Evaluation of OPAC use in J. T. Mahajan College of Engineering, Faizpur: A survey

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Abstract: The paper deals with the application and uses' of online public access catalogue (OPAC) in J. T. Mahajan College of engineering library affiliated to Dr. BabasahebAmbedkar Technological University, Lonere (DBATU). A questionnaire was developed and distributed randomly to 240 students. Users returned 192 completed questionnaires for analysis. The main objective of study is to find out the satisfaction of user about OPAC service. It is not unexpected that the library user turns toward the OPAC. When they searching as it is what they are familiar with and what they know.

*Keywords:*OPAC,libraryuser,IT.

I. INTRODUCTION

AnewenvironmentforOPACuse:theriseofsearchenginesOnlinePublicAccessCatalogues(OPACs)firstappearedinthe1970sstep bysteppreplacingthecardcatalogue.Withthegrowthofcomputernetworks suchas Telnet,userswereabletoaccessthefeminineoftheOPAChasinprogresstobequestionedinbrightnessoftoday'stechnology.Atonepointin time,theelectroniccatalogwasamongthefrontlineofservicetechnology.AnotherconcernwiththelibraryOPACthatitfrequentlyinaccess iblefromtherestofthelibrarywebsiteandtheweb.Itcanbedifficulttoconductasearchfromthecatalogtotheweborfromthelibrarywebsitet otheOPAC.TheOPACmayhaveaspecialexplicituserinterfacefromtherestofthelibrarywebsiteandmaylookunlikeandinteractdifferent lywithusers.This canbepuzzling totheuserwhentheyaretrying tosearchforinformation.Theusermayhavetosearchmanydifferentplacestodatabases,indexes,digitalrepositories,andtheOPAC.Despit ecommonuseofInternetsearchengines,theonlinecatalogueisstillthemainwaytothecollectionofanexactinglibrary.TheuseofInternetse archenginesdoes,however,haveimplicationsforuserexpectationsaroundtheonlinecatalogue,andsearchstrategywhenusingtheonlinec atalogue

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The studywas conductedto:

1. Toassess theamountof familiarityandfrequency in theuseofOPAC amonguser.
2. TofindthepurposeandutilizationoftheOPACservice.
3. Toknowthelevelofsatisfactionfor using OPAC.
4. Toknowthedifficulties encounteredbytheuserswhileusingOPAC.

III.LIMITATION:

The present study aims to find the usage level of OPAC service in J. T. Mahajan college of EngineeringFaizpur. The investigator was able to identify the major limitations. Such as the present study consists of only the OPAC users.

IV.INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIBRARY.

The total collection of the library is 50758 including books, back volume of technical periodicals and technical reports. The library subscribes to over 65 technical journals, which includes national and international journal. Library has its digital collection of various reading material. Online accession to IEEE, Science Direct is available. Library has also very high collection of non-book material i.e. video CD of IIT lecture, Audio cassettes of lecture and motivational films.

V. METHODOLOGY

A well-structured questionnaire was administered to elicit both quantitative and qualitative information. A total of 240 questionnaires were distributed and 192 collected. The questionnaires were checked and all 192 were found fit for analysis. The time period studied was December 2018.

VI. DATA ANALYSIS

The collected data were organized and tabulated by using statistical methods, tables and percentages.

Table No.1.OPAC Users Response.

Sr.No	Class of Student	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	First year	39	20.31
2	Second year	47	24.48
3	Third year	51	26.56
4	Fourth year	55	28.65
	Total	192	100%

Table 2 shows that 48(43.64%) of the respondents use the Internet for Study and teaching, followed by 26(23.64%) used for their Research, 18(16.36%) of the respondents used for Communication (email and Chatting etc.), 14(12.73%) for entertainment purpose (Arts, Culture, Movies, Sports and Games etc.), 4(3.64%) not responded. Hence, it can be inferred that a majority of the Respondents use the Net for Study and research.

Table No. 2.User learn to use the OPAC

Sr.No	User learn to use the OPAC	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Intuitively	40	20.83
2	By Reading Instruction	89	46.35
3	By Library Staff	63	32.81
	Total	192	100%

Table 2 shows that user how to use OPAC by Reading Instruction 89 (46.35%), followed by Library Staff 63 (32.81%) and intuitivelyuser40 (20.83%).

Table No. 3.OPAC used for searching information

Sr. No.	Searching Information By	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	By. Author	162	84.38
2	By. Title	185	96.35
3	By. Accession No.	98	51.04
4	By. Class No	52	27.08
5	By .ISBN	23	11.98

It is evident from the table No.4. That162 (84.38%) user using OPAC for searching informationbyAuthor, 185 (96.35%)areusingforTitle search,98 (51.04%)areusingwhilesearchingthroughAccession number,52 (27.08%)areusing for class wisesearch on OPAC and 23 (11.98%) userare using while searching booksthrough ISBN number.

Table No.4. Causes for No result

Sr. No.	Causes for No result	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Lack of practice in using the catalogue	61	31.77
2	Use of unrecognized characters	32	16.67
3	lack of knowledge of subject searching	43	22.40
4	No records coincided with the search	39	20.31
5	Getting result properly	178	92.71

Fromthetable no 4 i t isclearthatmostoftheusergettingproperinformationthroughOPACthatis178 (92.71%),Causesforthesystemreturningnoresultduetolackofpracticeinusingthecataloguestated61 (31.77%),43 (22.40%)ofusershowsthatnorecordscoincidedwiththesearch.13.68%usergavethecausesuseofunrecognizedcharactersforthesystemreturningnoresult.Only10.63%usersaysthatlack ofknowledgeofsubjectsearching.

Table No. 06.Rating of using OPAC

Sr.No	Rating of using OPAC	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Excellent	97	50.52
2	Good	55	28.65
3	Average	32	16.67
4	Unsatisfied	8	4.17
	Total	192	100%

The table highlight the level of the satisfaction of the respondentsregarding theusing OPAC. 97 (50.52%) of the user are of therating thattheOPAC is excellent, 55 (28.65%) user are of the rating thatgood.Another 32 (16.67%) usersis rating that OPAC is average, 08 (4.17%) users are unsatisfied with OPAC.

VII. CONCLUSION

To use the OPAC one needs to have knowledge of IT. The institution involved in academic work should provide technical training to their student. The modern society is dynamic and complex. The duty ofthe librarian towards social change, scientific development and social inspire is guaranteed. OPACwill definitely make itsown impact on itsusers.

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