



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Library & Information Science

AWARENESS OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES IN SIVAGANGAI TOWN, SIVAGANGAI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU: A STUDY

KEY WORDS: Digital Library, User Education, Digital Repository.

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ABSTRACT

A Digital library, also called an online library, an internet library, a digital repository, a library without walls, or a digital collection is an online database of digital objects that can include text, still images, audio, video, digital documents, or other digital media formats or a library accessible through the internet. Objects can consist of digitized content like print or photographs, as well as originally produced digital content like word processor files or social media posts. Research and practice in digital Libraries (DL) has exploded worldwide in the 1990s. Substantial research findings have become available, libraries are actively involved in Digital Libraries projects and conference, journals and online news lists proliferate. In general, researchers view digital libraries as content collected on behalf of user communities, while practicing librarians view digital libraries as institutions or services. Future trends point toward the need for extensive research in digital libraries and for the transformation of libraries as institutions. This study is to analyze the awareness on Digital Libraries among the users in Sivagangai Town, Sivagangai District, Tamil Nadu.

INTRODUCTION

The computerization of the library during past few decades have focused heavily on the creation of surrogate records of printed documents available in a library or for providing computerized services through secondary databases held locally on CD ROM or magnetic tapes. The scope and functions of integrated library packages, till recently, were essentially restricted to providing access to documents as bibliographic level. The new versions of, integrated library packages, however, tend to provide additional features and functionalities to digital libraries.

NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING DIGITALIZATION OF LIBRARY

Exponential growth of knowledge and information emergence of information networks at National and international levels etc. require digitalization for access, greater possibility of online and remote database searches, and resources sharing among libraries. Library is a system. This system is those desired by its users. Two distinct bodies of user may be considered. The library staff who control the system, and enters new information; and the ordinary library user who requires the services of the system.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- i. To get an insight of the Digital Libraries in Sivagangai Town.
- ii. To understand the utility of Digital Library Users.
- iii. To understand the people awareness of Digital Libraries.
- iv. To examine the trend setter of information Society.

METHODOLOGY

The study covers both the primary and secondary data. Descriptive research design is most suitable. The primary data have been collected by interview method by using a structured questionnaire. For the purpose of the study, the data has been collected in Sivagangai Town. 110 Library users have been randomly selected for the study as sample. Out of 110 respondents, only 100 respondents are included for the analysis of this study. The explanation is given in data analysis. A population of the study includes all the users in the age group of 15 to 55 in Sivagangai Town. The study has been conducted for two days.

SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION

The secondary data has been collected from the published records, journals, magazines and web portals. Primary data has been collected by administrating questionnaire cum interview schedules to the user of the Library.

Universe of Respondents: Respondents in the age group of 15 to 55 years.

Sampling Unit: The sampling unit is limited to Sivagangai Town in Tamil Nadu.

Sample Size: 100 Users

Sampling Design: Simple random sampling has been adopted. The collected data has been analyzed by using simple percentage analysis calculation.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study is limited to the Sivagangai Town.
- The period of study is limited.
- One more limitation is that the sample size is too small to come to any conclusion and there may be discrepancies in data due to this.
- Users are using the computerized library.
- The researcher has focused only on this digital library as otherwise; the scope of the study will become extremely large.

DATA ANALYSIS

In order to study the user attitude towards the use of library, we have classified the users according to the category wise. The user category is classified and tabulated as under.

Table : 1 Distribution of Respondents (Category – Wise)

S.No.	Category	No. of Respondents	%
1	Under Graduates	30	30%
2	Post Graduates	25	25%
3	Researchers	35	35%
4	Others	10	10%
	Total	100	100%

Table : 1 It is apparent from the above table that 30% of the respondents are Undergraduates 25% of the respondents are Postgraduates students and the remaining 35% of the respondents are Researches and the remaining 10% of the respondents are others.

Table : 2 Users Opinion about Information Retrieval

S.No.	Use of the Library	No. of Respondents	%
1	Very helpful	42	42%
2	Helpful	45	45%

3	Neutral	13	13%
	Total	100	100%

Table:2, it is clear that 42% of the respondents feel satisfied on information retrieval, 45% of the respondents feel that they are helpful, 13% of the respondents are neutral.

Table : 3 Awareness of Digital Library

S.No.	Awareness of Digital Library	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
1	Yes	68	68%
2	No	32	32%
	Total	100	100%

Table: 3 it is understood from the above table that 68% of the respondents have got awareness about the digital Library, and 32% of the respondents are not aware of the Digital Library so far.

Table : 4 Reason for Giving Preference for Digitalisation

S.No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
1	Easy to get	07	7%
2	Time Savings	06	6%
3	Get all the Information	14	14%
4	All the above	73	73%
	Total	100	100%

Table: 4 from the above table, it is clear that 73% of the respondents have given preference to all the above method. 14% of the respondents have recorded that they can get information very easily and remaining 06% of respondents have given the time saving as the reason for preferring digitalization.

FINDINGS

1. It is evident from the fact that most (87%) of the respondents said that digitalization of Library service is helpful.
2. It is understood from the above 3, (68%) of the respondents have got awareness about the digital Library.
3. It is evident from the above analysis that most of the respondents (73%) prefer for digitalization of Library. The Library users' attitude regarding the accuracy of work, speed of work and work load, and automation in their libraries are correlated.

CONCLUSION

The time has come for a systematic approach in establishing a DL system in India. The development of an infrastructure for sharing the technological information product is an effective way of the national improvement. The Libraries are recognized as living pool of information. It is closely related to social life. It is passed from generation to generation through personal contacts or through recorded knowledge by way of Digitalization.

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