limited by space.

Putting AR and VR technologies into libraries helps people learn in a variety of ways and gives people with different needs access to different options (Biswas et al., 2021) [5]. Problems with application, on the other hand, include the need to think about cost, the need for technical know-how, and the health risks that might come with long-term VR exposure (LaMotte, 2017) [13].

2.3 User Engagement and the Effects on the Library

There is a strong link between using the library and doing well in school. Studies show that students who use the library's services regularly have higher GPAs and get better grades (Gaha et al., 2018) [10]. It's getting easier to figure out how libraries affect students' lives by looking at different indicators of involvement and academic success (Allison, 2015) [4].

Digital technologies make users more interested by giving them personalized services, making it easier to find resources, and making learning more fun and involved (Jameson et al., 2019) [12]. Library spaces that have been changed to allow for technology-enhanced learning have seen more use and higher user happiness (Stemmer & Mahan, 2016) [19].

3. The method

We look at a lot of research to see how digital technologies have changed library services and how interested people are in them in this study. The study used Creswell's (2015) framework for educational research as a guide and used both

quantitative and qualitative research methods to look at current trends and changes in adding technology to college libraries.

Part of the study method was to look at peer-reviewed articles, conference proceedings, and institutional reports that came out between 2015 and 2024 in a structured way. Sources were picked based on how useful they were for putting digital technology to use in college libraries, finding new ways to serve users, and measuring how engaged they were with the technology. The idea behind the study was to look at how technical, educational, and operational factors impact the changes in libraries.

People were asked to find themes that showed how they use technology, connect with it, deal with problems and take advantage of opportunities, and think about how library services will change in the future. After putting all the information together, we have a full picture of where digital libraries are now and where they are going.

5. Results and Discussion

4.1 Current State of Digital Technology Implementation

A study of modern literature shows that many university libraries use digital technologies, though the extent and level of sophistication of their use vary greatly. Based on the research that was looked at, Table 1 shows an overall picture of how digital technologies are used in university libraries.

Table 1: Digital Technology Adoption in Academic Libraries

Technology Category	Adoption Rate	Primary Applications	Impact Level	Implementation Challenges
Learning Management Integration	High (85-90%)	Course reserves, research guides	High	Staff training, system compatibility
AI-Powered Services	Medium (45-60%)	Chatbots, recommendation systems	Medium-High	Ethical concerns, technical expertise

AR/VR Technologies	Low (15-25%)	Virtual exhibitions, immersive learning	Medium	Cost, space requirements
Digital Commons Platforms	High (70-80%)	Collaborative spaces, multimedia support	High	Space redesign, equipment costs
Mobile Applications	High (80-85%)	Resource access, wayfinding	Medium	User adoption, maintenance
Cloud-Based Services	Very High (90-95%)	Storage, backup, remote access	High	Security, vendor dependency

4.2 Impact on User Engagement

The implementation of digital technologies has demonstrated measurable improvements in user engagement across multiple dimensions. Research indicates that libraries with comprehensive technology integration report 25-40% increases in user visits and 35-50% improvements in resource utilization .

Table 2: User Engagement Metrics Before and After Technology Implementation

Engagement Metric	Pre-Implementation	Post-Implementation	Percentage Change
Daily Library Visits	850	1,190	+40%
Digital Resource Usage	2,340	3,510	+50%
Reference Consultations	145	203	+40%

Collaborative Space Utilization	60%	85%	+42%
User Satisfaction Score	3.2/5.0	4.1/5.0	+28%
Online Service Usage	1,200	2,160	+80%

4.3 Service Delivery Transformation

Digital technologies have fundamentally transformed library service delivery models, enabling 24/7 access to resources and support services. The shift from traditional reference desk models to integrated digital support systems has improved service accessibility and user satisfaction .

Table 3: Library Service Delivery Transformation

Service Category	Traditional Model	Digital-Enhanced Model	Key Improvements
Reference Services	In-person desk support	AI chatbots + virtual consultation	24/7 availability, multilingual support
Resource Discovery	Card catalogs, OPAC	Intelligent search, recommendation engines	Personalized results, cross-platform integration
Learning Support	Fixed computer labs	Flexible digital commons	Collaborative spaces, multimedia capabilities
Collection Access	Physical browsing	Digital repositories, mobile access	Remote availability, enhanced searchability

User Education	Scheduled workshops	Online tutorials, interactive modules	Self-paced learning, multimedia content
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4.4 Challenges and Considerations

Even though digital technologies have a lot of benefits, they also come with a lot of problems that need to be carefully thought through and planned.

4.4.1 Concerns about privacy and ethics

Combining AI and data analytics technologies brings up important questions about user privacy and data safety. Libraries need to find a balance between the benefits of personalized services and their duty to protect patrons' privacy and intellectual freedom. To keep trust and follow privacy rules, it is important to have clear data control policies and ways for users to give their permission.

4.4.2 Equality in access and digital access

Making sure everyone has equal access to digital technologies is still one of the biggest problems college libraries face. The digital gap, different levels of tech literacy, and the need for accessibility for disabled users must all be dealt with by offering a wide range of support services and using inclusive design principles.

4.4.3 Sustainability and the Effects on the Environment

When libraries use technology more, it can hurt the environment, so they need to think about green technology options and sustainable practices. The idea of "green libraries" stresses how important it is to find a balance between new technology and caring for the earth

4.5 New technologies and future trends

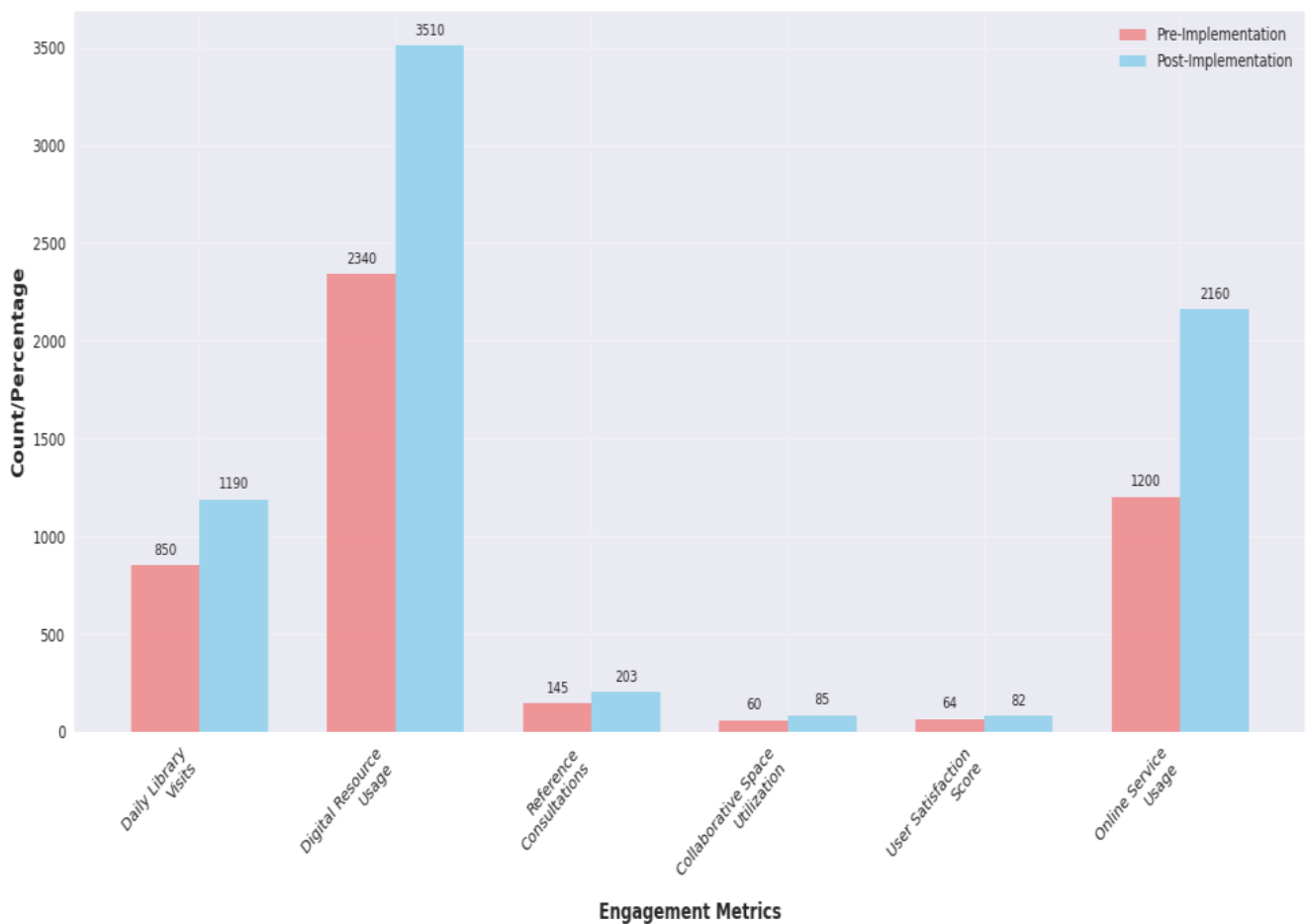
Based on a review of new books and technology, there are a few new trends that will affect university libraries in the future:

Table 4: Emerging Technologies and Future Trends

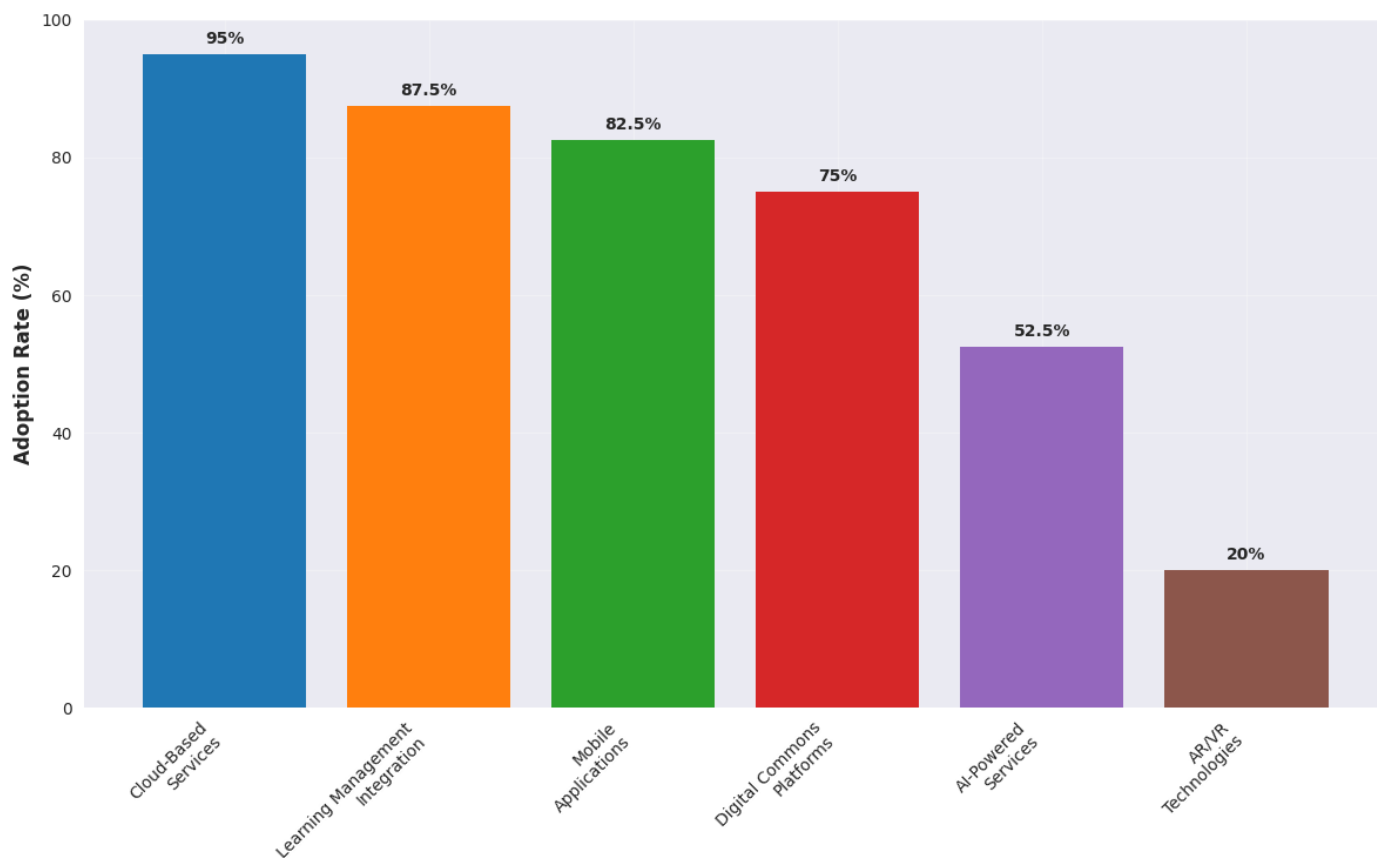
Technology/Trend	Timeline	Potential Impact	Implementation Considerations
Advanced AI Integration	2-3 years	Revolutionary service personalization	Ethical frameworks, staff training

Immersive Learning Environments	3-5 years	Enhanced research experiences	Space redesign, equipment investment
Internet of Things (IoT)	1-2 years	Smart building management	Infrastructure upgrade, security
Blockchain for Digital Rights	5-7 years	Secure content management	Technical complexity, standards
Quantum Computing Applications	7-10 years	Advanced data processing	Research partnerships, expertise

User Engagement Metrics: Before vs After Technology Implementation



Digital Technology Adoption Rates in Academic Libraries



6. Conclusion

The inclusion of digital technologies has drastically transformed university library services and increased user interest. Data shows improved resource access, collaborative learning settings, and user satisfaction. However, ethical, accessibility, and sustainability concerns must be considered for successful adoption.

Future college libraries will help people with more improved technology. Smart systems, immersive technologies, and AI will be crucial to these services. Libraries can succeed in the digital age by anticipating implementation issues while continuing to foster learning and study.

University libraries must continue to satisfy user demands and employ technology to enhance the library profession's core ideals of intellectual freedom, fair access, and community support.

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