

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES

Content Analysis of University Library Portals of Assam

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Abstract:

Library portal is the window of a library. It is the medium of communication between library and its users. A university library portal should provide detailed information about the library. An attempt has been made to analyse the contents of the university library portals. Content arrangements of the university library portals are different from each other. Some of the university library portals are not providing basic information about the library. 40% of the universities providing web-OPAC service through their library portal.

Keywords: Library portal, ICT, OPAC, consortium, Assam.

1. Introduction

Library is the heart of any educational institute. A university library promotes instructional, research and extension activities of the university by collecting, organising and disseminating required documents or information. Libraries are shifting their traditional services to web-based services to reach maximum number of users beyond the boundaries. Portals are web pages that permit users to consolidate Web sites and resources pertaining to their individual needs and preferences¹. Library portals not only provide a gateway to institution's resources by listing them for the users but also create direct link to the native interface of each resource². Library portal brings together resources like e-journals, e-books, databases, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) on a single platform. Portals are the marketing tools for university libraries, which provide the information about collection and services available. Content management and regular updating is important for maximum use of the library portals and resources.

2. Objectives

The study is conducted to know

- 2.1. The number of university library portals available.
- 2.2. Services provided through library portals.
- 2.3. Analyse the contents of the portals.

3. Methodology

The study is completely observational type. Library portals of different universities of Assam are analysed with their content, information organisation and services available.

4. Scope of the Study

The study covers 17 university library portals of Assam, which includes 12 state universities, two central universities and four private universities. Study is conducted between June 2015 and August 2015.

5. Literature Review

Geetha, Mamatha and Farhana³ have suggested proper training to the users as well as library staff, marketing of resources and services through advertisements and display of printed guides, announcements of new e-resources, more high speed computers for improvement for library portals in their study. Mahamed and Venugopal⁴ have studied the contents of National Library websites of Asia. They found that National Libraries around the world maintain their websites which are used to offer a wide range of information, consistent with their wide range of activities as compared to other types of libraries. Letha, M.M⁵ has highlighted the role of a library portal for various user services. Amos Lakos and Chris Gray⁶ stated on their work that people are looking for information about everything on the Web and for many, if an organisation or information about organisation is not present on the Web, its profile is diminished.

6. Data Analysis and Discussion

6.1. Status of Library Portals

Table1 shows that out of the 17 universities of Assam, 10 universities have library portal and six universities do not have library portal and one university library portal is under construction. KKHSOU have no library portal. Website of Open Access Journals Search Engine (OAJSE), www.oajse.com is linked with the web address of central library. NLUJA library portal have two web addresses; www.nluassam.ac.in/library.htm and http://sites.google.com/a/nluassam.ac.in/library. AU library portal is integrated with Web-OPAC created by KOHA library management software. Since 10 universities of Assam have library portals, their contents has been analysed under this study,

6.2. Basic Information

Library portals should provide basic information about the library regarding history, mission statement, different sections, library rules, library timing, library staff, etc. Table2 shows that almost all (90%) university library portals have provided brief introduction and history of the library. 30% of university library portals have information on different sections. Regarding library rules 60% of the university libraries have provided library rules on their portal. Information about library staffs are provided on almost all (70%) of the university library portals. 40% of the university library portals under study have provided library timing. Only TU library portal provided information about library committee, GU and NLUJA have given objectives and mission on their library portal. No Library portal has provided library tour. Only NLUJA library has sitemap on their portal. ADBU has not provided any separate link to basic information. All the information about the library is given on a single page.

SI No	Name of the university	Category	Address of library web portal	Status
1	Assam Agricultural University(AAU)	State university	www.aau.ac.in/?q=libraryindex	Available
2	Bodoland University(BU)	State university	www.bodolanduniversity.ac.in/menu/facilities/library	Available
3	Dibrugarh University(DU)	State university	www.dibru.ac.in/index.Php/amenities-infrastructure/library	Available
4	Gauhati University(GU)	State university	www.gauhati.ac.in/Krishna-Kanta-Handique-Library.php	Available
5	National Law University and Judicial Academy(NLUJA)	State university	www.nluassam.ac.in/library.htm https://sites.google.com/a/nluassam.ac.in/library/	Available
6	Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Co-Operative Management (ARGUCOM)	State university		Not available
7	Assam Science and Technology University(ASTU)	State university		Not available
8	Assam Women's University(AWU)	State university		Not available
9	Cotton College State University (CCSU)	State university		Under Construction
10	Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University (KKHSOU)	State university		Nor Available
11	Kumer Bhaskar Verma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies Universities	State university		Not Available
12	Assam University(AU)	Central university	www.libraryopac.aus.ac.in	Available
13	Tezpur University(TU)	Central university	www.tezu.ernet.in/library	Available
14	Assam Don Bosco University(ADBU)	Private university	www.dbuniversity.ac.in/library.php	Available
15	Assam Down Town University(ADTU)	Private university	www.adtu.in	Not Available
16	The Assam Kaziranga University	Private university	www.Kazirangauniversity.in/library	Available
17	Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva Viswavidyalaya (MSSV)	Private university	www.mssv.co.in/lib-mssv-o.html	Available

Table1: Status of library portals

	About The Library	Mission Statement	Different Sections	Library Rules	Library Timing	Library Staffs	Library Committee	Library Tour	Sitemap
AAU	Yes		Yes			Yes			
BU	Yes			Yes		Yes			
DU	Yes		Yes						
GU	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes			
NLUJA	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes
AU				Yes		Yes			
TU	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
ADBU	Yes								
KU	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes			
MSSU	Yes			Yes	Yes				

Table 2: Basic information

6.3. Information on Collection

A library's strength is its collection. Library can advertise its collection through portal and reach maximum users. From table3 it is evident that seven university (70%) libraries have given statistics of collection on their portal. Four university libraries have audio visual collection according to the information on their portal. Regarding print journals four (40%) university library portals have list of print journals. Two of the library portals have provided information on newspapers and magazines. 50% of the university libraries have provided information that they have thesis on their library collection. Three university libraries have provided information on dissertation. Only AAU library provided information on book bank and GU has information on manuscript on their library portal. 60% of the library portals have information on back volume and 40% on reports. DU and AU have special collection on their library.

6.4. Information on Library Services

Table4 shows that only two libraries have provided information on reprographic services. Regarding reference service 50% of the library portals have information on reference service. From the library portals under study it is evident that no library provides interlibrary loan service. Only TU has information on bibliographic service. DU has OPAC service and OPAC of AAU is under construction. 40% of the university libraries are providing web-OPAC service through their portal. 30% of the university libraries under study have created repository which is available on their portal. Only TU library provides FAQ and 'Ask The Librarian' services via their portal. Instead of 'Ask The Librarian' option NLUJA have provided helpline number (mobile) and e-mail id for the users. 40% of the library portals have information that they are providing user education service. Only NLUJA library have feedback facility.

	Statistics of Collection	Audio Visual	Print Journals	Newspapers/ Magazines	Dissertations	Thesis	Reports	Book Bank	Back Volumes	Special Collection	Manuscripts
AAU	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
BU	Yes										
DU	Yes	Yes							Yes	Yes	
GU	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes
NLUJA			Yes	Yes					Yes		
AU		Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes	
TU	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		
ADBU											
KU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes				
MSSU											

Table 3: Information on library collection

	Reprography	Reference	Bibliographic	OPAC	Repository	FAQ	Ask the Librarian	Feedback	User Education	Interlibrary Loan
AAU	Yes	Yes							Yes	
BU										
DU		Yes		Yes					Yes	
GU										
NLUJA		Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	
AU				Yes	Yes					
TU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
ADBU										
KU		Yes		Yes						
MSSU										

Table 4: Information on Library services

	E-books	E-journals	Databases	Consortium	Link to other resources
AAU	Yes		Yes	Yes	
BU					
DU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
GU		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
NLUJA	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
AU				Yes	Yes
TU		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ADB U					
KU			Yes		Yes
MSSU					

Table 5: Information on E-resources

6.5. Information on E-resources

Advancement of ICT have transformed the publishing world from print to electronic form. Proper information on e-resources is essential for the users to find their relevant document or article. Table 5 shows that 30% of the library portals have information on e-books. 40% of the library portals have information on e-journals, most of them are linked with the publishers web address..Regarding databases 60% of the library portals have information on databases and 50% about consortium. Link to other resources and reputed institutions are essential to guide the users towards his/her information need.50% of the library portals have provided link to such resources and institutions.

7. Conclusion

Library is the heart of a university and portal is its window. In this internet era, users want detailed information about the library on their finger tips. Library portals should provide detailed information about the library.

The study reveals that out of the 17 universities of Assam, seven universities do not have library portal. Some of the university library portals have not provided basic information in detail. ADBU and MSSU have not provided any information on library collection. Only one university library portal has provided FAQ service and one library portal provided Feedback option for the users.40% of the university library portals under the study are providing OPAC service via web that can be access through their portal. BU, ADBU and MSSU library portal have no information on e-resource.

In the present day context portals are essential part of university libraries. More attention should be paid in order to make library portals more informative,

8. References

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