

USE OF DIGITAL LIBRARY OF INDIA AMONG STUDENTS IN SRI PADMAVATHI MAHILA VISWAVIDYALAYAM, TIRUPATI: A STUDY

Dr.M.Prasantha Kumari

Assistant Professor,

Department of Library & Information Science,
SVU College of Arts, Tirupati.

ABSTRACT

The study aimed at the usage of Digital Library of India among students in Sri Padmavathi Mahila Viswavidyalayam, Tirupati. Structured questionnaire was designed to collect the data. Out of 157 questionnaires 148 filled in questionnaires were received back. The present study demonstrates and elaborates the various aspects of use of Digital Library of India.

Keywords: Digital Library, India, Sri Padmavathi Mahila Viswavidyalayam, Rare books, Internet, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT)

INTRODUCTION

Due to developments in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and to meet the various information needs of the users, libraries in all over the world are transforming into Digital Libraries. As a result, there is an extensive interest and as a result, a lot of research and development activities are being carried out in this area world over. In India a number of institutions are also in the process of setting up digital libraries and many scholars and practitioners are conducting research on digital libraries. Digital Library of India (DLI) is a digital collection of freely accessible rare books collected from various libraries in India. DLI started in early 2000 with the idea to archive all the significant literary, artistic and scientific works of mankind and to preserve digitally and make them available freely for every one over Internet for education, study and research for imminent groups. As a first step in realizing this vision, it is proposed to create the Digital Library with a free-to-read, searchable collection of one million books, predominantly in Indian languages. The Project was initiated by the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and subsequently taken over by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). The idea was also to create a test bed for researchers to improve scanning techniques, optical character recognition, intelligent indexing and in general to promote Indian Language Technology Research. Currently there are 21 participating centres of DL activities in India and The Indian Institute of Science has been the coordinator for the Digital Library of India with the involvement of contents creation centre across the country. All the scanning centres send the data (scanned images in Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) along with the metadata of a book) to the Indian Institute of Science. After checking for the quality errors there at, the Institute hosts these documents in Digital Library website Portable Document Format (PDF).

OBJECTIVES

- To identify the use and impact of Digital Library of India (DLI) on students
- To know the purpose of using DLI
- To know the satisfaction of users while using DLI
- To know the problems faced by the students in accessing books through DLI

METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire method is followed to collect the data from the students. For this, a questionnaire was prepared and distributed to 157 students. Out of 157 users, 148 users have responded. Total response from the users is 94.26%. The collected data is presented in the form of tables and analyzed by using a simple method of calculation.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study focuses on the use of digital library of India among students in Sri Padmavathi Mahila Vswavidyalayam, Tirupati.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Table. 1: Distribution of students by awareness on Digital Library of India

Sl.No..	Awareness on Digital Library of India	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Yes	148	100
2	No	-	-

Table 1 depicts that 148 (100%) respondents are aware of the Digital Library of India

Table. 2: Distribution of students by sources through which Digital library of India (DLI) known

Sl.No.	Sources through which Digital library of India known	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Teachers	32	62.4
2	Friends	82	55.41
3	Self-effort	21	14.18
4	Parents	13	8.78

It is evident from table.2 that 82 (55.41%) of the respondents know DLI through friends followed by 32 (21.62%) respondents through teachers, 21 (14.18%) respondents know it by self-effort and about 13 (8.78%) respondents know through parents.

Table. 3: Distribution of students according to the purpose of using Digital Library of India

Sl.No.	Purpose	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Study/Research	82	55.41
2	To publish articles	18	12.16
3	Keep up-to-date	48	32.43

Table 3 represents that 82(55.41%) respondents are using DLI for the purpose of their study/Research whereas 48(32.43%) are using to keep up-to-date themselves and about 18(12.16%) respondents are using to publish article

Table.4: Distribution of students according to their preferred language

Sl.No.	Language	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Telugu	38	25.67
2	English	92	62.16
3	Hindi	18	12.16

It is evident from table 4 that 92 (62.16%) respondents are using English language, 38(25.67%) respondents are using Telugu language whereas 18(12.16) are using Hindi Language.

Table. 5 Distribution of Students according to Search method

Sl.No	Search Method	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Author	42	28.37
2	Title	21	14.18
3	Subject	64	43.24
4	Keyword	08	5.41
5	Scanning centres	07	4.72
6	Date of Publication	06	4.05

It is clear from Table.5 that students followed different search methods such as Subject search (43.24%), Author search (28.37%), Title search (14.18%) and key word search (5.41%). But maximum number of respondents opt subject search.

Table .6 Distribution of students according to the preferred format

Sl.No	Preferred format	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
1	PDF(Portable Document Format)	123	83.10
2	TIFF (Tagged Image file format)	25	16.89

From Table.6 it is understandable that maximum number of 123 (83.10) students gave preference to access in PDF format and remaining 25 (16.89) respondents gave preference to TIFF format.

Table.7 Distribution of Students according to the preferred form to read books

Sl.No.	Preferred from	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Read books online	35	23.64
2	Download books and save in a folder for further reference	103	69.59
3	Printout form	10	6.75

Table 7 depicts that 103 (69.59) students are preferred to download books and save in a folder for further reference, 35 (23.64%) students to read books online whereas 10 (6.75) students are preferred printout form.

Table.8 Distribution of Students according to the Impact of Digital Library of India on study/research

Sl.No.	Impact	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Yes	148	100
2	No	-	-

Table 8 depicts that all 148(100) students replied that there is an impact of Digital Library of India on their study/research

Table.9 Distribution of Students according to the opinion about Information content in Digital Library of India Books

Sl.No.	Opinion	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Better than print versions	12	8.10
2	Same as that of print versions	94	63.51
3	Not better than print version	4	2.71
4	Not sure	38	25.67

Table.9 is regarding respondents' opinion on information content in DLI when compared to print versions. Maximum number of 94 (63.51%) respondents opined that information content in DLI was same as that of print versions, 38(25.67%) respondents replied that they are not sure and 12(8.10%) replied it better than print versions and 4(2.71%) respondents replied that it is not better than print versions

Table.10 Distribution of students according to the problems while accessing books on Digital Library of India

Sl.No.	Problems	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Unfamiliarity with the search methods	25	16.89
2	Speed of access is low for sometimes	123	76.35

It is evident from table 10 that 123(76.35%) respondents faced the problems like speed of access is low for sometimes and 25(16.89%) replied that they are unfamiliar with the search methods.

Table.11 Distribution of students on opinion about Digital Library of India is a boon for them

Sl.No.	Opinion	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Yes	148	100
2	No	-	-

Table 11 depicts that all 148(100%) students are opined that Digital Library of India is a boon for them.

FINDINGS

- 148 (100%) respondents are aware of the Digital Library of India
- 82 (55.41%) of the respondents know DLI through friends
- 82(55.41%) respondents are using DLI for the purpose of their study/Research
- 92 (62.16%) respondents are using English language
- Students followed different search methods such as Subject search (43.24%)
- 123 (83.10) students gave preference to access in PDF format
- 103 (69.59) students are preferred to download books and save in a folder for further reference
- All 148(100) students replied that there is an impact of Digital Library of India on their study/research
- Maximum number of 94 (63.51%) respondents opined that information content in DLI was same as that of print versions
- 123(76.35%) respondents faced the problems like speed of access is low for sometimes
- 148(100%) students are opined that Digital Library of India is a boon for them.

CONCLUSION

Digital Library of India has currently 550,585 books available with 191,657,791 pages (191.632 Million). There are 231,379 books comprising of 64,208,401 pages of Indian languages available on DLI website. It is important to know users access behaviour and their feedback that can help them to improve the effectiveness of these online systems and identify areas for improvement, ranging from user interface, functionality, and usage of resources itself. The DLI website is accessed worldwide and gets valuable feedbacks from users. The Indian Institute of Science has also been responding to several queries that arise from the users periodically. This website is very useful for book lovers and has been widely praised by people who are researching the First World War. This discussion has been taking place on Great War Forum, which is an online discussion forum (based in the UK) for people interested in this period.

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