

A Study on the use of online Public Access Catalogue at the Library of Annamalai University; Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

This study conducted as use of online Public Access Catalogue at the Library of Annamalai University. Researcher has used on survey method. Totally 400 questionnaires were distributed and 344 questionnaires received back. The response rate of 96 Male students, 172 Female students and 76 Faculty members' responses rate 86%. The data received from the respondents through the questionnaire was analysed. It is found that majority 80(46.51%) of respondents using library for the purpose studies. It could be noted that more than 59(34.30%) of respondents visits library daily.

Keywords: OPAC, Library automation, user study, Library, Annamalai University.

Introduction

The Information Explosion has revolutionized the thinking and outlook of the librarians throughout the recent years. This development has triggered of technical policies of library and data centers. Historically, one amongst the keys to retrieve the knowledge has been the catalogue beside classification. The long era of ancient cataloguing all over with the introduction of data Technology (IT). The developments in it forced the librarians within the direction of adopting new physical kinds of catalogue, one such being On-line Public Access Catalogue. It is an access tool and resources guide to the gathering of a library or libraries that provides listing knowledge in computer readable type and might be searched interactively on a laptop terminal by users.

Annamalai University library: A Brief Profile

The main library develop in 1920. When Sri Meenakshi College was established. Then the main library was at first addressed in the eastern wing of the Administrative building. It changed into its present abode in 1959, opening a new chapter in its history. The approach to the Infonet Lab and E-Journals collection are especially for the researchers and staff members who are extensive browsing facilities, E-journal access as well.

The Library is kept open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, Our University is linked with Tamil Nadu Digital Library network (TNDL) for sharing resources between universities in Tamil Nadu.

Review of literature

Mulla. K. R. and Chandrashekar. M. (2009) this study reveals that "A study on the effective use of online public access catalogue at the libraries of engineering colleges in Karnataka (India)" The study used and adopted questionnaire-based survey. Totally 1716 questionnaires were distributed and 1338 questionnaire received back. 1075 undergraduate students, 430 faculty, 155 postgraduate students and 56 researchers of the following 43 engineering colleges across the state of Karnataka. They conclude majority 986 (90.29 %) of the respondents consider the OPAC to know the location of books in the library.

Devendra and Khaiser Nikam (2012) this study focussed on “A Study on the use of online public access catalogue at the library of M.G.M College.” This study used survey method. A totally 200 questionnaire were distributed and 172 questionnaire were received back response rate is 86%. They conclude more than 50% of the respondents visit to the library for study purpose and majority of the more than 32.21% of the respondents visit library daily.

Asokan. L and Dhanavandan. S. (2015) this study conducted as a “Awareness and usage of online public access catalogue (OPAC) by students and faculty members: a case study” This paper used questionnaire-based survey method conducted at the central library. Totally 200 questionnaires were distributed to the staff and students and 172 filled questionnaires (86 %) were received back. They conclude majority of the users search information about the library material through OPAC.

Needs and objectives of the study

This study focuses on the use of online public catalogue at the Annamalai University library. Advance, an effort has been made to know the information requirement of the end users and to what expanse OPAC is able to meet their requirements in this profile

- ❖ To indicate the status of library automation in Annamalai University library.
- ❖ To examine the use of OPAC services by the Annamalai University library users.
- ❖ To determine the frequency of use of OPAC by the users.

Methodology

In this study survey method is used. A total of 400 structured questionnaires distributed and 344 questionnaires were received back, 96 male students and 172 female students, 76 Faculty members. Nearly response rate is 86%.

Analysis and Interpretation

Table: 1 Distribution of sources data

Types of respondents	Questionnaire distributed	Questionnaire received	%
Male students	120	96	27.91
Female students	192	172	50
Faculty Members	88	76	22.09
Total	400	344	100

Table 1 shows that 400 questionnaire were distributed and 344 questionnaire were received back.

Table:2 Purpose of Visit to the Library

S.No	Visit purposes	Number of users	%
1.	Study	160	46.51
2.	Teaching preparation	56	16.29
3.	Leisure reading	100	29.06
4.	Any others	28	8.14
	Total	344	100

The above table2 shows that 160(46.51%) of respondents have expressed that they visit library for study purpose and 100(29.06%) of respondents have said that they visit library for leisure reading, 56(16.29%) of

respondents have said that they visit the library for preparation for teaching and 28(8.14%) of respondents have visit the library for other purposes such as for borrowing books and reading news papers in the library.

Table:3 Frequency of library visit

S.No	Frequency	Number of users	%
1	Daily	118	34.30
2	Once in a week	82	23.85
3	Twice in a week	56	16.28
4	Thrice in a week	64	18.60
5	Once a month	24	6.97
	Total	344	100

Table 3 indicates that 118(34.30%) of respondents visit library daily and 82(23.85%) of respondents visit library once in a week, 64(18.60%) of respondents visit library thrice in a week, 56(16.28%) of respondents visit library twice in a week, only 24(6.97%) of respondents visit library once in a month.

Table: 4 Use of OPAC

S.No	User opinion	Number of respondents	%
1	Yes	306	88.95
2	No	38	11.05
	Total	344	100

Table 4 indicates that majority of the 306(88.85%) of respondents have expressed that they have used OPAC in their library whereas 38(11.05%) of respondents have expressed that they have not used OPAC.

Table:5 Frequency use of OPAC

S.No	Frequency of use OPAC	Number of respondents	%
1	Frequently	124	36.04
2	Occasionally	96	27.90
3	Once or Twice a week	56	16.28
4	Whenever a visit to the library is made	52	15.13
5	Rarely	16	4.65
	Total	344	100

Table 5 shows that out of 344 respondents 124 (36.04%) of respondents use the OPAC frequently, 96(27.90%) of respondents use OPAC occasionally, 56(16.28%) of respondents use OPAC once or twice a week, 52(15.13%) of respondents use OPAC whenever a visit to the library is made and only 16(4.65%) of respondents use OPAC rarely.

Table:6 User Approach in Finding Requirement Document Using OPAC Facility

S.No	User approach	Number of respondents	%
1	Author is known	136	39.54
2	Title is known	144	41.86
3	On a specific subject	64	18.60
	Total	334	100

The above the table 6 shows that out of 344 respondents majority of the 144(41.86%) of respondents expressed that they use title approach to locate the required documents and 136(39.54%) of respondents have said that they use of author approach, 64(18.60%) of respondents use specific subject approach.

Table:7 Frequently used option for searching

S.No	Searching option	Number of respondents	%
1	Author	116	33.72
2	Title	124	36.05
3	Class number	16	4.65
4	Subject	64	18.60
5	Combination search	16	4.65
6	Word in the title	8	2.33
	Total	344	100

The above table shows that out of 344 respondents majority of the 124(36.05%) of respondents have expressed that they use title search the requirement documents, 116(33.72%) of the respondents have said that they use author search in the OPAC, 64(18.60%) of respondents have expressed that they use subject search to required the documents, 16(4.65%) of respondents have expressed that they use class number and combination search in the OPAC and only 8(2.33%) of the respondents expressed use of word in the title to requirement documents.

Table:8 Advantages of OPAC than earlier catalogue

S.No	Advantages	Number of respondents	%
1	Save time	158	45.94
2	Easy searching	170	49.41
3	Any others	16	4.65
	Total	344	100

The above table 8 indicates that out of 344 respondents majority of the 170(49.41%) of respondents have said that it provides for easy searching, 158(45.94%) of the respondents have expressed that they use OPAC save their time in searching the requirement documents and only 16(4.65%) of respondents have said that it provides for any other like convenient to use.

Findings

- ❖ The findings shows that majority 172(50%) of the respondents are female students.
- ❖ It is found that majority 160(46.51%) of respondents using library study purpose.
- ❖ It could be noted that more than 118(34.30%) of respondents visit library daily
- ❖ It is found that majority 306 (88.95%) of respondents are use OPAC.
- ❖ The finding shows that more than 124(36.04%) of respondents are using OPAC frequently.
- ❖ It is found that majority 144(41.86%) of respondents have expressed that the use title approach to locate the documents.
- ❖ It could be noted more than 124(36.04%) of respondents are using title search to required the documents.
- ❖ The finding shows that majority of 170(49.41%) of respondents are using OPAC easy to search the documents.

Conclusion

The online public catalogue is a listing of the stock of any library. it's the tool for accessing the collections of the library in most of the educational libraries. The OPAC could be a vital parts of any library system as a result of most of the respondents declared that the system has helped them in their studies. The search method in OPAC has additional or less remained identical, as within the library catalogue however with hyperbolic access points, kinds of search options and hyperbolic complexness of the method, finish users aren't solely expected to own technical looking skills however additionally abstract and linguistics information, concerning the question, just in case of subject looking so as to articulate the question. OPAC is associate instrument of amendment in today's libraries. Automatic library system generally and specifically on-line catalogue can still be productive and enhance the usage of library collections.

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