

**USE AND EVALUATION OF ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS
CATALOGUE IN THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES OF UTTAR PRADESH: A STUDY**

Abstract of Dissertation

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ABSTRACT

1. INTRODUCTION

In the present 21st century, the aim of human society in the developing countries is to grow in the fields of economics, politics and social culture. Their achievements depict the hard work by their populations. However, development cannot be achieved without the primary work of educating the nation. The education system is largely dependent on information and knowledge resources for the development. The information surge has changed the thinking and outlook of the librarians throughout the recent years. This trend has induced some improvements posing corresponding challenges necessitating the re-examination of technical guidelines of library and information centres. Historically, one of many tips to access the information has been the catalogue alongside classification.

Library OPACs first began in the late 1970s and early 1980s and have experienced through several cycles of change and development. The essential intent behind the OPAC is to produce a database of library assets which offers an online catalogue to simply help users to spot and discover resources quickly (Theimer, 2002). In reality the OPAC was possibly the motivation for lots of the innovative services we find on the Internet today.

OPACs typically contain files of all the items that a library catalogues, such as for example: books (print and/or electronic); journals (print and/or electronic); databases; maps; manuscript collections; etc. An OPAC is Public (anyone can use it), and it enables the users to search the library's collection, always course reserves, and check one's own library files from any pc attached to the internet. OPAC has revolutionised usage of bibliographic data through research features such as for example keyword exploring, Boolean exploring, Truncation, Proximity searching, and item identity number searching. They certainly were extremely hard in the standard catalogue (Kumar and Vohra, 2011). OPAC is an on the web repository of products presented by a library or groups of libraries which give a program for users to locate and to discover books and publications materials physically available in the library.

Thus, utilizing the library OPAC, information searches can access bibliographical records of a number of accessible information resources separately (Wikipedia).

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Measuring the effectiveness of the usage of computer catalogues is a subject of study for many years now. It has inspired people to understand exactly how information extraction programs can be improved to meet the user's satisfaction. A number of studies have shown that online public access catalogs (OPECs) in most libraries, especially during the subject reach, become a source of problems during the consultation. In the present study, some of the selected Central University libraries have tried to investigate the depth of various current issues related to the study on the use and evaluation of public access catalog (OPEC). This research work will support to improve their library's online public access catalog (OPEC) service.

The present study is conceived under the entitled, **“USE AND EVALUATION OF ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOGUE IN THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OF UTTAR PRADESH: A STUDY”**

3. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study aimed at providing online catalogue access to library resources in the Central Universities libraries of Uttar Pradesh. It encourages the introduction of online catalogues in libraries, noting that some libraries are already practicing its use for information retrieval. It will bring to lime light the differences between manual catalogues which most librarians are sentimentally attached than online catalogue. Most of all, the study will show the quality of services or functions performed by the use of OPAC as add to the body of literature on OPAC.

The present research has identified the comprehensive and healthy relationship between the Library staff and the users towards focusing on the maximum utilization of OPEC. Therefore, a library must build up a robust and positive relationship and close interaction with the users.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the use and evaluation of OPEC in the Central University libraries of Uttar Pradesh specifically; it set to achieve the following objectives:

- To know the awareness and use of OPAC by the users of central University Libraries;
- To explore the search technique used by the users;
- To find out the place and purpose for using OPAC;
- To find out the problem faced by the user which using OPAC;
- To find out satisfaction level of the user at the time of searching OPAC;
- To collect suggestions of the users regarding the improvement of OPAC service in the Library.

5. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The following hypotheses have been formulated and tested:

- Most of users have awareness and using OPAC to access the relevant information in the library;
- Majority of users used simple search option and not aware about search techniques;
- Some of users are faced problems regarding number of OPAC Terminals;
- Most of the users used OPAC for the various purpose;
- Majority of users are satisfied with searching facilities available in OPAC;

6. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study content consists of the following Central University libraries of Uttar Pradesh which have same nature are as follows:

- Aligarh Muslim University , Aligarh
- Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University , Lucknow
- Banaras Hindu University , Varanasi
- University of Allahabad, Allahabad

7. METHODOLOGY

The survey research method was used for the compilation of the study. The questionnaire was prepared for the collection of the data. The questionnaire was included closed as well as open ended questions. The study was conducted to gather data onto the selected central university libraries of Uttar Pradesh. The data was collected by using questionnaire as a tool that was personally distributed among the concerned library users. The investigator was to make personal visit to distribute among the questionnaires and observed the existing conditions of these libraries. Collected data were analysed and finding were drawn.

8. REFERENCE STYLE

The bibliography reference cited by the researcher for every chapter is given at the end and is arranged according to the American Psychological Association (APA) style of 6th edition.

9. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The present study has been organized into following chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapters deals with the brief introduction of the study and also describes, research concept, objectives, hypothesis and research methodology.

Chapter 2: Review of Literature

The chapter discusses in detail the literature review pertaining to the study received from the secondary sources of information such as (indexing and abstracting sources).

Chapter 3: Profile of the Central University Libraries in Uttar Pradesh

This chapter briefly describes establishment, history, its staff, users, resources and services available in the selected Central University libraries in Uttar Pradesh establishment, history, collection of library, its staff and users etc.

Chapter 4: Online Public Access Catalogue: An Overview

The chapter fourth deals with the detailed overview and historical background of OPAC.

Chapter 5: Data Analysis and Interpretation

The chapter fifth deals with the analysis of research data and presents the statistical and graphical presentation of the analysed data.

Chapter 6: Findings, Conclusion and Suggestions

The chapter sixth makes conclusion on the basis of research findings and lastly conclude with suggestions for future research.

10. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Various findings of the study are highlighted as followed:

1. The outcomes indicates that overall majority 381 (63.18%) of the total users were daily visited in library. The highest number of users, from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh who visited library daily.
2. It was also highlighted that overall majority 488 (78.33%) of the total users were visited in library for study purpose and the highest number of users from BHU, Varanasi who visited library for study purpose.
3. The results of the analysis revealed that overall majority 407 (67.49%) of the total users were aware about OPAC service and 196 (32.50%) users were not aware about OPAC service and highest number of users from AMU, Aligarh who know about OPAC service.
4. The findings emerged that overall majority 166 (40.87%) of the total respondents were using OPAC ‘frequently’ ‘Occasionally’ and highest number of respondents from AMU, Aligarh
5. The results also discovered that overall majority 140 (71.42%) of the total users were expressed ‘Lack of OPAC awareness’ about OPAC so they don’t use OPAC and highest number of users from University of Allahabad (AU), Allahabad

6. The results of the analysis revealed that majority 182 (44.71%) of the total users were know about OPAC by yourself and highest number of users from AMU, Aligarh.
7. The outcomes explore that majority 190 (38.69%) of the total respondents were used the OPAC to know the documents availability and highest number of respondents from Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow.
8. The results depicted that an overall majority 314(61.08%) of the total respondents were used OPAC in library and highest number of respondents from AMU, Aligarh.
9. The result founds an overall majority 113 (27.76%) of the total respondents were rarely required help from library staff and highest number of respondents from BHU, Varanasi.
10. The result founds an overall majority 168 (41.27%) of the total respondents were taken help from guidelines for using OPAC and highest number of respondents from BHU, Varanasi.
11. It was observed that an overall majority 288 (70.76%) of the total users were used simple type of searching techniques and highest number of users from BHU, Varanasi.
12. The findings explore that an overall majority 209 (34.43 %) of the total respondents were used OPAC ‘Search by Title’ option for required documents and highest number of respondents from AMU, Aligarh.
13. It is further observed from this study that an overall majority 256 (49.42%) of the total users were searched books in library collection and highest number of respondents from AMU, Aligarh.
14. The study reveals that an overall majority 131(29.04 %) of the total respondents were faced problem due to the lack of knowledge of searching techniques on OPAC and highest number of users from BHU, Varanasi.
15. The findings emerged that the majority of 228 (56.01%) of the total users were respond, OPAC is ‘fast’ for displaying results and highest same number of users from BHU, Varanasi & AMU, Aligarh.

16. The results also discovered that the majority 233 (57.24%) of the total users were expressed 'agree', about the availability of OPAC terminals in library and highest number of users from BHU, Varanasi.
17. It was also noticed that an overall majority 178 (39.91%) of the total respondents were replied, 'they use search shelves individually' for searching documents/books and highest number of users from BHU, Varanasi.
18. It was seen that an overall majority 263 (64.61%) of the total users were respond OPAC is easy to use and highest number of users from AMU, Aligarh.
19. The results came across that an overall majority 262 (64.37%) of the total users were satisfied with OPAC services in library of central universities and highest number of users from AMU, Aligarh.

11. HYPOTHESIS TESTING (CHI-SQUARE TEST)

H1: Most of users have awareness and using OPAC to access the relevant information in the library;

Null Hypothesis H₀: There is no significant difference between users regarding awareness and using OPAC to access the relevant information in the library.

Alternative Hypothesis H₁: There is a significant difference between users regarding awareness and using OPAC to access the relevant information in the library.

Table 5.5 shows that the data was analyzed using Chi-Square test. The alternative hypothesis was accepted $X^2 = 75.75$ and **p value = $2.50E-16 \leq 0.05$** , there is a significant difference between users regarding awareness and using OPAC to access the relevant information in the library.

Table 5.13 shows that the data was analyzed using Chi-Square test. The null hypothesis was accepted $X^2 = 10.91$ and **p value = $0.536 \geq 0.05$** there is a non-significant difference regarding information which is searched by users in library.

H2: Majority of users used simple search option and not aware about search techniques;

Null Hypothesis H₀: There is no significant difference in majority of users used simple search option and not aware about search techniques.

Alternative Hypothesis H₁: There is a significant difference in majority of users used simple search option and not aware about search techniques.

Table 5.11 shows that the data was analyzed using Chi-Square test. The null hypothesis was accepted $X^2 = 5.91$ and **p value = 0.1163** ≥ 0.05 , there is no significant difference between users regarding awareness and using OPAC to access the relevant information in the library.

H3: Some of users are faced problems regarding number of OPAC Terminals;

Null Hypothesis H₀: There is no significant difference in some users who faced problems regarding number of OPAC Terminals.

Alternative Hypothesis H₁: There is a significant difference in in some users who faced problems regarding number of OPAC Terminals.

Table 5.16 shows that the data was analyzed using Chi-Square test. The alternative hypothesis was accepted $X^2 = 57.29$ and **p value = 7.01E-08** ≤ 0.05 , there is a significant difference in some users who faced problems regarding number of OPAC Terminals.

H4: Most of the users used OPAC for the various purpose;

Null Hypothesis H₀: There is no significant difference in most of the users who were used OPAC for the various purposes.

Alternative Hypothesis H₁: There is a significant difference in most of the users who were used OPAC for the various purposes.

Table 5.7 shows that the data was analyzed using Chi-Square test. The alternative hypothesis was accepted $X^2 = 27.63$ and **p value = 0.0063** ≤ 0.05 , there is a significant difference in most of the users who were used OPAC for the various purposes.

H5: Majority of users are satisfied with searching facilities available in OPAC;

Null Hypothesis H₀: There is no significant differences in users are satisfied with searching facilities available in OPAC.

Alternative Hypothesis H₁: There is a significant difference in majority of users used simple search option and not aware about search techniques.

Table 5.19 shows that the data was analyzed using Chi-Square test. The null hypothesis was accepted $X^2 = 10.97$ and **p value = 0.531** ≥ 0.05 , there is no significant difference in users are satisfied with searching facilities available in OPAC.

11. Conclusion

It's apparent from the present investigation Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is an instrument of change in the present libraries, but it's ever changeable. Automation library system generally and exclusively on line catalogue may remain made and enhance using the library from the Variety of sources. The OPACs of different organizations may be used for greater using the resources.

The OPAC is mainly used by students, academic staff and library staff. It is likely to be also frequently found in electronic libraries. The users frequently involve the OPAC with a specific importance of information. This really is because of the proven fact that students, research scholars and academic staff find updated information regarding the collection of the library.