Volume-4, Issue-2, Feb-2015 • ISSN No 2277 - 8160

Research Paper LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

USE OF WEB BASED INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE AMERICAN COLLEGE AND FATHIMA COLLEGE LIBRARIES AT MADURAI: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Mrs. R. SHARMILA Ph.D., Part-Time Research Scholar, MKU)

Dr. B. Suresh University Librarian, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Tamilnadu.

ABSTRACT

In this study an attempt is being made to highlight the access to web-based Information services in the American College and Fathima College Libraries at Madurai, particularly in recent past are providing some of notable information services that can be accessed via the College library websites are Web OPAC, latest addition display, data search, and federated search, access to full text and bibliographic databases, online document delivery, access to institutional repository and open access resources, databases and multimedia access resources, live chat, compilation of research profile, web based CAS and SDI, remote access and so on.

KEYWORDS : Information Services, Web Based Information Services, Electronic Sources and Search Engines.

INTRODUCTION

In global scenario, the outputs of information are measured by both quality and quantity of information being used by respective scientists, researchers and so on. However, print media has still not solved the problems of accurately and faster delivery of information, irrespective of time, space and cost factors. The future of the library would be marked culmination of techniques/technologies which would act as a new library state of the art. It is our moral duty to note down the wordings of our former President of India Hon'ble Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in his visit to JNU University in Jodhpur. He asked 'All publishers of India to get ready to bring out their publications/books in CD formats or Digital books before 2020 to make India succeed in the gamut of world digital knowledge'.

DIGITAL LIBRARIES

Digital Libraries is a heterogeneous phenomenon. It is a system in which information is available in hard copy on various magnetic discs and also from online systems. It provides coherent access to large, organized, nascent and repository information and knowledge, according to the interest and need for the users. It operates on digital materials such as e-journals, web pages, database multi-medias, programs, bulletin board notices, sites and searches.

USE WEB BASED LIBRARIES AND SERVICES

The rapid advancement Technology, networking and customization of information represent the factors that affect the libraries. From its various modes and operations it can be said that communication is the major factor for the rapid modernization of the world. The impact of the primary modes of web based Library and Information services is of vital importance where as other modes perform subsidiary function only.

Table – 1 Total Number of Users Selected as Sample among the College Libraries Surveyed

Colleges	Questionnaire Distributed	Responses Received	Percent
The American College, Madurai.	25	22	88.00
Fatima College, Madurai.	25	20	80.00
Total	50	42	84.00

There are 50 structured questionnaires have been distributed among Two Colleges of Madurai District, 25 questionnaires have been randomly distributed to the respondents in each College which include the faculty members (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor) and Research Scholars. Of which, 42 (84.00 percent) filled responses received from the two colleges of Madurai District.

Table – 2 Uses of Electronic Sources for Information

Use of electronic source of information	Research Scholar	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
Online Databases	15	09	06	04	34 (80.95%)
Wikipedia	13	08	05	02	28 (66.67%)
CD-ROM Databases	13	07	04	02	26 (61.90%)
Websites	11	07	02	03	23 (54.76%)
Social Networks	09	05	03	03	20 (47.62%)
Others	09	04	03	01	17 (40.48%)

The trend of use of electronic information sources among the surveyed respondents found significant difference. A majority of the respondents (80.95 percent) have used Online databases, which is followed by Wikipedia (66.67 percent), CD-ROM databases (61.90 percent) used by the respondents. Between the categories, the same trend is prevailed in terms of the use of online databases, websites, Wikipedia and social networks.

Table – 3 Usages of Search Engines

Which of the following Search engine mostly used	Research Scholar	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
Google	16	12	08	06	42 (100.00%)
Yahoo	12	09	06	05	32 (76.19%)
Rediff	10	07	05	03	25 (59.52%)
Altavista	09	06	05	02	22 (52.38%)
Hotmail	08	06	03	01	18 (42.86%)
Others	06	03	02	02	13 (30.95%)

Use of various major search engines among the respondents revealed that the surveyed respondents have been using Google (100.00 percent) while Yahoo is a preferred search engine by a second largest group of respondents (76.19 percent) which is followed by Rediff (59.52 percent), AltaVista (52.38 percent), Hotmail (42.86 percent) and other search engines (30.95 percent). Between the categories, Google is most preferred by professors (06), while research scholars were highly preferred Google (16). There is variation between the groups exist in terms of use of various search engines.

Table – 4 Frequency of Accessing E-Resources

Frequency	Research Scholar	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
Daily	11	6	4	1	22 (52.38%)
Weekly	3	3	2	1	9 (21.43%)
Fortnightly	1	2	1	2	6 (14.29%)
Monthly	1	1	0	3	5 (11.90%)

The frequency of accessing towards e-resources by the stake holders enable inputs for decision making of the college library towards developing e-infrastructure and electronic information services in the college environment. Accordingly, the present study has been identified frequency of college library users in the studied environment. It is found that, a majority of them are accessing e-resources daily (52.38 percent), which are followed by weekly access (21.43 percent), fortnightly (14.29 percent) and monthly access (11.90 percent). Between the categories, Research Scholars are the major group (11) accessing the e-resources daily, followed by Assistant Professors (6). Professors are the major group accessing e-resources monthly (3), followed by Associate Professors (4) accessing the e-resources Daily.

Table – 5 Problems Encountered in Accessing Web Resources / Services

Accessing Web Resources and Service	Research Scholar	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total	Percent
Connectivity Problem	14	11	06	05	36	85.71
Time Consuming	11	10	06	03	30	71.43
Power Fluctuation / Failure	09	08	05	02	24	57.14
Slow Downloading Speed	08	06	03	01	18	42.86
Difficulty in Finding Relevant Information	07	06	02	00	15	35.71
Slow Access Speed	06	04	01	00	11	26.19
Unwanted Web Links	05	05	01	01	12	28.57
Virus Attack	05	02	00	00	7	16.67
Lack of Training in Using Library Web Resources	04	01	01	00	6	14.29
Privacy Problem	03	01	00	01	5	11.90
Unavailability of Systems	01	00	00	00	1	2.38

It is revealed that connectivity problem (85.71 percent), Time Consuming (71.43 percent), Power Fluctuation/Failure (57.14 percent), Downloading speed (42.86 percent), as the problems encountered by majority of the respondents, Difficult in finding relevant information (35.71 percent), slow access speed (26.19 percent), unwanted web links (28.57 percent) are also the problems faced by the respondents in accessing web based knowledge resources and services.

CONCLUSION

Web based resources access and information services among the Tamilnadu and Karnataka Universities are encouraging and at optimum use, though limitations such as Power Fluctuation and Failure, Band Width, Networking, Connectivity, Information Literacy and Consumption of Time towards accessing e-resources and web based library services are need to be addressed to enhance the exploitation of web environment. The study also could observe that there is a significant difference exist between the respondents in terms of research experience and no significant difference among library users towards gender wise research experience, use of electronic sources of information, usage of search engines, frequency of accessing e-resources and time spent on accessing e-resources.

REFERENCES

1. Ahmed, S. S. (2002). Managing change to Enhance Web-Based Services in the Arabian Gulf Libraries. Online Information Review, 26(4), pp.265-270. | 2. Babu, B. R., & O'Brien, A. (2000). Web OPAC interfaces: An overview. Electronic Library, 18(5), pp.316-326. | 3. Bao, X. -. (2003). A study of Web-Based Interactive Reference services via Academic Library home pages. Reference and User Services Quarterly, 42(3), pp.250-256. | 4. Barros, H., Silva, A., Costa, E., Bittencourt, I. I., Holanda, O., & Sales, L. (2011). Steps, techniques, and technologies for the development of intelligent applications based on semantic web services: A case study in e-learning systems. Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence, 24(8), pp.1355-1367. | 5. Chan, W. S. (2001). Creative applications of a Web-Based e-Resource registry. Science and Technology Libraries, 20(2-3), pp.45-56. | 6. Janev, V., & Vraneš, S. (2011). Applicability Assessment of Semantic Web Technologies. Information Processing and Management, 47(4), pp.507-517. |