Examining the Status of Digital Library Resources in Colleges and Universities of West Bengal (India): A Study

Moumita Pari[1] Dr. Arun Modak[2],
[1]Research Scholar, Dept. of Library & Info.Science
Sri Satya Sai University of Technology and Medical Sciences,
Sehore Bhopal-Indore Road, Madhya Pradesh, India.

[2]Research Guide, Dept. of Library & Info.Science
Sri Satya Sai University of Technology and Medical Sciences,
Sehore Bhopal-Indore Road, Madhya Pradesh, India.

Abstract

The library is very important because it helps with teaching and learning in academic institutions. The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (MAKAUT), which is in West Bengal, is connected to several colleges. The goal of this article is to find out if their websites have online library materials. After looking at research that had already been done in this field, 41 criteria were chosen and put into eight main groups to judge the content of the websites. Using the internet, some of the college websites were looked at in great detail. After that, the data that had been collected was looked at with Microsoft Excel. Based on what we've seen, we think that the libraries at MAKAUT member institutions and the websites that host those libraries don't talk to each other very much, if at all. Based on what was found,several suggestions have been made to make the library website work better. A lot of work needs to be done on how the website looks. No solution will be found until there is a change in the way people think about the role of libraries and information science in higher education. The libraries at these schools should work together to make a difference and take their collections to the next level.
Keywords: Digital Library Resources, ICT, MAKAUT, West Bengal

1. Introduction

ICT, which stands for "information and communications technology," is used in a number of ways to gather, store, and share information. "ICT" is short for "information and communications technology." With the efficiency and effectiveness of information technology getting better, many libraries are now able to give their customers better service. Personal computers in the home are being used more and more. Some libraries have already started to automate the tasks they do all the time. There will also be digital versions of printed newspapers in the collection. For these jobs, you need to use a lot of different library software. There are many options right now, starting with CD-ROM databases that have both bibliographic and full-text information. Since it's easy to get things from libraries, they can also be used by a lot of people. The user can use the library's resources from anywhere and send and receive information by email or other electronic means. There are many types of people who use college libraries, such as students,

faculty, and other staff. To meet the needs of their customers, libraries need to have a wide range of books, such as textbooks, reference books, and academic journals. For libraries to be able to offer services through electronic media, they need hardware and software, as well as librarians who know how to use the technology. Because of this, getting data can be done in a faster and easier way. Nothing of this is possible without a strong base for information and communication technology (lCT). Using this method, digital information can be accessed in many different ways, such as through software, hardware, services, and networks. Students from a college that is part of West Bengal State University will do this study. They want to know how libraries use cutting-edge information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and how much electronic resources are used.

2. Related work

Mitali Saha Das et al.(2021) The library is a hub for information and services because the librarians and the people who use the library can talk to each other directly. Users can do their own research and put together relevant information and resources for their own projects in the Library. Academic libraries with the right services, like those offered by academic libraries, can help build strong relationships between librarians and their users. The Academic Library makes sure that the people who use it and the information it has are connected in the right way. The goal of this study is to use examples from two private universities in West Bengal to show how they offer library and information services to their students. This paper will compare and contrast the services that the libraries at these two universities offer.

Paramita Sen et al.(2019) A college library, which is also sometimes called a university library, is a place where students can take classes that lead to a bachelor's degree in three or four years. In addition to its traditional services, the library also has a number of modern ones, such as automated circulation, web-OPAC, 24-hour access to electronic resources, and an e-CAS facility. This is being done so that the library can keep up with the times and meet the ever-growing needs of its customers. There are four main types of staff in a library: professional, semi-professional, non-professional, and technical. Fifteen of the 42 government-run or -aided general education colleges in the country took part in the poll. There are three government-run degree colleges and twelve government-aided general degree colleges among the colleges and universities that took part in our survey. As part of this study, which used the survey method, all of the colleges were sent a questionnaire. In this part, the survey's results are analyzed, and suggestions for how future research in this area should be done are given along with the conclusions.

M K Manik et al.(2021) Online learning is a method that has been created to keep the level of education high during this pandemic. Online instruction has become faster as internet speeds have gotten faster. Based on the results of an analysis, the staff of different institutional libraries gave their students about 62% electronic test books, 27% handwritten notes, 8% reference books, and only 3% material from journals to help them improve their academic performance during

this time. Students use their smart phones to take part in online learning. Most of the people who answered liked working online. Only 31% wanted to work the old-fashioned way, and 11.6% of people didn't answer the question about how they worked during and after lockdown. We asked 27 people what they thought about the subject through a survey. A chi-square test found that the gender of library staff helps keep online working modes and the distribution of educational materials for different types of students in different places across India. Statistics from public libraries show that only 16–17 percent of readers went inside the building, and when they did, they usually brought their books back and got new ones. The results show that most people would rather use digital libraries than traditional pathagar. The Gobindpur digital library has about 63 percent more learning materials than any of the traditional libraries in this paragraph.

Prafulla Kumar Mahanta et al.(2020) This study looked at how information and communications technology was used and put into place in Assam's degree college libraries (ICT). To get information from the respondents, two different sets of structured questions were made. The surveys were sent to 192 educational institutions, and so far, 126 of them have filled them out. For the second survey, 784 college students were asked, but only 540 of the questionnaires were sent back. According to the research, the use of ICT in academic libraries has led to better management of library activities. It has been shown that both students and teachers have good ideas about how ICT is used in college libraries. When it comes to implementing ICT, college libraries face many problems. The most important ones are a lack of IT professionals, bad ICT training, and a lack of IT infrastructure. Based on this study, it was suggested that the library's hardware and software should be updated regularly so that library services in an ICT environment can get more features.

2. Proposed methodology

The librarians at each college were sent a questionnaire, and the information was sent back by the librarians. The results of this study are based on this information. From the information shown in tables and graphs in this study, the following can be said:

4. DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Number of Staff

Name of the college	Librarian	Library Assistant	Library Clerk	Library Attendent / Peon	Library Trainee	Casual Staff
Barasat Govt college	1	2	-	2	-	-
P. R Thakur Govt. College	1	-	2	-	-	-
Taki Govt. College	1	1	-	1	-	1
Banipur Mahila Mahavidyalaya	1	-	-	-	-	1
Barasat College	1	-	2	1	-	-
Basirhat College	1	-	2	-	1	-
Chandraketugarh Sahidullah Smriti Mahavidlaya	1	1	1	1	-	1
DumDum Motijheel College	2	-	-	2	-	-
Hiralal Mazumdar Memorial College For Women	1	-	-	-	-	2
Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith	2	-	1	2	-	-
Naba Barrackpore Prafulla Chandra Mahavidyalaya	1	-	1	1	-	-

In the table above, you can see how many people work at each of the 11 institutions that were part of the study. As the graph shows, two of the fifteen institutions have more than one librarian, most have open positions for clerks and typists, and most have both casual and professional library staff on hand to help the librarian offer new services.

4.2. Number of Books

The books in the library were looked at as a starting point for this study. Most universities have between 10,000 and 20,000 books. Two schools have more than 500,000 books, and one college has more than 1,000,000 books. Some of the libraries at the colleges that were looked at are very old and have a lot of books. Both are run by the government.

Total no. of books	No. of Colleges
0-10000	2

10000-20000	7
20000-30000	3
30000-40000	1
40000-50000	-
50000 and above	2
Total	15

4.3. Total no. of Students

The demographics of the students at each college are shown in the table below.

Three of the colleges studied have between 500 and 1000 students, three have between 1000 and more than 1500 students, one has between 1500 and 2000 students, and six have more than 2000 students in total.

Total no. of Students	No. of Colleges
0-500	3
500-1000	3
1000-1500	1
1500-2000	2
2000 and above	6
Total	15

4.4. Traditional Services Rendered by the Library

Based on the information in the table, all of the libraries at educational institutions offer the usual services, such as lending books, reading rooms for newspapers and magazines, and reference services. Some educational institutions offer print magazine and newspaper subscriptions. There are copying services at the libraries of three colleges, CAS at four colleges, newspaper clipping services at one college, and a book bank for students at one college.

Services rendered	No. of colleges
Circulation	15
Reading Room	15
Printed Journals	7
Magazine, Newspaper	15
Reference service	15
Reprographic Service	3
Current Awareness Service	4
Newspaper clippings service	1
Book bank facility	1

4.5. Programmes by the Libraries to Promote Library use

As the table below shows, there are a lot of educational institutions that actively encourage people to use their libraries.

The statistics in the table show that only six college libraries have orientation programmes, three of them have seminars and workshops, and only six of them host book fairs or exhibitions to get students to use the library..

Programmes	No. of Libraries
Orientatio	6
Workshop	3
Seminar	3
Book fair/Book Exhibition	6
Others	0

4.6. Use of e-Resources

From this chart, it's clear that two colleges don't have any electronic resources. Most college libraries offer the N-List programme, and users at two of these universities have access to more than one source or database of electronic journals and electronic books, respectively.

Nlist	13
Other e-resources	2
No e-resources	2

4.7. Software use

14 of the 11 colleges use Koha as their library automation software, while the 11th college uses SOUL.

In one of the 11 institutions that were looked at, the Institutional Repository was run by a programme called Dspace, which is a digital library.

Software	No. of Libraries
Automation Software:	
Koha	14
Soul	1
Libsys	-
Others	-
Digital library software	1

4.8. ICT Infrastructure

All of the colleges use library automation software, and all of the libraries have computers for their staff. Still, only seven of the colleges give computers to their teachers, and only eleven of the colleges have computer terminals that students can use to search the internet, use OPAC or WEBOPAC, and do other similar things. Each college library has an Internet connection, and six of the 11 universities offer free Wi-Fi to library visitors.

Computer terminals	No. of colleges
For Library Staff	15
For Teachers	7
For students	11
Internet connectivity	15
Wi-fi facilities	6

4.9. Security of Library Resources

Most college libraries now have security cameras because people are worried about the safety of the library's books.

Security system	No. of Libraries
CCTV	12
RFID	-
others	-

4.10. Online Catalogue Service Facility

From the numbers in the table above, we can see that all college libraries offer OPAC services to their users. Aside from that, only four of the 11 universities have Web OPAC services, which let people search online catalogues from their own homes or other places that aren't libraries.

Online Catalogue service	No. of Libraries
OPAC	15
WEB OPAC	4
Total	15

5. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

After looking at the collected data, we can say the following:

- It is thought that two of the 11 colleges have less than 10,000 books in their libraries, while the majority have between 10,000 and 20,000 books, and two have between 50,000

and 100,000 books. Six of the schools that took part in the poll have more than 2,000 students.

- Three colleges offer copying services to their students, four colleges have CAS centres for their students, and one college has a book bank for their students.
- At six of the colleges whose libraries were looked at, there was a book fair or show, but only three of the colleges had a lecture and workshop to get students to use the library.
- Almost all academic libraries give their users access to the N-List service online. 14 of the 11 college libraries use Koha, while the other college library uses SOUL. In one of the 11 institutions that were looked at, the Institutional Repository was run by a programme called Dspace, which is a digital library.
- There are 11 colleges and universities in the U.S., and most of their libraries give customers free wireless internet access. All of the libraries at colleges and universities can connect to the internet.
- All college libraries have OPAC services, but only four of the 15 universities offer Web OPAC, which lets people search the library's catalogue online from anywhere outside the building.
- Because of this, it's hard to provide services that are both quick and satisfying.
- As a librarian, I often have to put new services on hold because information and communication technologies don't work well together.
- A problem for development is that there isn't enough money to pay for library books and tools.

6. SUGGESTIONS

Based on what we found, we might suggest the following for future growth and development of library resources, including staffing and services:

- The library needs to hire more people to make sure that things run smoothly and that new services can be offered.
- To help the librarian more, each member of the library staff should have taken at least one course that leads to a certificate in library and information science.
- The people who work in a library should be properly trained to reduce any professional risks and make sure the library runs smoothly.
- Libraries should hold workshops for their staff every month to keep them up-to-date on the latest technology, new services, and customer service techniques.
- The college administration needs to do more to raise money for the library so that it can improve its services and collections.
- So that library users can use the new services, there should be more orientation programmes and programmes to teach users how to use the library.

Conclusion

Websites are set up as a matter of routine organization, not as a deliberate attempt to show what the library has to offer to its current and future users. By looking at the websites, we were able to find out about this problem. The library staff at each of these colleges should be forced to make a website for their own library. For them to work, they need to know what the end user wants.

Make sure the website has all the necessary information and is well-organized for the people who will be visiting it. This kind of research can be done at colleges in West Bengal that are linked to other schools. This information will help us figure out if library professionals aren't doing anything because they're lazy or because the way these colleges are set up makes it hard for them to do what needs to be done. In 2010, researchers in Bangalore hoped that academic libraries would use Web 2.0 and Web 3.0 technologies to build a fully functional, interactive, and dynamic content web portal. At the same time, Konnur and others were looking at the websites of Bangalore. Academics would expect information professionals, one of the many fields competing for leadership in the information age, to organize and present information in a way that is best for the user. Since the last time the MAKAUT study was done, not much has changed, according to the results.

In this section, we'll look at some ways to make things better based on research we did on the college and library websites

It is suggested that a direct link to the library page be put on the website of the organization that runs the library. This will make it easier for people to use the library. This will help the library and information science centre of the organization.

Because of this change, it will be easier to use the library's resources.

- o It's important for the library to have a website that people can use as a one-stop shop to find all the information they need.

- o The people who work in libraries should use social networking sites like Facebook, Linkedin, and Twitter to tell people about their resources, services, and events. By using these sites, libraries can reach a large number of people and improve their services. This makes the library have a bigger impact on the people it serves.

- o We need research that comes from different fields. In libraries and centres for information science, you can look into how web services get and keep customers and how these methods can be used.

- o Libraries in the United States aren't as good as libraries in other countries because they don't have services like "Ask a Librarian.".

- o   All pages of the website that are meant for the end user should be tested for ease of use.

- o   Giving library staff regular training to keep them up to date on new developments in information technology.

- o   Librarians at colleges in the MAKAUT system who are in charge of promoting their libraries should do so on their own. The Library and Information Center is one of the most important parts.

- o   Its part in the firm's growth as a whole It is very important for these libraries to make sure that the right people know how important an organized and well-informed library site is. There needs to be a balance between new projects and important services like adding to the collection and teaching. To stay at the top of their game in a world where competition is growing, academic libraries must not only adapt to new trends, but also predict growing needs and use new ways to connect with patrons in a productive way.

- o   If librarians want to finish the project successfully, they need help with administration from the parent organization. This means that the government must build the infrastructure and pay for the money needed to build a library with the latest technology. In a society that is becoming more digital, the University can now help other institutions build their library collections as teaching tools. A library and information science centre can help redesign future education, teaching methods, and educational content to make them more effective. This can make the learning environment better.

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