

# MODULE V: *knowledge Resources On The Internet*

## ENCYCLOPEDIAS



An encyclopedia or encyclopaedia is a book or series of books that contain articles on a wide range of subjects or various aspects of a particular field.

The word "encyclopedia" comes from the Greek *enkyklios paideia*, a "circle of learning." Originally meaning a general education, it has come to signify a reference work containing information

on all branches of knowledge, either in general or in a specialized field.

An encyclopedia is often confused with a dictionary. A dictionary provides definition of words, while an encyclopedia explores topics in depth with illustrations, maps, and photographs. Encyclopedias are now available online, with no print version. One of the most important advantages of online encyclopedias is that they can be edited frequently, so they are up to date. Traditionally, an encyclopedia was written by a single writer or as a collaborative effort, but new works are being put together by a team of writers who often have no face to face contact whatsoever with each other.

With the introduction of personal computers, CD-ROMs, and the World Wide Web, many encyclopedias are now being published in CD-ROM form, with the most notable example being Microsoft's *Encarta*.

# LIBRARIES



A traditional library is a collection of books. Today's libraries are repositories and access points for print, audio, and visual materials in numerous formats including maps, prints, documents, microfilms, audiotapes, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, video games, e-books, e-audio books and

many other electronic resources. Libraries often provide public facilities to access to their electronic resources and the Internet.

e-brary is a platform that provides desktop access to online books. e-books are electronic versions of printed books and are an exact duplication of the printed book. Online books can be viewed online from any PC connected to the Internet, browsed for quick research and reference. Most universities have e-braries that provide books for reference and research, in its vicinity. One such site is by UGC – [www.inflibnet.ac.in](http://www.inflibnet.ac.in)

## BOOKSITES



Book sites are the online book stores that allow you to buy books and sometimes even on a reduced rate. They offer a wide range of collection. Book sites provide an enjoyable shopping experience. They also ensure a safe shopping by protecting you while you shop so that you never have to worry

about credit card safety.

Amazon is the clear leader in the online book market.

[www.books.google.co.in](http://www.books.google.co.in)

[www.gigapedia.com](http://www.gigapedia.com)

Infibeam is another site that specializes in books.

[www.infibeam.com](http://www.infibeam.com)

Many of these sites have broadened their base to include greeting cards, mementoes and memorabilia.

## JOURNALS



A journal contains scholarly articles. It disseminates current information on research and development in a particular subject field. E-Journals, or electronic journals, are the electronic equivalent of paper journals.

EJournals provide access to 'full text versions'(full content) of articles which you can read on-screen, print out or save to disc. In some cases you will be limited to viewing a description of the article - an abstract or summary.

Scholarly Journals are journals which are respected for the research and information they provide about the topic they cover. They are written for and by people who have rich experience in a particular discipline or field. The research is often refereed, meaning that it is reviewed by other researchers who are knowledgeable about the serious look than most popular magazines. They may contain graphs and charts but do not usually have many pictures. Scholarly journals cite their sources using footnotes or bibliographies.

## *CONTENT REPOSITORIES*

Content Repositories are large storage facilities for storing content. Repositories give answers to any type of query. There can also be articles, comments, news about different matters. It is possible to define a single content repository table that is flexible enough to store everything in one place.

# ONLINE EDUCATION



Online education is *a classroom without walls*. It is *engaging in assisted, self-directed learning*. Online education is also known as distance learning or e-learning. It differs from traditional education because students are not required to visit an actual classroom and listen to an instructor face-to-face.

Online education is truly about student convenience. Students can check in, work on assignments, and turn them in when their schedules permit, not when the college doors are open.

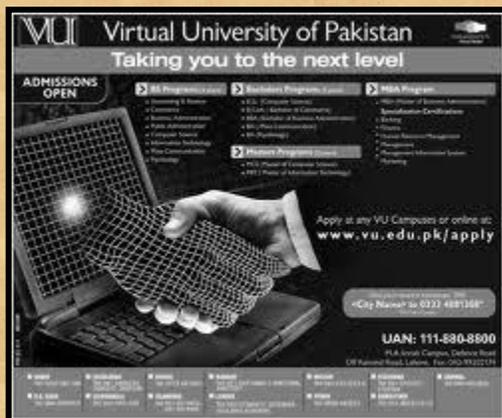
Students begin their course studies by logging onto the Internet. Once they are in their classroom, they will learn by reading assignments, asking questions, and receiving instructor feedback. Some courses even offer forums and/or chat rooms where students can gather, with or without the instructor, to discuss assignments. Finally, students are graded on homework assignments, final projects, and test scores.

# INTERNET DIRECTORY

[www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in)

[www.annamalaiuniversity.ac.in](http://www.annamalaiuniversity.ac.in)

## ONLINE COURSES AND VIRTUAL UNIVERSITIES



A virtual university provides higher education programs through electronic media, especially the Internet. Some institutions provide online learning as part of their extended university courses while others provide courses only online.

Virtual universities function in many ways: some combine with universities, institutes or departments providing a number of courses over the Internet, television or other media; others have a legal framework, yet named virtual because they exist only on the Internet, without a physical location; and other virtual universities have specific or multiple physical locations, to receive program delivery through technological media that is broadcast from another location, where real professors give televised lectures.

The goal of virtual universities is to provide access to students who live too far from a physical campus to attend regular classes and to those students who need the flexibility to study at home.

Students taking the so-called “virtual” courses do “real” work to get their degrees and educators preparing and teaching those courses spend plenty of “real” time in doing so. Students meet rigorous academic learning outcomes and evaluations through programs constructed by credible academics conforming to university criteria. These degrees are recognized around the world.

A good example of a Virtual University is Tamil Virtual Academy ([www.tamilvu.org](http://www.tamilvu.org))