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GRAPHICAL USERS OF INTERFACE (GUI) IN MEDICAL AND DENTAL COLLEGE'S LIBRARIES IN PAKISTAN: AN OVERVIEW



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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Medical libraries work with unique purpose; it carries the responsibility of fulfillment the mission & vision of parent organization and sense of participating in healthcare programs. Every organization has its graphical users interface (GUI) or website, medical libraries use this place as their introduction, size of collection of book & non book material and services offered.

METHODOLOGY: In this study all medical & dental college libraries (MDCL) of Pakistan have been included. The information retrieved from the website of Pakistan Medical & Dental Council of Pakistan, Islamabad. A checklist including name of the province, sector (Public or Private),

category (Medical or Dental), existence of library website for analyzing the contents like; general information about library, web OPAC, reference service, collection of book materials, circulation, and Inter Library Loan. The content analysis work was done during mid-December 2015 to mid-January, 2016.

Results: In this study we have considered totally 96 professional colleges. In that, 4 (4.2%) were in Azad Jumo-Kashmir, 2 (2.1%) in Baluchistan, 17 (17.9%) in Khaber Pukhtoonkhawa (KPK), 50 (52.0%) in

Punjab and 23 (24.2%) were in Sindh. Among 96, 39 (40.62%) were public and 57 (59.37%) in private sectors.

Conclusion: This study specifies that graphical user interface service of medical and dental college's libraries are in embryonic stage. Medical library information service professionals recognized their roles in healthcare and communicate to users via graphical user interface and make collaboration with information technology staff for support.

KEYWORDS: Medical library, library resources, electronic libraries, graphical user interface, Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

Medical & dental college libraries have unique purpose not only carry the responsibility of fulfillment the mission & vision of parent organization but with the sense of participating in healthcare programs. MDC libraries selecting, preserving and dismantling health information for all human kind and facilitate to medical schools, institutes, teaching hospitals, research organization and universities for betterment of society. A library forming part of or attached to a medical college and hospital, it is essential in Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PMDC) Regulations. Medical library is different from a public library or special library in purpose and in services offered, because Medical Colleges are essential for training the students for running-out the hospitals, and hospitals are important to prepare Doctors, Nurses, Para-Medics and other staff to serve in healthcare.

Medical library provide good knowledge and skills through its resources & services to healthcare staff and participating in latest mode of treatment for better patient-care. In present scenario every organization has its graphical users interface (GUI) or website, where any one can see the introductory information and its purpose. Generally, every library works or provides services under the concept of help, and special libraries also work with this moto but in deep sense they support the mission and vision of their parent organizations. Medical libraries use this place as their introduction, size of collection of book & non book material and services offered. In the present study, our objectives were to investigate the numbers of medical and dental college libraries having in their respective websites, how many number of medical and dental college's libraries hyperlinked with homepage, information about the resource and services provides by the concerned libraries available on the webpage and to find out the information about the library staff is available on the respective webpage or not.

METHODOLOGY:

This work is the follow-up of an article "Web-based Services in University Libraries: A Pakistani Perspective" written by Mirza M. Sajid 2009. In this study all medical & dental college libraries (MDCL) of Pakistan have been included. The information about medical & dental colleges retrieved from the website of Pakistan Medical & Dental Council of Pakistan, Islamabad. All contents analysis of websites of all MDCL. A checklist including name of the province, sector (Public or Private), category (Medical or Dental), existence of library website, hyper-link on MDCL home page and six categories of library and information services was prepared to analyze the contents like; general information about library, web OPAC, reference service, collection of book materials, circulation, and Inter Library Loan. These six categories were further divided into subcategories. The content analysis work was done during mid-December 2015 to mid-January, 2016.

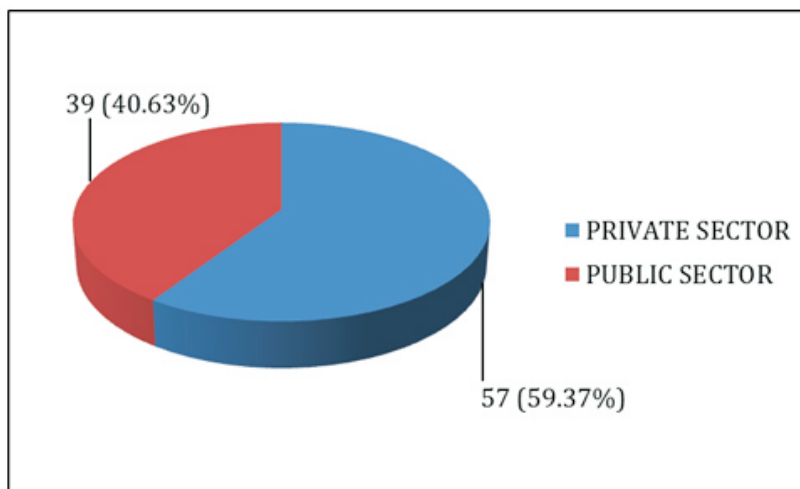
RESULTS:

In this study we have considered totally 96 professional colleges. In that, 4 (4.2%) were in Azad Jumo-Kashmir, 2 (2.1%) in Baluchistan, 17 (17.9%) in Khaber Pukhtoonkhawa (KPK), 50 (52.0%) in Punjab and 23 (24.2%) were in Sindh as shown in [Table – 1]. Among 96, 39 (40.62%) were public and 57 (59.37%) private sectors as shown in [diagram – 1].

Table: 1 Distribution of professional college in various province (N = 96)

Province	Frequency	Percentage
AJK	4	4.2
Baluchistan	2	2.1
KPK	17	17.7
Punjab	50	52.0
Sindh	23	24.0

Diagram: 1 Distribution of public and private sector of medical and dental colleges in Pakistan



We visited websites of all ninety six (96) medical & dental colleges of the Pakistan, we found 29 (30.52%) of libraries having graphical user interface and 66 (69.47) without GUI and 01 (1.1%) library with the password. In this study we were unable to decide that 01 library include in having a website or not, than we exclude it and made all results upon the bases of having or having not.

Table: 2 Distribution of graphical user interface among libraries (N = 96)

Library has graphical user interface (GUI)	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	29	30.52
No	66	69.47
With Password Usage	01	0.01

In this survey we focused on GUI of 29 medical & dental colleges and we found that 09 (9.5%) of libraries has its own webpage and 20 (21.5%) hyperlinked with webpage of their parent organization

and 67 (69.79%) has no information about libraries. 29 (30.20%) libraries accept service of digital library from higher education commission and 67 (69.79%) not mentioned this service on their webpage. The library introductions are available of all 29 at GUI of MDC, and we found library policies regarded book renewal and reservation 08 (27.58%) and 21 (72.41%) has no information.

Table: 3 Distribution of Library policies about renewal and reservation are available (N = 29)

Library policies about renewal and reservation are available	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	8	27.58
No	21	72.41

We found 14 (48.29%) libraries put policies about circulation and 15 (51.72%) libraries not mentioned these. Library policies about membership 12 (41.37%) mentioned the conditions about membership instead of 17 (58.62%) libraries. Policies about inter library loan (ILL) 08 (27.58%) declare and 21 (72.41%) not. Staff directory available at GUI of 9 (31.03%) and 20 (68.96%) has no information. 04 (13.79%) libraries provide library orientation and 25 (86.20%) has no information. 06 (20.68%) libraries working with Web-OPAC and 22 (75.86%) has no information. 4 (13.79%) libraries provide information about new arrivals to their users via GUI and 25 (86.20%) not. Only 1 (3.44%) library shows the information related to acquisition and 28 (96.55%) has not. 3 (10.34%) libraries past library news at GUI and 26 (89.65%) has no provision. 5 (17.24%) libraries provide information about accessing of other data-bases while 24 (92.30%) has no information. 7 (24.13%) libraries has provision of reference service while 22 (75.86%) are quiet. 8 (27.58%) libraries provide user instructions while 21 (72.41%) are silent. 3 (10.34%) libraries provide help to users for reaching library via library map while 26 (89.65%) has no information, in the end Ask Librarian is the window to approach to librarian or library staff amazingly 7 (24.13%) are active while 22 (75.86%) has not.

DISCUSSION:

In the last two decades, there has been a tremendous increase in the volume of healthcare information published online. The amount of online health information available to users and keep growing on daily basis than can ever be imagined ten years back. A great variety of information resources are now available and accessible online (Ajuwon et al. 2015). The library website represents the "face" of the library. It showcases its print and electronic resources and it promotes services to students and faculty like as circulation, reserves, reference, library instruction, library events, and interlibrary loan. The library website displays information such as library hours, policy information, directions, the staff directory, and basic contact information. The library website is a living document, unlike a brochure, poster, or flyer (Polger et al. 2011). Library websites are evolving into information gateways, unlocking access to library resources and services as well as electronic indexes and databases, primary research materials, and the internet at large (Battleson et al. 2001). Web services can raise the public profile of a library, benefit a wider public, and endow a library with a reputation for innovation and tech know-how that wins favor in the eyes of the local community and of health care administrators (Leman et al. 2010). Libraries use their websites to provide services to users without their physical presence. Some libraries provide only minimal information about their collections and services, while many offer more Web-OPACs, access to online databases, e-books, virtual reference service, electronic reserves, Web-based user education tools, and virtual tours (Mirza et al. 2009).

Regarding the study of use of internet by the medical students of four medical colleges of Lahore, Pakistan drawn the attention to researchers, it says "A total of 532 medical students (70.9%) returned the questionnaire out of 750. Majority of the respondents (84.0%) reported experience with internet use. About half of the students (42.1%) were using internet occasionally with 23.1%, 20.9% and 13.9% doing so frequently, regularly and rarely respectively. Most of the participants preferred to use internet at home (70.5%). Self-reported ability to search for required article from PubMed and PakMedinet was reported by only 34.0% of the entire sample. Students were moderately confident in performing various internet related tasks including downloading medical books from internet, searching internet for classification of diseases and downloading full text article (Jadoon et al. 2011). In Pakistan, The health related regulations are look-after by a body named Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PMDC). This council keeps the association with health departments of federal and provincial's governments, Universities, medical colleges and attached hospitals. The PMDC has its secretariat which works with support of 08 Main Sections and these sections execute the policy decisions. Under the Ordinance and Regulations, a corporate working under the pertinent laws of companies, societies, and trusts has to apply recognition by PMDC to initiate the medical & dental schools for undergraduates and Institutes for postgraduates, then keeps these bodies under check and balance to assess the standard of training of medical students and visits these places on yearly bases.

CONCLUSION

This study indicates that graphical user interface service of medical and dental college's libraries are in beginning. Medical library information service professionals recognized their roles in healthcare and communicate to users via graphical user interface. Master of Library and Information Science professionals collaborate with information technology staff for support.

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