Research Papers

CONTENTS OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY WEBSITES IN INDIA:AN ANALYSIS

PRAKASH. B

Librarian Government First Grade College, Manhalli Tq and Dist ; Bidar (KS)

Abstract

Present paper studies the content available in Central University Libraries Websites in India. It mainly focuses on the information available in the library websites, features of the library websites, online library services, links to other information sources, value added services and so on. The results are brought on the basis of pre designed criteria and same has been presented.

KEYWORDS :

Content Analysis, Library Websites, Central Universities in India, Library Sources, services and Facilities

INTRODUCTION:

Internet is a network of networks that links computers around the world. It allows communication across networks. One can communicate between one network and any other network. This allows people to have access to information from different websites, locations and machines. It literally puts a world of information and a potential worldwide audience at your fingers.

Library homepages establishes their presence in the web environment. Library homepage functions as a main library window and mentions various services providing by it. Different libraries have a wide range of target groups, level of services, resources etc,. The growth and use of online information increasing rapidly and the present generation is very much depending on the e-resources. Library websites has became starting point for finding academic or scholarly information. In this changing information environment libraries have to thrive for understanding the user's information preferences to cater and developing tool and technique for catering the next savvy users.

Libraries in India also moving towards offering web based services. In this context library website has became important space. There for conducting content analysis certainly benefits the libraries to develop a robust website which cater wide variety of internet savvy users.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Studies on performance evaluation and use of library website have taken in many ways but little importance is given to the content analysis. Mohamed Haneefa K and Anjana Venugopal M K has made the study of content analysis of the websites of the national libraries in Asia by concluding the further development in the information input and design of the websites[1]. Clausen has compared Danish University Library Websites and found that the library websites were above average [2]. Chiseng evaluated the online access to e-resources through university library website in Sub Sahara Africa [3].

Cohen and Still found that larger institutions made greater use of freely available Internet resources and were more likely to create web version of paper documents [4]. Still in the study of university library websites in four English speaking countries found that the visual display of information was similar across all countries and there was much less information on instructional materials and remote access[5]. Pisanski and Maja found that national library websites in Europe have common core content and national libraries of the better economically developed countries have better websites [6]. Vijaykumar, kannappanavar and Mestri reported that the library websites of Indian institutes of Technologies were different from one another in many aspects [7]. Linh found that most of the Australian university libraries deployed one or more Web 2.0 technologies in their websites [8].

There is a very little or no research has focused on the content analysis of Central University Library Websites of India and there a need was felt. This paper gives an informative preview of the contents of the Central University Library Websites.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
The objectives of the study are as follows:
1.To investigate the general information available in the Library websites, Library services, links to other resources and websites aid and tolls.
2.To identify the type of content and features made available on websites.
3.To study the current status and how they have been integrating in contemporary web technology for library related activities.
4.To examine the difference in terms of library websites of Central University Libraries established before Central University Act 2009 and after Central University Act 2009.

Scope and Limitations of the study
The study is confined to examine the content of 07 Central University Libraries Websites of India. No other websites have been considered for the study. The study only recorded the presence and the absence of the content features rather ranking or evaluating library websites.

The present study covered the following Central University Library Websites:
1.Central University of Kerala(C U Kerala) (establishment year : 2009)
2.English and Foreign Languages university (EFLU)(establishment year : 2006)
3.Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANU U)(establishment year : 1998)
4.University of Hyderabad (U of Hyd)(establishment year : 1974)
5.Central University of Karnataka (C U of Karnataka)(establishment year : 2009)
6.Central University of Tamil Nadu (CU TN)(establishment year : 2009)
7.Pondicherry University (Establishment Year : 1985)

METHODOLOGY
For the present study, a checklist was developed for collecting the data. The checklist were included general information, library resources and services, e-resources, accessibility and speed, navigation tools, website aids and tools and so on. The investigator selected the seven central university libraries which are in English language. All selected websites were carefully scanned and analyzed based on the checklist in the month of first week of September 2012. The consolidated data were presented in tabular form using Microsoft Excel for further analysis.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA
Library General Information
Table No : 1 reveals the general information about the central university library websites in which all the central university library websites were given introduction to their library (100.00%), library membership information is given by four central university libraries websites scoring 57.14 % , details about their collection was given by five central university libraries websites (71.42 %), working hours and staff directory is mentioned by four central university libraries websites scoring 57.14 % respectively, introduction to library services were mentioned on website by five central university libraries scoring 71.42 % and remaining general information is provided in less than three websites of

central university libraries scoring below 50.00%.

	Table No : 01 Central University Library General Information on Websites									
Sl. No	Elements	University							Occurrence	Percentage
		C.U. Kerala	EFL U	MANU U	U of Hyd	C U Karnataka	C U TN	Pondicherry University		
1	Library Introduction	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	07	100.00 %
2	Information about Membership		√	√	√		√		04	57.14 %
3	Library Collection		√	√	√	√		√	05	71.42 %
4	Working Hours		√	√	√			√	04	57.14 %
5	Staff Directory	√		√	√			√	04	57.14 %
6	Introduction to Library Services		√	√	√	√		√	05	71.42 %
7	Policies and Procedures			√		√		√	03	42.85 %
8	Mail to Librarian Facility				√			√	02	28.57 %
9	Library Committee			√					01	14.28 %
10	Ongoing Projects				√				01	14.28 %
11	Information about Library Building			√				√	02	28.57 %
12	Annual Reports / Statistics								00	00.00 %
13	Library Mission Statement				√			√	02	28.57 %

Figure No: 01 Central University Library General Information on Websites
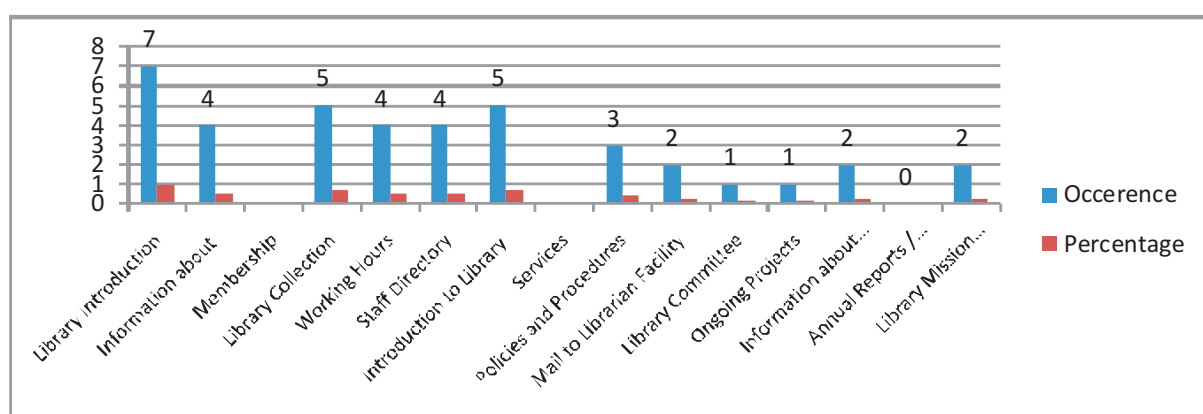

Table No: 02 gives brief information about the Central University Library Resources and Services in which online bibliographical services and links to e-journals services is given by maximum Central University Libraries scoring 71.42 % except central university of Kerala library website and Maulana Azad National Urdu University Library website in respect of bibliographical services and in respect of linking e-journals these two Central University library website were lagging behind. Remaining central university library websites were not mention their resources and services on the website overall which are below in 50.00 % .

Sl. No	Elements	University							Occurrence	Percentage
		C.U. Kerala	EFL U	MANU U	U of Hyd	C U Karnataka	C U TN	Pondicherry University		
1	OPACs		√		√			√	03	42.85 %
2	Online Bibliographical Database		√		√	√	√	√	05	71.42 %
3	Links to other Library Websites				√				01	14.28 %
4	Search and Request photocopy				√				01	14.28 %
5	Reference Queries "Ask Librarian"							√	01	14.28 %
6	Links to Search Engines			√	√			√	03	42.85 %
7	Links to e – journals		√	√	√	√		√	05	71.42 %
8	Links to e – books			√	√	√		√	04	57.14 %
9	Internal Resources (Institutional Repositories)		√					√	02	28.57 %

Table No : 02 Central University Library Resources and Services on Websites

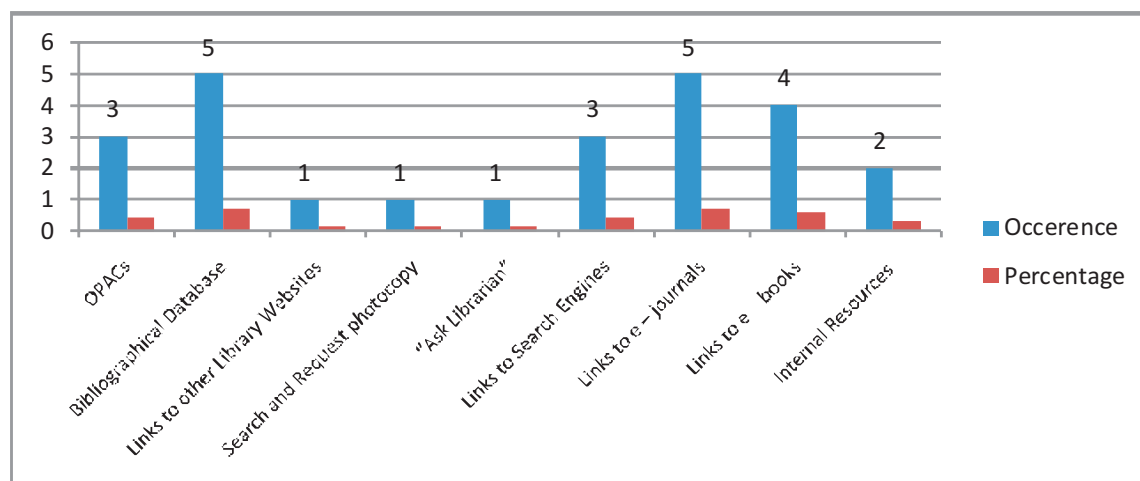Figure No: 02 Central University Library Resources and Services on Websites

Table No : 03 and 04 reveals the accessibility, speed and navigation tools of the websites in which direct link to library from its parent organization website, alternatively home link on every page and Copyright Information is provided by six universities scoring 85.71 %, website and its resources access to outsiders is given by three universities and graphics used in websites by four Central University Libraries and other elements like RTI Act, website update date and feed back is given by less than 50.00% of the Central University Libraries.
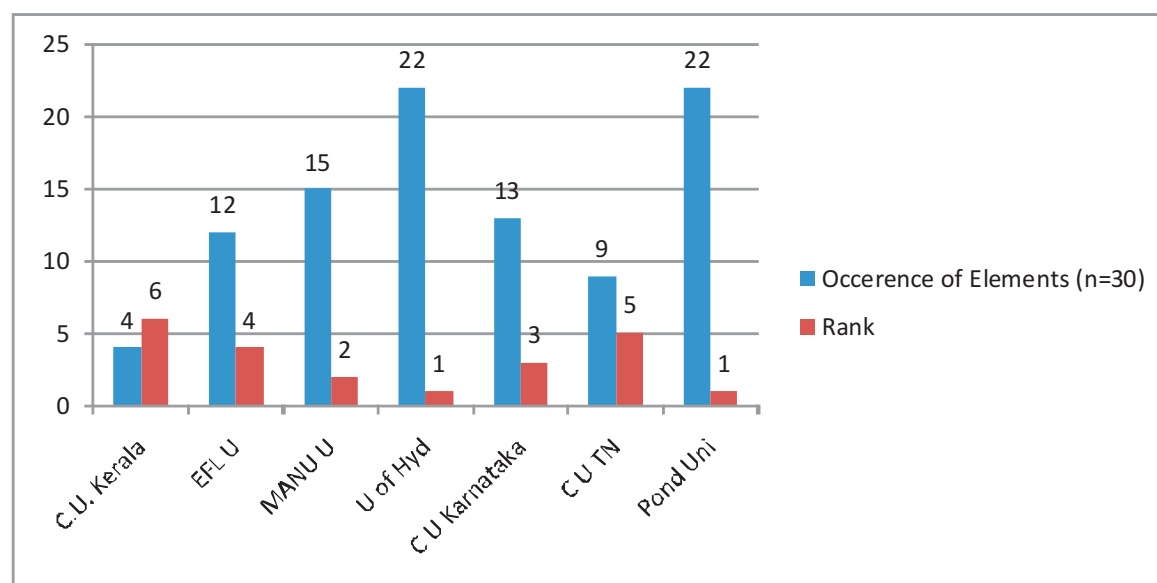
Table No : 03 Central University Library Websites Accessibility, Speed and Navigation Tools									
Sl. No	Elements	University							Occurrence	Percentage
		C.U. Kerala	EFL U	MANU U	U of Hyd	C U Karnataka	C U TN	Pondicherry University		
1	Access for Outside Users				√	√		√	03	42.85 %
2	Direct Library Link from Parent Organization Website	√	√	√		√	√	√	06	85.71 %
3	Home link on every page of website		√	√	√	√	√	√	06	85.71 %
4	Use of Graphics (Signs & Symbols)				√	√	√	√	04	57.14 %

Table No : 04 Central University Library Websites Aids & Tools and Currency of Information									
Sl. No	Elements	University							Occurrence	Percentage
		C.U. Kerala	EFL U	MANU U	U of Hyd	C U Karnataka	C U TN	Pondicherry University		
1	Copyright Information	√	√	√	√	√	√		06	85.71 %
2	RTI Act					√	√		02	28.57 %
3	Website last update date				√		√	√	03	42.85 %
4	Feed back or e-mail link				√			√	02	28.57 %

In Table No: 05 overall elements in all seven university libraries website in a single table is presented and same in figure No: 05 as a diagrammatical presentation of the findings.

Table No : 05 Overall elements of the study on Central University Library Websites										
Sl. No	Elements	University							Occurrence	Percentage
		C.U. Kerala	EFL U	MANU U	U of Hyd	C U Karnataka	C U TN	Pondicherry University		
1	Library Introduction	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	07	100.00 %
2	Information about Membership		√	√	√		√		04	57.14 %
3	Library Collection		√	√	√	√		√	05	71.42 %
4	Working Hours		√	√	√			√	04	57.14 %
5	Staff Directory	√		√	√			√	04	57.14 %
6	Introduction to Library Services		√	√	√	√		√	05	71.42 %
7	Policies and Procedures			√		√		√	03	42.85 %
8	Mail to Librarian Facility				√			√	02	28.57 %
9	Library Committee			√					01	14.28 %
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11	Information about Library Building			√				√	02	28.57 %
12	Annual Reports / Statistics								00	00.00 %
13	Library Mission Statement				√			√	02	28.57 %
14	OPACs		√		√			√	03	42.85 %
15	Online Bibliographical Database		√		√	√	√	√	05	71.42 %
16	Links to other Library Websites				√				01	14.28 %
17	Search and Request photocopy				√				01	14.28 %
18	Reference Queries "Ask Librarian"							√	01	14.28 %
19	Links to Search Engines			√	√			√	03	42.85 %
20	Links to e – journals		√	√	√	√		√	05	71.42 %
21	Links to e – books			√	√	√		√	04	57.14 %
22	Internal Resources (Institutional Repositories)		√					√	02	28.57 %
23	Access for Outside Users				√	√		√	03	42.85 %
24	Direct Library Link from Parent Organization Website	√	√	√		√	√	√	06	85.71 %
25	Home link on every page of website		√	√	√	√	√	√	06	85.71 %
26	Use of Graphics (Signs & Symbols)				√	√	√	√	04	57.14 %
27	Copyright Information	√	√	√	√	√	√		06	85.71 %
28	RTI Act					√	√		02	28.57 %
29	Website last update date				√		√	√	03	42.85 %
30	Feed back or e-mail link				√			√	02	28.57 %
	TOTAL	04	12	15	22	13	09	22		

Figure No: 05 Overall elements of the study on Central University Library Websites with Ranks

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1.General information about the respective central university library websites given introduction to their library (100.00%), library membership information is given by four central university libraries websites scoring 57.14 % , details about their collection was given by five central university libraries websites (71.42 %), working hours and staff directory is mentioned by four central university libraries websites scoring 57.14 % respectively, introduction to library services were mentioned on five website of the central university libraries scoring 71.42 % and remaining general information is provided in less than three websites of central university libraries scoring below 50.00%.

2.Information about the Central University Library Resources and Services in which online bibliographical services and links to e-journals services is given by maximum Central University Libraries scoring 71.42 % except central university of Kerala library website and Maulana Azad National Urdu University Library website. Remaining central university library websites were not mention their resources and services on the website overall which are below in 50.00 % .

3.Accessibility, speed and navigation tools of the websites in which direct link to library from its parent organization website, alternatively home link on every page and Copyright Information is provided by six central university library websites scoring 85.71 %, website and its resources access to outsiders is given by three universities and graphics used in websites by four Central University Libraries and other elements like RTI Act, website update date and feed back is given by less than 50.00% of the Central University Libraries.

4.It is observed that newly opened Central University Libraries were still to develop its website including more and more information and also old central Universities Libraries also should develop its website in more effective way by using latest technologies.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Present paper gives a general preview of the contents of selected Central University Libraries websites in India. Though the Central University Libraries have a website and varying level of services, there is enormous scope for improving the websites. Number of users visits the maximum information providing website so websites must be more attractive and informative, it should easily capture the attention of library users and website browsers.

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