Electronic Encyclopedias: Concepts, Advantages and Disadvantages

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Abstract

Purpose: Electronic encyclopedia is a novel phenomenon emerged in information system. This study aims to study the concepts, advantages, and disadvantages of electronic encyclopedias. In addition, we introduce three well-known electronic encyclopedias.

Methodology: This research has used the methodology of library studies and search in internet.

Findings: The results indicate that the most significant advantages include remote access, support with multimedia facilities, search option, simultaneous access to a single document, classification of subjects, quick update, low cost, links between subjects, and less need to staff. In addition, the main disadvantages of electronic encyclopedias include dependence on information technology, high initial cost, quality control, and citation.

Originality/Value: This research provides some recommendations for managers of encyclopedia institutions for designing and development of electronic encyclopedias.

Keywords: Information technology; Electronic encyclopedia; Electronic publication.