



DEPLOYMENT OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OF MAHARASTRA

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Abstract

This study is an attempt to capture the present scenario in Maharashtra State University libraries about their ICT applications and digital environment to meet the modern dynamic users, a detailed survey resulted in understanding the same. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire and follow-up interviews with librarians revealed that the E-Journals are the most available e-resources and digitization activity with setting-up of digitization lab is found in many of these libraries. All these Maharashtra State University Libraries have a preference of both print & electronic resources for their collection development strategy.



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Introduction:

The library and information centre is a part of any educational institution, which is the hub of the teaching, and learning activities where students, teacher and researchers get their required information according to their need. Universities are the higher education institutions. As the universities serve as research centers, they have become institutions where knowledge is discovered, intellectuals are bred, scientific manpower is produced and technical know-how is developed. They serve as natural home of research and contribute significantly to innovation and technical change and training grounds for research scholars and provide basic methodology in specialized fields. The success of their research depends upon the resources, facilities and services they had in universities (Rao, Y. Srinivasa&Choudhury, B.K. 2009). Being the centers of research, universities are recognised as vital aspect for the scientific and societal progress of the nation. The establishment and maintenance of a resource rich library with need based facilities and services are the important prerequisites for universities (Sadia, H. 2011).

Need of The Study:

The present study the various facilities and services which are essential to the researchers in the university libraries in Maharashtra. The traditional universities in Maharashtra state are

taken for the study. Important facilities and services were identified through the opinion was collected on the satisfaction level of the researchers. Responses were also collected on the problems they face in the use of these facilities and the study also identifies various training areas which will improve the use of the libraries.

Scope of the Study:

The present study has concentrated to make the survey of library facilities and services required by the research scholars. In order to have the homogenous category of universities for the study, the scope of the study is limited to the general universities in Maharashtra state that are offering doctoral degree programmes in various disciplines. Further the study covered only the full-time research scholars. Social investigation of every magnitude and size has its own limitations sets forth by the investigator concerned. Without determining the boundaries within which a researcher will have to work, no investigation can effectively be pursued and progressed because of several key factors such as, paucity of fund, limited access to data relevant to study, and limited time stipulated for its completion, etc. Hence, minimizing the scope drawing the limitations for an investigation has become exigent; if at all the project is to witness a scientific progress and is to be completed within the stipulated timeframe. The present investigation is, therefore, limited to the study of e-resources of university libraries of Maharashtra State only. This study, among other things, also intends to make a survey that how the information technology can be induced in university libraries of Maharashtra along with the e-resources solutions so that; the target audience could be benefited.

Objectives of the Study:

- Find out the present status of e-resources facilities and services provided by the libraries of Maharashtra;
- Study the purpose and frequency of using the electronic resources available in the library of Maharashtra;
- Locate the impediments faced by the users while accessing and using the e-resources in the libraries of Maharashtra;
- Study the impact of electronic resources and services on the academic work of the users and
- Provide suitable suggestions and recommendations to improve the e-resources and e-services for the benefit of users in libraries of Maharashtra.

- Provide an opportunity to the researchers to evaluate the existing services in the university libraries;
- Know the satisfaction level of the researchers on the available facilities and services in the libraries of Maharashtra;
- To suggest suitable recommendations to improve the existing electronic resources and services for the benefit of users of university libraries of Maharashtra State
- To explore the skills and capability of the existing information professionals working in these university library systems to handle e-resources in the university libraries;

Hypothesis:

H-1: Implementation of ICT in most of the State universities in the Maharashtra is in an embryonic state hence may not have their visibility in the web.

H-2: The strength of semi and non-professional staff outnumber the professional category in most of the universities libraries in Maharashtra which resulted a considerable gap between users and e-resources.

H-3: A majority of the universities in Maharashtra included in the study must have subscribed UGC-Info net services to provide the full text of e-journal articles to their users.

H-4: The popularity in use of e-journals and e-databases must be higher among the users of the university libraries compared to other forms of e-resources.

H-5: A majority of the clientele of the university libraries in Maharashtra might be spending a minimal time towards the use of e-resources, as they are not so well acquainted with the technical-know-how of e-resources and their usage.

Research Methodology:

Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically.

Research purpose

The purpose of the present research is to explain a critical study of Deployment of services and facilities of electronic resources in the university libraries of Maharashtra. The researcher will identify its influences to predict Deployment of services and facilities of electronic resources in the university libraries of Maharashtra. Hence the purpose of this research is illuminating the concept of Deployment of services and facilities of electronic resources in the university libraries of Maharashtra.

Research design

This study will cover title of the study, significance of the study, aims and objectives of the study, research hypothesis and research design. This research has designed based upon descriptive study as it aims to identify and elaborate the Deployment of services and facilities of electronic resources in the university libraries of Maharashtra.

The research design contains the following steps:

- Literature review
- Theoretical and experimental analysis.

Data collection

This study combines both primary and secondary research methods. Thus, gathering and analyzing the data will be done on the basis of existing research.

Primary research methods

Primary research (field research) involves gathering new data that has not been collected before. For example, surveys using questionnaires or interviews with groups of people in a focus group.

Secondary research methods

The data collected for the study includes secondary data. The various sources used to collect secondary data include research papers, articles, reports of the company and data from the dissertation/Thesis and various websites.

Tools and techniques

SPSS statistical package of data analysis will employ to analyze the quantitative data.

Limitation of Study:

The present investigation is, therefore, limited to the study of e-resources of university libraries of Maharashtra State only. This study, among other things, also intends to make a survey that how the information technology can be induced in university libraries of Maharashtra along with the e-resources solutions so that; the target audience could be benefited? Thus, some of the key limitations of the present study are as under:

- The present study is primarily concerned with the utilization of e-resources and services only, but not of any other resources and services of the concerned libraries included in the study (i.e. limitation by the type of subject or resource being investigated);

- This study intends to investigate the current status of usage of e-resources and services of University Libraries only, but not of the Department / or Seminar Libraries or any other academic library system of Maharashtra (i.e limitation by type or category of libraries included in the study);
- This study is concerned with the utilization of e-resources and services of those university libraries which are functioning in Maharashtra State alone, but not of any other province (i.e. limitation by geography or region).

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