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Arts

A SURVEY ON OPINION OF OPAC STUDENT USERS AT GUJARAT UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, AHMEDABAD

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ABSTRACT In this electronic era, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) for library started since around three decades and Web OPACs began to come into view in the late 1990's. The review of literature has discovered that the behaviour of University library users has hugely changed in this time. Many University libraries are migrating to Web OPAC from traditional textual versions. The OPACs and Web OPACs technology in libraries are trying to explain various features, applications, benefits, characteristics of OPAC and Web OPAC. The reason of this study was to explore the users' opinion towards the use of OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) at Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. For this study the survey research design was adopted. Some objectives were formulated to conduct this study. The questionnaire tool was used for collecting data. The sample size of this research study consists of only 100 students of Gujarat University. The questionnaires were distributed to the students who made use of the library and they were encouraged to return it immediately. The completed and returned questionnaires were analysed using simple descriptive statistics and frequency distribution. Out of 100 questionnaires distributed 92 were completed and returned by the respondents, while, 80 were found suitable for analysis. Analysis of the findings showed that majority of users preferred going directly to OPAC to explore the resources before going to the stack room and shelves. The study also revealed that respondents viewed the online catalogue as time saving.

KEYWORDS : Gujarat University Library, OPAC, Online public access catalog, online catalogue

INTRODUCTION:
Nowadays Libraries are undergoing tremendous change due to the rapid development that is taking place in Information Technology. This has led to automation and all work of library management systems like acquisition, circulation many other work also. Today the library users and librarian also depend more on technology. The role of librarian is becoming more and more dependable and demanding to enable the library operations using the technology. Now almost all libraries are concentrating on digital libraries, e-libraries and virtual libraries to creating either OPAC or Web OPAC. The OPAC consist an information retrieval system mainly maintain data of library resources like books, journals, and audio visual materials of library.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:
The related review of literature for this article as under:
Ajiferuke, Goodfellow and Opesade (2015) were studied to examine the characteristics and effectiveness of tags in public library online public access catalogues. Arshad and Shafique (2014) was explained determines the most preferred catalogue format- card catalogue or online public access catalogue (OPAC) for searching library material in Oriental languages, like Urdu, Arabic and other local languages of the Central Library, University of the Punjab, Lahore. Willson and Given (2014) focused a qualitative exploration of university students' experience of searching an OPAC. The study inspected how students conceptualise their searching process, as well as how students understand themselves as seekers of information.

Gujarat University Library:
The Gujarat University Library was established in 1951. Right modest began in 1951 year with 1,700 books and 170 periodicals in the temporary building and shifted from temporary to existing New Building in 1967. The architectural and structural building of the library is looks like an open book. There are 4 floors in the building with a large basement of stack area and a reading center. Gujarat University has established one of Largest University Library System across the State that indeed plays a vital role in the acquisition and dissemination of academic and research information to meet the present and future needs of the University users.

Objectives of the Study:
• Too know the awareness of OPAC
• to know the purpose of use of OPAC
• to study the satisfaction of library users

METHODOLOGY:
A structural questionnaire was designed to collect primary data which was distributed to Gujarat University Library users. Out of total 500 readers of library, 100 questionnaires were distributed, it represent 20% of the total population of Gujarat University Library. The population of this research study consists of 13 % of the students which

is 80. The questionnaires were distributed to the students who use the library and they were encouraged to return it at a time. The completed questionnaires (80) were analysed using descriptive statistics, and frequency distribution.

Data Analysis:
Total 100 questionnaires were distributed among the students of Gujarat University Library users. From that 92 were returned and 80 questionnaires were found suitable for final analysis and the response rate is 92%. The analysis of the data is represented as under:
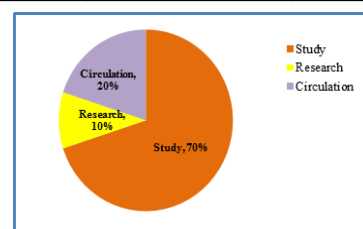
Table1: Total Respondents

Department	No of respondents	Percentage
Gujarat University Library	80	100.00

Above table 1 shows that, out of 100 respondents 80 students who are postgraduates and using Gujarat University Library for their study.

Reason to Visit the Library:
Table 2: Reason to visit the Library

Reason	Respondents	Percentage
Study	56	70%
Research	08	10%
Circulation	16	20%
Total	80	100%

Chart 1: Reason to visit the Library

Above table and chart shows the reason of visit to the library. Maximum 56 (70%) of the respondents are visit the library for study, 16 (20%) of them visit library for circulation and 8 (10%) of them visit library for research. From this table most of the users visit the library for the reason of studying, preparation for competitive exam and reading the newspapers.
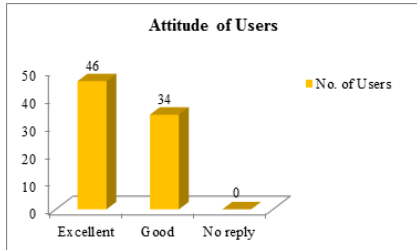
Necessary of Library Management Software in Library:
It is reported that 77 (96.25%) of the respondents are agree for the necessary of library management software is crucial and 03 (3.75%) of

the respondents are disagree for the LMS.

Attitude of the computer application in library:
Table 3: Attitude of the computer application in library

Attitude	No. of Users	Percentage
Excellent	46	57.50
Good	34	42.50
No reply	0	0
Total	80	100

Chart 2: Attitude of the computer application in library

The above table and chart 2 shows the attitude of computer application in Gujarat University library from those 46 (57.50%) users mentioned the Computer application in library as excellent whereas 34 (42.50%) respondents rated as good. From that table maximum of users shown their attitude towards computer application is excellent.
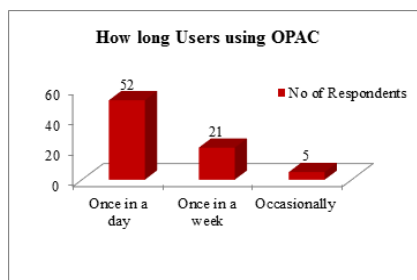Opinion of the OPAC in library:

Table 3: Opinion of the OPAC in library

Opinion	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	78	97.50
No	02	2.50
Total	80	100

The table-3 focused that 78 (97.50 %) respondents are using the OPAC service in Gujarat University library whereas 2 (2.50%) respondents are not using OPAC service because they knows where there subjective books are arranged so they aren't using OPAC service.
How long Users using OPAC:

Table 4: How long Users using OPAC

How Long	No of Respondents	Percentage
Once in a day	52	66.67
Once in a week	21	27.02
Occasionally	05	6.31
Total	78	100

Chart 3: How long Users using OPAC

The above table and chart investigated the how long users using OPAC from that 52 (66.67%) respondents replied that they use OPAC once in a day, 21 (27.02%) respondents replied once in a week whereas very least respondents 05 (6.31%) replied that they use OPAC occasionally.
Suggestions:

From the above data analysis here few suggestions found, which are mentioned under:

Maximum users are visit the library for the study and reading purpose

to crack competitive exams

• More than 95% users are using Library Management Software to fulfill their need within moment

• More than 50% users are using computer application so the library have to update their computer application

• More than 95% users are using OPAC service to find out book so they can save their time for the study

• More than 60% of users are accessing books from OPAC so the users are saving their time and prepare for their bright future

CONCLUSION:
In this e-era the libraries are plays crucial role for the users future and the OPAC, web OPAC or online OPAC also plays viral role in libraries for the find out appropriate resources. The use of OPAC is increase day by day across the world for searching library resources. The librarians have to alert to update their collection and software related to the advanced technology. The main purpose of this study was to opinion of Gujarat University library users for the OPAC use. Most of the users are using OPAC services which are provided by Gujarat University Library. OPAC is saving time of the library users so they can do something new and extra ordinary for their future. The Gujarat University Library is provides e-resources to their users for their bright future and current knowledge.

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