

Periodic Research

An Analysis of University Library Websites of Selected Universities in Tamilnadu in the Context of Five Laws of Library Science



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Abstract

This study deals with an Analysis of University Library Websites in selected Universities located in Tamil Nadu in the Context of Five Laws of Library Science. The study is conducted on four universities namely as Madurai Kamarajar University, The Mother Teresa Women's University and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University and Tamil Nadu Fisheries University, especially the details given about the university library. We selected some of the library services as criteria under each law, and analysed the information given in selected library websites as per the fulfilment of five laws. Even though it may seem as simple it needs clear understanding of websites and its contents and application of law of library science. The present study found that most of the University websites of the library are found to be adhere with the five laws of library science. Although the world is moving towards a cloud based borderless library, still the university level libraries are in intermediate level in moving towards that. Due to the technical advancement in IT and ICT technologies, the cost of implementing a web based library portal for each university and college level library is a cost effective one.

Keywords: Website, Five Laws, University Library, Library Science, Tamilnadu and State University, Web Content Analysis.

Introduction

The first electronic web service of the last century have spread across the globe in various shapes and changing the faces of many organisations. The new electronic revolution is not only reducing the global divide but also transforming societies into knowledge-based society all over the world¹. Shortly after the commercialisation of the internet, the multimedia component of the internet (web) experienced the phenomenal growth. As a part of this growth, businesses and individuals raced to place web pages and content on the web². Recently, a proliferation of electronic websites with a tremendous amount of information either with high quality, or with low quality, as well as sites that are outright misleading are seen. The explosion of the web has determined the need of measurement criteria to evaluate the aspects related to the quality in use, such as usability and accessibility of a web application. The objective is to make the website useful, profitable, user linkable, and accessible.

Due to technological advancement, availability of ICT tools and qualified manpower makes every university library to have a presence in the World Wide Web. This presence of www, is to be considered as a service from the library and in fact, it is a virtual presence of a library. As per the law of library science, any service offered by a library, should design and delivered as per the law of library science. A university with a website that is difficult to use and interact can make the university position lower. Therefore, it is important for any organisation to have the ability to make an assessment of the quality of their e-services to improve their offerings over time and benchmark against competitors and the best practices in any industry.

Review of Literature

Varadharajulu. J and Dhanavandan.S. (2016) focused on "Websites of State Universities in Andhra Pradesh: A Webometric Analysis." This Study examines and explores through a webometric

analysis of the websites of 20 state universities in Andhra Pradesh. It discussed the domain systems of the websites; collection of statistics about Global Web ranking, rank in India, Link impact report etc. The webometric data have been collected through Alexa web ranking tool. It found that Dr. N.T.R. University of Health Sciences and Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences gained 1st rank in global ranking and rank in India, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, got 1st rank in Self-linking Pages.

Anwarul Islam and Keita Tsuji.(2011) carried out "Evaluation of Usage of University Websites in Bangladesh." The study evaluates some selected university websites in Bangladesh from the usability perspectives. Two online automated tools, namely, html toolbox and web page analyser were used along with a questionnaire directed towards users of these websites. Tools were used to measure the websites' internal attributes which cannot be perceived by the users such as html code errors, download time, and size of the html pages. The questionnaire was developed and designed based on the 23 usability criteria divided into five categories. Each category deals with one usability aspect. The study showed that users are not satisfied by overall usability level of these websites and few of them are satisfied with the available features. However, there are some weaknesses in some aspects of the design, interface, and performances. Websites' internal features are identified and suggestions are provided in the study to enhance the usability of these websites.

Sapa (2005) wrote "the roles of American and Polish academic library web sites: A comparative study". The compared the contents and usability of 25 (twenty fifth) Polish and 25 (twenty fifth) American academic library websites and presents conclusions regarding the basic functions they perform though a detailed questionnaire. In total, 275 (two hundred and seventy fifth) different elements of academic library websites were evaluated and analyzed, including 237 (two hundred and thirty seventh) elements regarding their contents and 38 (thirty eighth) regarding their usability

Battleeson (2001) explained "Usability testing of an academic library web site: A case study". The focused that usability testing is an invaluable tool for evaluating the effectiveness and ease of use of academic library websites. This article reviewed the major usability principles and explores the application of formal usability testing to an existing site at the University at Buffalo libraries.

Shacklett, M. (2001) investigates that the "Gauging web site performance." The present study focuses both the user's point of view and used automated tools to test usability of some academic websites in Bangladesh. However, as the use of the web has continued to grow, businesses have discovered that simply having a web presence no longer guarantees that an organisation's site will attract visitors.

FIVE LAWS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

The following are the five laws coined by Ranganathan.S.R, which is a core law of library science and service. Generally the library is consisting of three components as, Users, Library Staff and book. So any service from library or policy changing of work involves the library services and functions, should be cross checked with the five laws of library science. That ensures the libraries from any deviation from its objective are framed.

1. Books are for use
2. Every Reader His /her book
3. Every Book its reader
4. Save the time of the user
5. Library is a growing organism

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were framed as follows:

1. To identify for the analysis University websites of selected in Tamilnadu.
2. The Study analysis the information given in the university library websites fulfils the objective of Five laws of Library Science.

Methodology

The present study, analyses the information published in the University library Websites, of selected universities in Tamil Nadu. The benchmark used to analyse is the five laws of Library Science coined by Ranganathan.S.R and Microsoft Excel was used to organize, tabulate and visualize the collected data.

We have analysed and selected some of the common information available in the University library websites. Then some of the required informations about the library are identified inorder to adhere the law of libraryscience . These are grouped as criteria under each law of library science. Based on these criteria, the information publishedin each selected website is analysed, whether the information given by the University library is adhere with the law of library science.

Analysis of the Study

Table.1 Lists the Name and website URL of the Universities in Tamilnadu State

S.No	Name of the University	Website
1	Alagappa University	http://alagappauniversity.ac.in
2	Anna University	http://www.annauniv.edu
3	Annamalai University	http://www.annamalaiuniversity.ac.in
4	Bharathiar University	http://www.b-u.ac.in/
5	Bharathidasan University	http://www.bdu.ac.in
6	Madras University	http://www.unom.ac.in
7	Madurai Kamraj University	http://www.mkuniversity.org
8	Manonmaniam Sundarnar University	http://www.msuniv.ac.in/

9	Mother Teresa Women's University	http://www.motherteresawomenuniv.ac.in
10	Periyar University	http://periyaruniversity.ac.in
11	Tamilnadu Dr.J.Jayalalitha Fisheries University	http://tnfu.ac.in/
12	Tamilnadu Music and Fine Arts University	http://tnmfau.ac.in/
13	Tamilnadu Open University	http://www.tnou.ac.in
14	Tamilnadu Teacher Education University	http://www.tnteu.in/
15	Tamilnaud University	http://www.tamiluniversity.ac.in
16	Tamilnadu Agricultural University	http://www.tnau.ac.in
17	Tamilnadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University	http://tndalu.ac.in/
18	Tamilnadu Dr. M.G.R.Medical University	https://www.tnmgrmu.ac.in/
19	Tamilnadu National Law School	http://www.tnnls.in
20	Tamilnadu Physical Education and Sports University	http://www.tnpesu.org
21	Tamilnadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University	http://www.tanuvass.ac.in
22	Thiruvalluvar University	http://www.tvu.edu.in/

Table.2 Domain of State Universities in Tamilnadu

S.No	Domain Name	Number of University	Percentage
1	ac.in	14	66.66
2	edu	1	4.78
3	org	4	19.04
4	in	2	9.52
	Total	22	100.00

It is obtained from the table 1 that most of the University websites have, "ac.in" (66.66 percent)

where as only one website has "edu" (4.76 percent) extension respectively.

Table.3 First Law: Books are for Use

Information published	Madurai Kamarajar University	Mother Teresa women's University	Manonmaniam sundaranar university	Tamilnadu Fisheries University
Library sections and collections details	Yes	yes	yes	yes
Working hours, with lunch break time., holidays etc	Yes	yes	Yes	yes

In order to adhere the First law, "Books are for use", the information published by the university details are analysed and found that All the University Libraries are published the Information as per the

criteria. So that we can conclude that the adherence is fulfilled by all the University libraries as against the First law.

Table.4 Second Law: Every user his/ her Book

Information published	Madurai Kamarajar University	Mother Teresa Women's University	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Tamilnadu Fisheries University
Book recommendation facility	No	No	No	No
Available book details OPAC	Yes , Institution level	Yes , Institution level	Yes , Institution level	No
Web OPAC	Yes	No	No	No
External students access	Yes	Yes	yes	No

Table 4 shows the adherence level of the Second Law: "Every user his/ her Book". of the selected universities on this study. From this table we can identify that None of the University gave the facility for book recommendation by the User. Also the online book searching facility for book searching

available at institution level and through intranet only. Except Madurai Kamarajar University, All other University library offers WebOPAC. So we can Conclde that, the adherence level of the selected universities, as per the second law is, Minimum only.

Table.5 Third Law: Every Book Its Reader

Information Published	Madurai Kamarajar University	Mother Teresa Women's University	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Tamilnadu Fisheries University
List of new arrival Additions	No	No	No	No
Subject Collection details	yes	yes	yes	No
Total number of books	Yes given	Yes given	Yes given	No
Online services assistance	yes	Yes	yes	No

Table 5 shows the adherence level of the third law: "Every book its reader". By analysing the

table 5, we can know that none of the selected University library published or mainted the, I List of

New Arrivals in the library. So that, we can conclude that except, Tamilnadu fisheries University, all other

university library details are in adherence with the third law of library science.

Table.6.Fourth Law: Save the Time of the user

Information published	Madurai Kamarajar University	Mother Teresa Women's University	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Tamilnadu Fisheries University
Working hours	Yes. given	Yes. Given	Yes. given	No
Holiday details	Yes. given	Yes. Given	Yes. given	No
Computerised circulation	Yes	Yes	yes	No
Barcode facility	Yes	Yes	yes	No

It is evident from the table.6.Fourth Law: Save the time of the user, is adhered by most of the Universities selected for this study. The information analysed were, working hours, Holiday Details,

Computerised circulation and Barcode Facility. By analysing the above fact, we can conclude that most are (Except Tamilnadu Fisheries science University) adhered with the fourth law of library science.

Table.7. Fifth Law: Library is a Growing Organism

Information published	Madurai Kamarajar University	Mother Teresa women's University	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Tamilnadu Fisheries University
Social media presence	No	No	No	No
Contact Us	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Extension service - Programmes arranged	Yes	Yes	yes	No
Extension service- photo gallery	Yes	No	yes	No

Table.7 shows the details given in the selected library websites, which the information relevant to the adherence of the Fifth Law: "Library is a growing organism." . from the above table we can conclude, except one University, all other university library websites are adherence to the fifth law of library science.

Sundaranar University the details such as Contact Us, Extension service - Programmes arranged and Extension service- photo gallery is given and the details given are implied with the fifth law, "Library is a Growing Organism", .

Conclusion

The present study found that most of the University websites of the library are found to be adhering with the five laws of library science. But the degree of adherences is vary in various criteria's. Although the world is moving towards a cloud based borderless library, still the university level libraries are in intermediate level in moving towards that. Due to the technical advancement in IT and ICT technologies, the cost of implementing a web based library portal for each university and college level library is a cost effective one.

Most of the higher education level institutions like universities are well equipped in infrastructure and IT skill personal availability can better utilise the internet as a medium for promoting library service and marketing the library information services among the target users in a effective way. We as a librarian should use this opportunity of web based library service to our users, without fail, in order to adhere the laws of library science provide the information.

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Findings of the Study

1. Majority of the State Universities (66.66%) are having .ac.in domain name for their websites. .ac.in is specially using for academic purpose in India
2. Least of the state universities (5.00%) is having .edu domain name for their university websites.
3. Majority of the universities adhered with the First Law, books are for use, by giving the details of Library sections, collections details and Working hours, with lunch break time. Holidays etc. Among the selected universities for this study, all Universities are adhering with.
4. The Second Law Every user his/ her Book is also adhered by most of the University library websites. Among the selected universities, Tamilnadu Fisheries University is not adhered with the second law.
5. The the third law: Every book its reader. Among the selected universities, Madurai Kamarajar University, The Mother Teresa Women's Second University and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Subject Collection details and online services assistance is available. Also the total numbers of books are also given. So the implication of third law is "Yes".
6. The Fourth Law : Save the time of the user is impacted by the details of Working hours and Holiday details is , Computerised circulation and Barcode facility and these details are given in their website, and the implication is "Yes"
7. Among the four Universities, the Madurai Kamarajar University , The Mother Teresa Women's University and Manonmaniam

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