

State of Art of Library Websites of Academic Colleges of Maharashtra State

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Abstract

Lately the library had to transfer its services and operations in view of the rapid developments in the field of information and technology. Moreover, the way information is accumulated, stored, shared and provided as per demand is also changing very rapidly. In view of this the library websites provide an opportunity to interact with its user about the changes occurring in the functioning of libraries. Moreover, the website design is an output of the thinking of its creator and barring few common aspects there appears a special feature in these websites. In view of the above, this study has been carried out to study the state of art of websites of academic colleges of Maharashtra. The study was conducted by using standard methodology and the data was collected using an online survey method. All the statistical analysis was carried out by using SPSS 18.0 Software. Based on the results of this study, it was evident that the websites of most of the libraries are designed by professional developer and with an aim to improve usability of resources. The results also indicate that the librarians need skills with respect to new technologies apart from core traditional librarianship skills. Furthermore, most of the librarians revealed that simple navigation and easy access to search are very important feature of a user friendly library website.

Keywords: Library, information technology, website design, usability of resources, skills

Introduction

The concept of librarianship in higher education has changed significantly in the last few years. The library services have now crossed the boundaries of four walls and are in the realm of digital world. In the present scenario of globalization, the librarian should think towards extending the facilities to the users apart from his institution by marketing their services. The librarian will have to be more pro- active in this aspect and the librarian must undertake the study about needs and demands of the users in terms of information (Silvis et al., 2019). Accordingly, librarian must design, develop and provide information product and services, to meet such needs and demands and rushed out to them rather wait for them to come to the library. One such initiative is the availability of content through online platforms or the dedicated library website (Ehrenpreis and Delooper, 2022). A library website incorporated into the college's website is one incredible idea that will set the educational institution apart from the competition. This kind of development has become relatively simple and it has the potential will to bring various advantages to the institution.

Gone are the days when students relied exclusively on textbooks to get all of the essential information. Today, students have access to a wide range of informational resources that prove to be an invaluable part of the academic process. The digitalization of the library shows commitment to modernization and the willingness to embrace new trends and developments by the management (Hugar, 2019). A comprehensive library website can contain much more than that is available through traditional modes of information seeking. Both students and parents will appreciate the modern development of the library website (Astani and Elhindi, 2008). Having access to the library book database through the website is important because it will enable students to participate in the academic process regardless of their location (Mellone and Williams 2010). Students today are heavily-reliant on digital technology (Kumaran and Subangi, 2017). They prefer the format and they find it much easier to use than traditional methods of information seeking. It is expected that the special collection, services and facilities available are to be kept before the users and encourage them to avail these facilities for their academic work (Richardson et al., 2023). Many libraries use information brochures for the advertisement of their consultancies and expertise. Taking this into consideration as mentioned earlier, the librarian should develop the information packages for the users and reach up to them instead of waiting them to come to library (Narnaware and Rokade, 2022). Hosting of website for the library is one of the most effective ways in the IT environment (Okeji et al., 2020). Hence, the librarian must acquire the skill of web page designing and he must have knowledge of it. In view of the importance of the library websites, present investigation was carried out to assess the state-of-art of the same i.e. library websites of the academic colleges of Maharashtra.

Research Methodology

There are many ways of outlining the basic method shared by all fields of scientific inquiry. In the present investigation, the researcher followed a general research method such as

i) define the question, ii) gather information and resources (observe), iii) form hypothesis, iv) data collection, v) analyze data and vi) interpret data and draw conclusions.

Study Area

The study area for this research work is Maharashtra State of India and NAAC accredited Academic Colleges situated in the state.

Research Design

The study is conducted by using a technique of descriptive research design.

Universe and Population of the study

On the basis of the reconnaissance survey it was observed that there are approximately 800 NAAC accredited academic colleges with Grade A, A++, B and B++ from the NAAC and are affiliated to various UGC recognized Universities in Maharashtra. Libraries of all the 800 academic colleges affiliated to various universities were considered as the population of the study.

Sampling, Sampling Method and Sample Size

For the present study library professionals working in academic colleges affiliated to various UGC recognized universities in Maharashtra were selected using random sampling technique. In this study, a representative sample size for this population was determined on the basis of the Table for Determining Sample Size for a Finite Population developed by Krejcie and Morgan (1970). According to this model, for the above mentioned population i.e. 800 need 270 samples, however, during the course of this study researcher could get information from 341 librarians. The selection of librarians was carried out randomly. Thus, the final sample size for this study is 341.

Primary data collection

The primary data was collected using a structured questionnaire and by following survey method. Prior to its use the reliability and validity of the questionnaire was tested.

Statistical Analysis of Data and Significance Level

Analysis of data was carried out with the help of appropriate statistical tests. The descriptive statistics, such as frequency, mode, percentage, etc were determined from the collected data. The Chi-Square test was used as an inferential statistical test. All the statistical analysis was carried out by using SPSS 18.0 Software. The significance level was chosen to be 0.05 (or equivalently, 5%).

Statistical Analysis & Interpretation

Development of website

Table 1: Development of website

Library website development	Nos.	Percentage
Developed new website by own	89	26.1
Made changes to an existing website	39	11.4
Professional Developer designed the website	182	53.4
Other	31	9.1
Total	341	100

Chi-square 169.581; **df:** 3, **p**<0.05; **Table Value:** 7.82

Above Table 1 shows information pertaining to development of website. 26.1% respondents have developed the website by their own while 11.4% respondents have made changes to an existing website. Further according to 53.4% respondents professional developer has designed the website and according to 9.1% respondents website is designed by other sources.

Main objectives of developing library website

Table 2: Main objectives of developing library website

Objectives of developing website	Nos.	Percentage
Convenience	37	10.9
To improve usability of resources	238	69.8
Better information sharing	201	58.9
Information Security	29	8.5
Aesthetics	52	15.2
USP for promoting college	68	19.9
Other	22	6.5

Above Table 2 shows information pertaining to objective of developing library website. According to 10.9% respondents library website is developed for convenience of the users while 69.8% respondents feel that library website is developed to improve usability of resources. In addition to this 58.9%, 8.5% and 15.2% respondents feel that library websites have been

developed for better information sharing, information security and aesthetics respectively. Furthermore, according to 19.9% respondents library website serves as a USP for promoting college and 6.5% respondents have developed library website for other reason.

Opinion of librarians about the skills of librarian

Table 3: Opinion about the demands of technical knowledge from librarians apart from core traditional librarianship skills

Response	Nos.	Percentage
Yes	291	85.3
No	35	10.3
Don't Know	15	4.4
Total	341	100

Chi-square 416.794; df: 2, $p < 0.05$; Table Value: 5.99

Above Table 3 shows information pertaining to opinion of the librarians about the demands of technical knowledge from librarians apart from core traditional librarianship skills. According to 85.3% respondents there is demand of technical knowledge from librarians apart from core traditional librarianship skills while 4.4% respondents are not sure about it. Further 10.3% respondents do not feel there is demand of technical knowledge from librarians apart from core traditional librarianship skills.

Influence of various factors in development of college library website

Table 4: Influence of various factors in development of college library website

Attributes	Extent of Influence							
	High		Moderate		Low		Total	
	No	Per	No	Per	No	Per	No	Per
Institutional forces	188	55.1	134	39.3	19	5.6	341	100.0
Budgetary allocations	92	27.0	175	51.3	74	21.7	341	100.0
Technical Knowledge	255	74.8	71	20.8	15	4.4	341	100.0
Support, input from secondary sources	81	23.8	192	56.3	68	19.9	341	100.0
Input from different types of users	88	25.8	231	67.7	22	6.5	341	100.0

Above Table 4 shows information pertaining to influence of various factors in development of college library website.

- Institutional Forces:** According to 55.1% respondents institutional forces highly influence development of college library website while 39.3% respondents feel that institutional forces have moderate influence. Further according to 5.6% respondents institutional forces has less influence in development of college library website.
- Budgetary allocations:** According to 27.0% respondents budgetary allocations highly influence development of college library website while 51.3% respondents feel that budgetary allocations have moderate influence. Further according to 21.7% respondents budgetary allocations has less influence in development of college library website.
- Technical Knowledge:** According to 74.8% respondents technical knowledge highly influence development of college library website while 20.8% respondents feel that technical knowledge have moderate influence. Further according to 4.4% respondents technical knowledge has less influence in development of college library website.
- Support, input from secondary sources:** According to 23.8% respondents support, input from secondary sources highly influence development of college library website while 56.3% respondents feel that support, input from secondary sources have moderate influence. Further according to 19.9% respondents support, input from secondary sources has less influence in development of college library website.
- Input from different types of users:** According to 25.8% respondents input from different types of users highly influence development of college library website while 67.7% respondents feel that input from different types of users have moderate influence. Further according to 6.5% respondents input from different types of users has less influence in development of college library website.

3.5 Important features of a user friendly library website

Table 5: Important features of a user friendly library website

Features	Very Important		Moderately Important		Slightly Important		Total	
	No	Per	No	Per	No	Per	No	Per
Easy Access to Search	266	78.0	42	12.3	33	9.7	341	100.0
Simple Navigation	294	86.2	18	5.3	29	8.5	341	100.0
Home Page is a Gateway	119	34.9	58	17.0	164	48.1	341	100.0
Empower All its Users	99	29.0	207	60.7	35	10.3	341	100.0
Regularly Updated Content	133	39.0	187	54.8	21	6.2	341	100.0
Visible Contact Details	257	75.4	76	22.3	8	2.3	341	100.0

Above Table 5 shows information pertaining to important features of a user friendly library website.

- Easy Access to Search:** According to 78.0% respondents easy access to search is very important feature of a user friendly library website while 12.3% respondents feel that it has moderate importance. Further according to 9.7% respondents easy access to search is slightly important feature of a user friendly library website.
- Simple Navigation:** According to 86.2% respondents simple navigation is very important feature of a user friendly library website while 5.3% respondents feel that it has moderate importance. Further according to 8.5% respondents simple navigation is slightly important feature of a user friendly library website.
- Home Page is a Gateway:** According to 34.9% respondents home page gateway is very important feature of a user friendly library website while 17.0% respondents feel that it has moderate importance. Further according to 48.1% respondents home page gateway is slightly important feature of a user friendly library website.
- Empower all its users:** According to 29.0% respondents empowering all users is very important feature of a user friendly library website while 60.7% respondents feel that it has moderate importance. Further according to 10.3% respondents empowering all users is slightly important feature of a user friendly library website.
- Regularly updated content:** According to 39.0% respondents regularly updated content is very important feature of a user friendly library website while 54.8% respondents feel that it has moderate importance. Further according to 6.2% respondents regularly updated content is slightly important feature of a user friendly library website.
- Visible contact details:** According to 75.4% respondents visible contact details is very important feature of a user friendly library website while 22.3% respondents feel that it has moderate importance. Further according to 2.3% respondents visible contact details is slightly important feature of a user friendly library website.

3.6 Availability of Web 2.0 tools on the library website

Table 6: Availability of Web 2.0 tools on the library website

Response	Nos.	Percentage
Yes	265	77.7
No	59	17.3
Can't say	17	5.0
Total	341	100

Chi-square 310.018; **df:** 2, **p**<0.05; **Table Value:** 5.99

Above Table 6 shows information pertaining to opinion of the librarians about web 2.0 tools should be available on the library website. According to 77.7% respondents web 2.0 tools should be available on the library website while 5.0% respondents are unsure about it. Further 17.3% respondents do not feel that web 2.0 tools should be available on the library website.

3.7 Opinion about getting time for developing a library website

Table 7: Opinion about getting time for developing a library website

Response	Nos.	Percentage
Yes	83	24.3
No	204	59.8
Can't say	54	15.8
Total	341	100

Chi-square 111.376; **df:** 2, **p**<0.05; **Table Value:** 5.99

Above Table 7 shows information pertaining to opinion of the librarians about getting time for developing a library website. 24.3% respondents do not get time for developing a library

website while 15.8% respondents are not sure about it. Further 59.8% respondents do not get time for developing of library website.

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 Development of website

On the basis of the study results it is evident that most of the library websites are designed by professional developer.

1. Main objectives of developing library website

From the study results it is evident that most of the library websites are developed to improve usability of resources.

2. Opinion of librarians about the skills of librarian

From the study results it is evident that there is demand of technical knowledge from librarians apart from core traditional librarianship skills.

3. Influence of various factors in development of college library website

In view of the study results it is evident that technical knowledge and institutional forces highly influence development of college library website.

4. Important features of a user friendly library website

In view of the study results it is evident that most of the librarians feel that simple navigation and easy access to search are very important feature of a user friendly library website.

5. Web 2.0 tools should be available on the library website

On the basis of the study results it is evident that most of the librarians feel that web 2.0 tools should be available on the library website.

6. Opinion about getting time for developing a library website

From the study results it is evident that most of the librarians do not get time for developing a library website.

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