RESEARCH ARTICLE

Automated Libraries: What we expect from Digital Libraries

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Abstract— Digital Libraries have been the subject of more than a decade of attention by researchers and developers, and yet in all this time the implementations have not matched the promises. By far the majority of systems have concentrated on content and provided limited or basic functions for users. In this article we offer a new look at what can be expected from a digital library system based on contemporary developments in Information and Communications Systems and Technology. First, we sketch out the basic functions which are provided to support finding and accessing material by a reader. Next we explain some extended functions which support the use and re-use of documents - links and annotations – and the need to support learners in addition to readers and writers. Finally, we present our visions for a modern digital library and e-Learning portal system which includes for example intelligent and conceptual search support including results visualization, white lists, and adaptive user interfaces.

Key Terms: - active document; annotation; black list; conceptual search; digital library; e-Learning; Hyperwave; links to the future; portal-systems; repositories of knowledge; searching; visualization; white list

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