Web-Based Bibliographic Services Offered by Top World and Indian University Libraries: A Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT

Bibliographical services are services related to the library collection and access to those collections, whether print or online. In modern libraries, these services are provided online through website. Many studies have been carried out to study application of web 2.0 tools and web-based services offered by the libraries. There is need to study the basic fundamental library services offered via the web or websites in modern libraries. In this paper author studied tops world and Indian libraries and prepared inventory of web-based bibliographic services offered by these libraries and analyzed the data in a quantitative way.

KEYWORDS


INTRODUCTION

The World Wide Web (WWW) offers libraries the potential for more revolutionary change as well. The library website has become the main point of access to all library services; it integrates services across libraries, and has become a catalyst for new services. Web Services are self-contained, modular applications that can be described, published, located and invoked over a network, generally on the Web. Web-based library services mean that library users can obtain services whenever they need and scholarly databases can be accessed 24 hours all 7 weekdays (except for scheduled maintained and occasional system failures) from anywhere on or off campus. User can check books, journals and make inquiries even when the phones are busy or the library is closed. Patrons can reach library staff members via e-mail links when they are not available in the library. Using various educational and web 2.0 technologies, it has become very easy for university library staff to prepare instructional videos, blogs, tutorials, demos, subject guides and reach and educate patrons through various social networks. Many top university libraries providing most of their services via the web using such technologies. In developed countries, university libraries are providing library services online and effective ways. But developing or underdeveloped countries are still lacking behind to provide library services online and make use of web technologies in libraries.

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The web is the main tool for scholarly communication now a day. The web is accessible from all over the world and reaches every country. It can reflect all missions of university libraries to make a vibrant learning unit of the university. It provides easy access to relevant indicators. The global ranking of universities is also depending on how these universities are represented on the web. According to ‘Webometric Ranking of Universities’, the university or the institutional websites should accurately represent their resources, activities, global performance and provide visitors a clearer vision of the university or institution. They intend to motivate both the institutions and the scholars to have a web presence that reflect accurately their activities. They suggested that if the web performance of an institution is below the expected position according to their academic excellence, university authorities should reconsider their web policy, promoting substantial increases of the volume and the quality of their electronic publications. Here the university libraries can play a major role to improve university ranking.

So, according to the investigator, to improve this situation being the heart of the universities, the university libraries in India should take lead role in promoting the web-based services, open access, online bibliographical services, research support and training along with online education and communication. Not only library services on the web, there is the need to transform the library users into the precious researchers. Many university libraries give access to OPAC, institutional repository and electronic resources online, but still the use of all these resources in universities is low. Therefore, the authors carried out a study of a top university libraries and give suggestions to Indian university libraries to maximize use of these tools and services.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The basic aim of this study is to find bibliographical web-based services of top university libraries at international level and

- To know the current status of web-based bibliographic services offered by the university libraries in the world and India.
- To identify and analyze the web based library bibliographic services offered by them.
- To promote web presence and various web-based bibliographical services in Indian university libraries

HYPOTHESIS

- Indian university libraries score much lower than top world universities in this respect.

SCOPE

The scope of the study is an international group of the selected university libraries from all parts of the world on the one hand and from India on the other hand for their web-based services and best practices. The investigator has selected 70 top traditional universities out of 11999 of the world recorded in the year 2014 on www.webometrics.com site spread all over the World and 39 A-grade accredited universities by the NAAC in India in 2014 valid from 2008 to 2016 with CGPA Score more than 3.0 for a study of their web-based services, best practices and technology. Table 1 shows the sample size of universities selected.
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