



Digital Library Archives In Self Financing Engineering Institutions: A Study

* Dr. S. Dhanavandan

* Assistant Librarian, Gandhigram Rural Institute Deemed University, Gandhigram

ABSTRACT

Digital libraries are essential to enable more people to create and use vast amounts of distributed information and contribute to the quality and quantity available via the web and future access frameworks. The present study demonstrates and elaborates the digital libraries software and its types used in self financing engineering college (SFEC) libraries in Tamil Nadu. A well structured questionnaire was distributed among library professionals in engineering colleges, to evaluate infrastructures and services. Nearly 200 questionnaires were distributed among the library professionals of the engineering Colleges libraries in Tamil Nadu. Nearly 140 responses were received

Keywords : Library, Self Financing

Introduction

A digital library is a library consisting of digital materials and services. Digital materials are items stored, processed and transferred via digital (binary) devices and networks. Digital services are services (such as reference assistance) that are delivered digitally over computer networks. It maintains all, or a substantial part of its collection in computer-accessible form as alternative, supplements or complement to the conventional printed and microform materials that currently dominate library collections. The terms such as 'electronic library', 'digital library', 'virtual library', 'web-library', or 'on-line library' have been used synonymously to represent the same concept. Though the terms are used synonymously to represent the same concept, the terms are used differently by different authors in literature, the central theme of the terminology remains focused on the digital content of the documents.

The purpose of digital library is to facilitate access to electronic information, print material, and library services to ensure that the information needs of the user community are met, regardless of their location. It enables libraries to deliver valuable information that already exists within library walls electronically to patrons outside those walls, to create new digital resources locally, and to integrate local digital resources with remote ones. The number of people accessing digital collections through the WWW also shows explosive rates of growth. Finally, internationalization is making a "global information environment" a reality.

Review Of Related Literature

Azeer (2003)¹ explained about digital library and how it was designed and implemented. It also explained design issues like hardware, software, storage of search engines, accessibility and security. Parida (2004)² emphasized the significance of digital libraries in the present information era and described their substructure and technological requirements like hardware, software, electronic resources and different types of reference services. Sinha (2004)³

highlighted application of the various aspects of library automation and networking, multimedia application and use of CD-ROM databases, OPAC and Internet Services, Creation of in-house databases of books, serials, theses, projects and experts, computer based library and information activities and services. Mulla (et al) (2005)⁴ described the core elements of how libraries should design and developing the library systems, in order to satisfy the gooleans of the twenty first century. They also gave a brief overview of hardware and software requirements for developing a state of art digital library. Finally, they have discussed the benefits of digital libraries over the conventional libraries. Varadharajan (2007)⁵ stated in his study "Digital Libraries and Library Professional in the Changing Scenario" that a series of training courses on digital libraries could provide a good balance of topics covering the technological, technical, management and social issues. Alessio, et al. (2010)⁶ described CRADLE (Cooperative-Relational Approach to Digital Library Environments), a metamodel-based framework and visual language for the definition of notions and services related to the development of digital libraries. A collection of tools allows the automatic generation of several services, defined with the CRADLE visual language, and of the graphical user interfaces providing access to them for the final user. The effectiveness of the approach is illustrated by presenting digital libraries generated with CRADLE, while the CRADLE environment has been evaluated by using the cognitive dimensions framework. Liu, (2011)⁷ found that the extent to which undergraduate and graduate students in China differ in their digital library use. Unlike the factors promoting digital library use, non-use factors, perceived influences, and degree of satisfaction are quite different between undergraduate and graduate students due to their differing emphases and expectations for information. The implications for digital library services are also discussed.

Objectives

1. To study the status of Digital library software facilities in the libraries of self financing engineering colleges in Tamilnadu.

1. To know the Digital library software facilities among the self engineering college libraries in Tamil Nadu
2. To analysis the Digital library software used in sample libraries

Methodology

This study aimed at to analyse the status of Digital Library software facilities available in the libraries of self engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu. The relevant data are collected from the librarians of the concerned institutions by employing mailed questionnaire method. The respondents have properly answered the queries posed by the researcher. After completion of answering, they returned the questionnaires to the researcher. To test the hypotheses, chi-square test is applied. The general data interpretation is done with the application of percentage analysis.

Analysis And Interpretations

5.1 Classification of Institutions

The engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu have been classified based on the year of establishment for the purpose of analysing. Such the categories are Long, Medium and Short duration institutions. Long Duration Institutions denotes the engineering college in Tamil Nadu which were started 15 years ago i.e., prior to 1995. Medium Duration Institutions denotes the institutions which were started in the last 10 years. i.e., before 2005. And, Short Duration Institutions denotes the institutions which were started in the after 2005. It is clearly showed in the table 1

Table1 Distribution of Questionnaires among SFEC Libraries

Sl.No.	Duration	Distributed	Received	No Response
1	Long (Before 1995)	40 (20.00)	18 (9.00)	22 (11.00)
2	Medium (1996-2005)	80 (40.00)	70 (35.00)	10 (5.00)
3	Short (After 2005)	80 (40.00)	52 (26.00)	28 (14.00)
	Total	200 (100.00)	140 (70.00)	60 (30.00)

200 institutions have been selected for this study. From table 1, it indicates number of responses received from the libraries of self financing engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu. Out of 200 institutions 140 self financing engineering college libraries were replied. Among the 40 long duration institutions only 18 (9.00) were replied. But in the medium duration out of 80, 70 (35.00) responses were received. In the case short duration institutions 52 libraries were answered for the questionnaire.

5.2 Digital Library Software Facilities used in SFEC libraries in Tamil Nadu

The frequency of Digital library software facilities in the engineering college libraries in Tamil Nadu has been presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Digital Library Software Used in the SFEC Libraries in Tamil Nadu

Duration	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Total
Long (Before 1995)	15	83.33	3	16.67	18
Medium (1996-2005)	35	50.00	35	50.00	70
Short (After 2005)	22	42.31	30	57.69	52
Total	72	51.42	68	46.57	140

Table 2 explains the institution duration wise distribution in availability of digital library software used by the self financing engineering college libraries in Tamil Nadu. Out of the 18 long duration institution college libraries, 15 (83.33%) libraries have the Digital library software. Among the medium duration institution libraries, 35 (50.00%) libraries are used digital library software. In the short duration institution only 22 (42.31) libraries have the Digital library software.

5.3 Digital Library Software Facilities in SFEC libraries in Tamil Nadu

The frequency of Digital library software facilities in the engineering college libraries in Tamil Nadu has been presented in Table 3.

Table3 Digital Library Software Used in the SFEC Libraries in Tamil Nadu

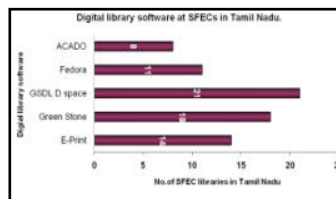
Duration	E-Print	Green stone	D Space	Fedora	ACADO	Total
Long (Before 1995)	1 (6.67)	2 (13.33)	3 (20.00)	5 (33.33)	4 (26.67)	15
Medium (1996-2005)	7 (20.00)	10 (28.57)	11 (31.43)	4 (11.43)	3 (8.57)	35
Short (After 2005)	6 (27.27)	6 (27.27)	7 (31.81)	2 (9.09)	1 (4.55)	22
Total	14 (19.44)	18 (25.00)	21 (29.16)	11 (15.27)	8 (11.11)	72

(Figures in parentheses denote percentage)

The data presented in the table 3 indicates the types of digital library software were used in their libraries in self financing engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu. The long duration institutions (33.33 percent) use Fedora digital library software. But the medium duration libraries use (31.43 percent) Dspace digital library software. 42.31% of the short duration institution libraries use the digital library software is used. The ACADO digital library software is used in four long duration institution libraries. Three numbers of medium duration institution libraries and in one short duration institution library are using ACADO digital library. The table further presents the data relating the types of digital library software used in self financing engineering college libraries in Tamil Nadu. Dspace software has been used in more libraries and it takes the first position and the last position is given to ACADO and Fedora digital library software.

It could be seen clearly from the above discussion in this study they were no libraries in the self financing engineering college libraries in Tamil Nadu has been used commercialized or in-house prepared digital library software.

Figure1 Digital Library Software Used in the SFEC Libraries in Tamil Nadu



Chi-square Summary Result

Chi square calculated value	11.96
Degrees of freedom	8
Chi square table value 5%	15.5

The Chi-square test is applied for the digital library software was used in their libraries in self financing engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu. The computed Chi-square value is 11.96 which is less than its tabulated value at 5 percent level of significance. Hence, the difference among the institutions duration wise is statistically identified as insignificant with respect to digital library software facility.

Findings And Conclusions

The findings of the digital library software used in the self financing engineering college libraries in Tamil Nadu reveal that more than half of the libraries use digital library software. The DSpace software is used by most of the libraries and the use of Greenstone software is in the second position. But, a minimum number of libraries are using ACADO digital library software. The duration wise analysis of college libraries reveal the fact that majority of the long duration institution libraries have digital library collection. The Digital library software facility has dramatically changed the old concept of libraries in new information storage and retrieval mechanism has now become very faster and easier.

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