Use of OPAC in Karnataka state Universities

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ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made to awareness & usefulness of library catalog and OPAC users of Karnataka State Universities. All the Karnataka State University provides OPAC to its user for the maximum use of library catalog. A Questionnaire & interview schedule has been designed to collect the relevant information many users are using OPAC for their research & development activities. Very few users opinion that they are having few problems for using OPAC facility.

INTRODUCTION

Catalogue is a systematic list of books available in a library or libraries. In large collection of documents it is essential to provide the library catalogue to search the documents of the library. The universities of Karnataka State have been provided library catalog to its users. In printed / manual catalogue user may vaste their valuable time in searching the documents. Hence the universities of Karnataka State providing the OPAC facility to its reader. In OPAC users can with the help of computerized program / library catalogue software search their needed document easily.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study are as under

1) To understand the awareness about OPAC, particularly to teaching faculty and research

   scholars of Karnataka state universities.

2) To investigate the availability of OPAC facility, at university libraries of Karnataka state.

3) To study the problems faced by teaching, faculty and research scholars in using OPAC.

4) To provide the suggestions for optimizing the

   use of OPAC.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study intends to cover OPAC facility only by teaching faculty and research scholars of science disciplines in Karnataka state universities, particularly general universities. These are Bangalore University, Bangalore, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, Karnataka University, Dharwad, Kuvempu University, Shankarghatta, Mangalore University, Mangalore and university of Mysore, Mysore.

METHODOLOGY

Since the study is related to the users and their use of electronic resources. In order to bring the authenticity of the research a detailed questionnaire was developed. The questions were framed in such a way that all the possible inquire can be asked in one goal. Beside questionnaire, the interview method with proper schedule was applied in the reader's case. Especially the research scholars were contacted and the interviews were conducted and counter question of the readers were solved, right at the

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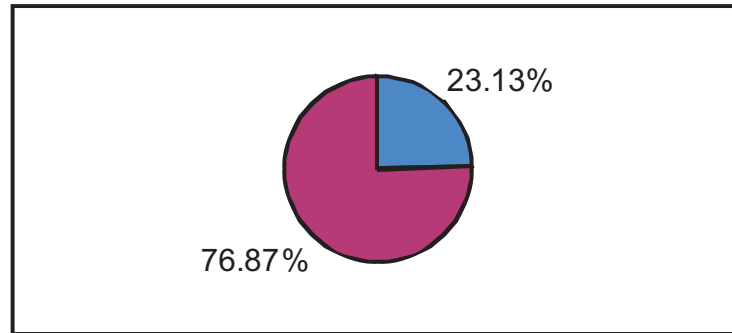
time of interview. In all 1578 Questionnaire were distributed & 1213 i.e. 76.87 % of the total were collected.

Table 1: Use of Library Catalogue

Response	NUMBER	Percentage
YES	1213	76.87%
NO	365	23.13%
Total	**1578**	**100%**

Dig. 1: Use of Library Catalogue

ANALYSIS OF DATA

It is clear from table 1, that many users are using library catalogue i.e., (1213) 76.87% this is because library catalogue helps the user in
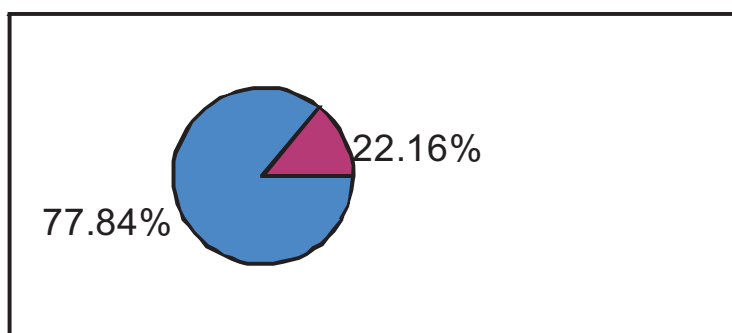
Table 2: Type of Catalogue Used

TYPE OF CATALOGUE	Number	Percentage
Card	58	4.78%
OPAC	919	75.76%
Both	236	19.46%
Total	**1213**	**100%**

finding their books within less time. A few users i.e. (365) 23.13% are not using library catalogue as they are not aware and they directly browse the books from library racks.

In Karnataka state, all University libraries provide the OPAC to all its users. As OPAC is very easy to use and search the books. The result produced by OPAC is very quick and accurate, hence in table 2 Most of the users i.e., (919) 75.76% use OPAC. It is clear form table 2 that (236) 19.46% users use both the type of catalogue i.e., card

Table 3: Places of OPAC use

Location	Number	Percentage
Library	899	77.84%
UTD	256	22.16%
Total	**1155**	**100%**

Dig. 3: Places of OPAC Use

catalogue and OPAC. As OPAC is system dependent, when systems are unavailable and closed, then users use card catalogue. i.e., (58) 4.78% users come under this category.

From the above table 3 the highest number of users ie., (899) 77.84% use OPAC in the library, Itself. As most of universities provides OPAC facility at library only. Through the use of LAN, OPAC facility is provided to the teaching

Table 4: Frequency of OPAC use N=1213

Frequency of OPAC use	Number	Percentage.
Daily	114	9.87%
Twice a week	182	15.76%
Weekly	206	17.83%
Rarely	653	56.54%
TOTAL	1155	100%

department of the university. This was observed in Mangalore University that (256) 22.16% users use OPAC at their department.

For teaching and research purpose users are using journals and Internet service hence few users i.e, (114) 9.87% use OPAC Daily, some users use twice a week OPAC i.e., (182) 15.76%.

Table 5: OPAC Searching Approach

N=1213

Search approach	Number	Percentage
Author	858	74.28%
Title	778	67.35%
Key word	840	72.72%
Call Number	56	4.84%
Accession Number	10	0.86%

It is clear from table 5 that most of users search OPAC by author i.e. (858) 74.28% by title i.e., (778) 67.35% and by keyword i.e., (840) 72.72%. This is because the users are familiar with author name, title and keyword of books. Very few users search OPAC using call Number. i.e, (56) 4.84%. and Accession Number i.e,. (10) 0.86%

Table 5 Searching Problems of OPAC.

Table 6(a): Problems faced in OPAC N=1213

Opinion	Number	Percentage.
Yes	09	0.78%
NO	1146	99.22%
Total	1155	100%

Table 6(b): Reasons of Problems faced in OPAC searching

N=1213

Problems	Number	Percentage
Number of computer Machines are less	03	0.26%
Software of OPAC is not user friendly	03	0.26%
Lack of support from library staff	03	0.26%
Total	9	0.78%

(206) 17.83% users use OPAC weekly and (653) 56.54% users use OPAC very rarely i.e. once in month or two.

It is clear from table 6 (a) that (1146) 99.22% users are not having problems for searching the information on OPAC, but the above table 6 (b) indicates that (09) 0.78% of users are having searching problems on OPAC. From table 6 (b) that (09) 0.78% of users are facing several problems while searching though OPAC. The reason like number of terminals are less i,e. (03) 0.26%. Software of OPAC is not users friendly (03) 0.26% and lack of support from library staff (03) 0.26%.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

An attempt has been made to give summary of the findings of the study and suggestions to improve the use of OPAC by the of Karnataka state universities.

1. More than 1/3 (1213) 76.87% of respondents are using library catalogue.

2. More than 1/3 (919) 75.76% of respondents are using OPAC

3. Les than one forth of respondents i.e (236) 19.46 are using OPAC and card catalogue.

4. More than 1/3 i.e (899) 77.84% of respondents are using OPAC at library followed by (256) 22.16% department.

5. More than half of the respondents (653) i.e 56.54% are using OPAC rarely.

6. More than one third (858) i.e 74.28% respondents ,searching approach is by author.

7. All most all (1146) i.e 99.23% the respondents dosen't have problems for searching the information on OPAC.

SUGGESTIONS

An attempt has been made to address several sets of overall recommendations based on the findings and suggestions of the study, that may help further to illuminate the better use of OPAC.

The suggestions are given below:

1. Providing more OPAC terminals at library

2. OPAC terminals should be kept open till the closing hours of library.

3. Connecting the OPAC to LAN and WAN

CONCLUSION

It is clear from the study that all Universities of Karnataka are providing OPAC facilities for the maximum use of documents of the library.

Research is an import activity for the development of scientific and technical knowledge. And It is the gateway to the development of theoretical knowledge, and practical skills in any disciplines. Universities are the center of higher education and research. The libraries attached to the universities have to deal with the needs of the researchers in various disciplines. It is the responsibility of the university libraries to provide the required tools for the researchers from time to time. The development of information technology, & use of OPAC, library professionals have learned the changing technology as they have done over past decades.

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