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THE EFFECTIVE USED OF ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOGUE AT THE LIBRARIES OF ACADEMIC COLLEGES: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

Over thedecades, there has been tremendous change in the college libraries. Everyone has to adapt to these changes in demands for library services, information utilization, have forced the information professionals to accept more effective and efficient processing, storing and retrieving information. To cope up with these challenges, academic libraries have resorted to the application of modern technology.In the present study an attempt has been made to examine the problems related to OPAC service and status in college libraries of Murtizapur at how they are managing the quality of OPAC service and achieving users' satisfaction. A total of 267 students from 3 colleges were served as the sample for the present study. The data was collected by structured questionnaire. Some of the important aspects of OPAC such as frequency of use purpose of useare to face the problems and satisfaction of the users finally paves the way for librarian and library personal to plan and provide OPAC service in a better way.

KEYWORDS – OPAC, Online Public Access Catalogue, Academic Colleges.

INTRODUCTION

OPAC is the Online Public Access Catalogue or in other words, the library catalogues. It is an online database of all of the resources held in the library. Now days, the World Wide Web is the largest available repository of information with largest number of uses searching information. It is a distributed, dynamic and rapidly growing information resource that has stimulated new and useful research developments in all areas. Academic scenario in college, libraries has undergone a tremendous change presuming newer dimension, influenced by technology drove applications in the past years. The OPAC tell us the same information that the card catalogue. But it is much easier to access the information. New in the changing environment, the value of information is rapidly increasing and user's behavior and needs are changing due to these ongoing development computerization has produced interactive product such as OPAC, which can be accessed from anywhere electronically, in contrast to earlier static card catalogue Internet and web technologies have added new dimensions to learning, teaching and research activities when academic libraries have also started operating and handling electronic resources.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY
- To observe the catalogue of users.
- To study frequency of using OPAC.
- To study the purpose for the OPAC.
- To find out the users face problems while using the OPAC.
- To study the satisfaction in searching OPAC.

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METHODOLOGY

This study used questionnaire based survey method. In order to collect the comprehensive and relevant data from the college students of the three academic colleges of Murtizapur, a structured questionnaire was designed and interview method was also adopted as the tool for collection of data. The questionnaire was formulated keep in viewof the objective and various facts of the study. The questionnaires were personally distributed and collected with constant personal pursuance and the data obtained from the filled in questionnaires, latter analyzed and tabulated.

Scope of the Study

The present study includes Arts, Science, Commerce and M.Sc. students of three academic Colleges of Murtizapur in Akola District of Maharashtra State. These academic colleges are using LIB-MAN (Library Management System) software. The main aim of the study was to assess the purpose and frequency of using OPAC and various problems faced by users.

Features of LIB-MAN Software

LIB-MAN is a web based fully integrated, user friendly, multi-user package for computerization of all the in-house operations of the library. LIB-MAN is embedded with multi-lingual fonts. Bar Code and QR code fonts. LIB-MAN also has optional UHF, RFID integration for automation. It also supports smart phone app for book search. Through OPAC informed about documents can be searched. Using powerful search engine according to all bibliographical details of the books search can be multi lingual.

Data Analysis

Effective use of OPAC in academic libraries was covered for the study. After collecting the data with the help of questionnaire and interview, analysis on some major areas, covered in the study was carried out using MS-Excel software. The same has been given below. This process of analysis has to be result oriented.

Category wise distribution of Respondents:

A total number of 400 questionnaires were personally distributed among the UG and PG students of academic colleges in Murtizapur city.

Table 1.1 Category wise distributions of Respondents

Sr. No.	Category of Users	No. of questionnaires distributed	No. of received	Percentage
1	Arts Faculty (UG Students)	100	56	56 %
2	Science Faculty (UG Students)	100	75	75 %
3	Commerce Faculty (UG Students)	100	63	63 %
4	Arts Faculty (PG Students)	50	30	60 %
5	Science Faculty (PG Students)	50	43	86 %
	Total	400	267	66.75 %

In spite of persuasion reminders and personal visits, 267 (66.75%) respondents could submit their filled in questionnaires. Among the total responses 195 (65%) out of 300 respondents are UG students and 73 (73%) out of 100 respondents are PG students.

Frequency of OPAC usage

Frequency of using OPAC in order to assess the frequency of users uses the OPAC. The frequency of using OPAC indicates importance and its value of the library. The time gap has been classified into four categories as shown in table 1.2

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Table 1.2 Frequency of OPAC usages

Sr. No.	Category of Users	Frequency			
		Daily	2-3 time in a week	Weekly	Monthly
1	Arts Faculty (UG Students)	8(14.28%)	10(17.85%)	28(50.00%)	10(17.85%)
2	Science Faculty (UG Students)	22(29.33%)	18(24.00%)	24(32.00%)	11(14.66%)
3	Commerce Faculty (UG Students)	06(9.52%)	13(20.63%)	22(34.92%)	22(34.92%)
4	Arts Faculty (PG Students)	3(10.00%)	09(30.00%)	08(26.66%)	10(33.33%)
5	Science Faculty (PG Students)	08(18.60%)	05(11.62%)	17(39.53%)	13(30.23%)
	Total	47(17.60%)	55(20.59%)	99(37.07%)	66(24.71%)

A good majority of Arts faculty users i.e. 28 (50%) of users are A question was asked to find the frequency using of OPAC. The results showed that 99 (37.07%) of the majority users were using it weekly, 66(24.71%) of the uses used it monthly, 55(20.59%) of the users were 2-3 times in a week, 47 (17.60%) of users used the OPAC at library every day.

Purpose of Using the OPAC

Table 1.3 shows the Purpose of Using the OPAC

Sr. No.	Purpose of Using %	Arts Fac. (UG-S)	Sci. Fac. (UG-S)	Comm. Fac. (UG-S)	Arts Fac. (PG-S)	Sci. Fac. (UG-S)	Total
1	To know the availability of required documents.	25(44.64%)	28(37.33%)	16(25.39%)	12(27.90%)	10(33.33%)	91(34.08%)
2	To location of the books in the library	13(23.21%)	16(21.33%)	25(39.68%)	06(13.95%)	08(26.66%)	68(25.46%)
3	To know whether requisite documents issued or not	08(14.28%)	08(10.66%)	13(20.63%)	10(23.25%)	05(16.66%)	44(16.47%)
4	To Check the selected books	05(8.92%)	10(13.33%)	03(4.765%)	12(27.90%)	02(6.66%)	32(11.98%)
5	To check the number of copies in the library	05(8.92%)	13(17.33%)	06(9.52%)	03(6.91%)	05(16.66%)	32(11.98%)

Table 1.3 shows the Purpose of Using the OPAC. A majority 91 (34.08%) of the users are using the library OPAC to know the availability of required documents, 68 (25.46%) to location of books in the library, 44 (16.47%) to know whether requisite documents issued or not and, 32 (11.98%) to check the selected books and to check the number of copies in library respectively.

Table 1.4 Users face the problems while using OPAC.

Sr. No.	Reasons	Arts Fac. (UG-S)	Sci. Fac. (UG-S)	Comm. Fac. (UG-S)	Arts Fac. (PG-S)	Sci. Fac. (UG-S)	Total
1	Lack of knowledge	28(50.00%)	33(44.00%)	20(31.74%)	16(37.70%)	09(30.00%)	106(39.70%)
2	Not aware of these facility	16(28.57%)	19(25.33%)	21(33.33%)	08(18.60%)	06(20.00%)	70(26.21%)
3	Lack of computer	07(12.50%)	10(13.33%)	12(19.04%)	08(18.60%)	08(18.60%)	45(16.85%)

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	system					
4	Electricity problem	02(3.57%)	10(13.33%)	06(9.52%)	06(16.95%)	05(16.66%)	29(10.86%)
5	Lack of assistance from the stuff	03(5.35%)	03(4.00%)	04(6.34%)	05(11.62%)	02(6.66%)	17(6.36%)

Table 1.4 shows that users face the problems while using OPAC. It was found that majority of the users i.e. 106 (39.70%) lack of knowledge, 70 (76.71%) user not aware of these facility, 45 (16.85%) lack of computer systems, 29(10.86%) electricity problem; 17 (6.36%) of users have lack of assistance from the staff.

Satisfaction in searching OPAC
Table 1.5 Satisfaction in searching OPAC

Sr. No.	Options	Arts Fac. (UG-S)	Sci. Fac. (UG-S)	Comm. Fac. (UG-S)	Arts Fac. (PG-S)	Sci. Fac. (UG-S)	Total
1	Very Satisfied	12(21.42%)	21(28.00%)	18(28.57%)	10(23.25%)	09(30.00%)	70(26.21%)
2	Satisfied	29(51.78%)	32(42.66%)	27.4285%)	16(37.20%)	12(40.00%)	116(43.44%)
3	Less satisfied	11(19.64%)	14(18.66%)	11(17.46%)	05(11.62%)	05(16.66%)	46(17.22)
4	Dissatisfied	04(7.14%)	08(10.66%)	07(11.11%)	12(27.90%)	04(13.33%)	35(13.105)

Table 1.5 shows the Satisfaction in searching OPAC User 116(43.44%) are satisfaction with OPAC facility, 70(26.21%) are very satisfied, 46 (17.22%) are less satisfied and 35 (13.10%) are dissatisfied with OPAC services. Hence more than three fourth of the users are satisfied with the OPAC service provided by the colleges.

CONCLUSION

After the observations, it may be concluded the in the present environment, in which the OPAC has play a significant role to assist users in academic purpose because OPAC has helped the users in their day today study environment major problems faced by users toward access to OPAC are lack of knowledge i.e. 106(39.70%). College libraries have to make special effort in consultation with the college authorities, staff, to promote the OPAC use of the students.

The OPAC service is capable of providing most recent relevant and authentic information. Thus these are widely accepted by different categories of users for one purposes another in study, research, course work, teaching and information. The study reveals that most of users are not satisfied with the OPAC service available. The library should subscribe to more user friendly software. It is a fact that the value of OPAC service increases as they are used. More user orientation programs should be conducted. The librarians as well as library personal should go hand in hand to motivate students in use of OPAC to a large extent. Therefore, the study helps not only to strengthen the OPAC service on tile basis of the user needs, but also acts as a guide in various decision making policies.

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