

An evaluative study of university library website and their webpages: special reference to Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar district

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Abstract: *The present paper focus on website evaluation of university libraries available in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar district of the Gujarat state. In Gujarat state most of the universities are available in these two district. The Present Study was carried out on the library website/ webpages of the 24 university libraries, the study presents the major findings from evaluation of University library Websites and webpages of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar district. The Study further suggested that the evaluation of libraries website and webpages must be done frequently so as to check the content and structure available on the website/webpages keep updated.*

Key Words: *Digital Resources, Evaluation, Higher Education, Library Collection, Digital Environment, Library Website.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The University Libraries are act as knowledge management centres. In this present era of the digital age, libraries and library professionals need to transform their selves with the modern technology. The emergence of Information communication and technology has substantially changed the role of library professionals. Libraries aim is to provide needed information to users and satisfy the needs of users. The library is the heart of any institution that nurtured and flourished the community of the institutions in terms of knowledge and skills. The library website is a most important place where anybody can get the fundamental image of the library. Library websites are a leading window to access library resources and amenities. It is the best place where the user can access academic as well as scholarly information. Library websites are best tool to access all the online resources. Present study is focuses on evaluation of university library websites/webpages and to study the information available on the library websites.

1.1 Website Evaluation:

“Evaluation is defined as the systematic process of determining the merit, value and worth of something”.³ It is a general term that includes various aspects of performance measurement and assessment. Evaluation of website is a process which helps library staff to keep control on the quality of the website and make it always relevant to the user needs.

The Library Website is a living document, it represents a virtual space where information collected, organized, and presented. Website is a collection of webpages. Webpage consist of text, graphics, and multimedia. Website has to be developed in such a way that users must be able to locate the necessary information with ease (Manzari, 2006).

Website evaluation enables planners and developers to keep up with the increasingly diverse nature of sites that are posted on the internet. It is also necessary to evaluate websites for the purpose of quality control, given the fact that anyone can publish anything on the internet at any time. Apart from being able to differentiate between fact and fiction, it's important for users to be able to assess the authority, coverage, currency and objectivity of information to their particular purpose.

2. NEED / SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Website is very important tool for information sharing and connecting with end users. When users found good information and get satisfaction through easily available information or valuable information only then and then website credibility goes high. When Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar district which are economic capital and capital of Gujarat state, these state have near about half of university of the whole state. So it is very important to check their library services, and website is one of the core part of the library services. Through this study we can get to know difference between library website of the universities. And according to fact findings, necessary suggestion may be given to enhance their quality.

3. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

The present study is based on “Evaluative study of University Websites and their library web pages”, the study is done only for the Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar district. In Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar district there are total 30 universities are available as per the university list available on UGC website, among them 6 university library website or webpage are not available so the present study is limited to these 24 university library website. The study mainly focuses on the presence and the absence of the available information and evaluating library websites.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The following are the objectives of this study:

- To recognize the number of operational Library Websites/Webpages of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar district of Gujarat.
- To examine and collect the data regarding the structure and content of Websites.
- To identify the Library collections, Library services and links to other resources.
- To recognize the type of content and features made accessible on websites
- To compare the websites and contents and their library WebPages.
- 8. Draw conclusion and offer suggestions for the betterment of website.

5. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Gadhavi, Geeta, G. (2017). were focuses on the content analysis of library websites of institutes of national importance in Gujarat. Various aspects related to the content of library website are examined; such as about the library, collection, services, online resources, use of technology especially social networking sites. paper shows analysed information of library websites of various institutes of National importance situated in Gujarat.

Khatri, Ajay B. (2013). were studied and analyse the various aspects of the credibility of Websites of Deemed universities of Maharashtra. for that 21 Deemed universities from all over the Maharashtra are considered for the study. lastly he drawn a conclusion that website and webpages need to be evaluated periodically using established criteria like web design, accessibility, arrangement etc. which will help to improve website according to the user’s need and credibility and reliability issue.

Mehta, J. and Trivedi, M. (2015) was conducted a study on 45 library websites of central universities in India. The study revealed the feature accessible on the websites express several characteristics of library information.

Prakash, B. (2013) were analysed the content available in central university libraries websites in India. He focuses on the information available in the library websites, features of the library websites, online library services, links to other information sources, value added services and so on.

6. METHODOLOGY:

In the study, self-evaluative method was adopted, which include the following:

- A review of state-of-the-art websites.
- Designing a check list
- Evaluation of the websites and data collection.
- Analysis and interpretation of data.

7. DATA ANALYSIS:

Data analysis is crucial part of the study, it will help to analysed and interpret the data in meaningful sense. Here in this study data were collected from the university libraries website / webpage, the region of the study is Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar district of the Gujarat state. The data were present in tabular and chart form for better understanding.

Table 1 - Establishment year wise University

Sr. No.	Year of Establishment of University	No. of University	With Library Website
1	Before 1975	3 (10.00%)	3
2	1976 to 2000	1 (3.33%)	1
3	2001 to 2005	3 (10.00%)	3
4	2006 to 2010	11 (36.33%)	9
5	2011 to 2015	8 (26.66%)	5
6	2016 and after	4 (13.33%)	3
Total		30 (100%)	24

It observed that total 7 universities were established before 2006, among them all the university libraries have good website. It if found that total 11 universities established between 2016 to 2010, among them 3 university library

are working without library website. Total 8 universities established between 2011 to 2015, among them 3 university libraries are working without library website. Total 4 universities were established since 2016 to till date, among them 1 university library is working without library website.

Table 2 - Website / Webpage

Sr. No.	Description	No. of University
1	Website	15 (50.00%)
2	Webpage	9 (30.00%)
3	Not Available	6 (20.00%)
Total		30 (100%)

As per UGC list total 30 universities are existed in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar district. Among them 15 (50.00%) university libraries have their separate website, 9 (30.00%) university libraries have webpage and 6 (20.00%) university libraries still working without library website.

Table 3 - Domain name wise website evaluation

Sr. No.	URI	No. of University
1	.ac.in	15 (62.50%)
2	.com	3 (12.50%)
3	.edu.in	3 (12.50%)
4	.org	2 (8.33%)
5	.co.in	1 (1.16%)
Total		24 (100%)

Total 24 university libraries are serving their services through website and webpages. Among them 15 (62.50%) are using .ac.in domain name, 3 (12.50%) are using .com domain name, 3 (12.50%) are using .edu.in domain name, 2 (8.33%) are using .org domain name and 1 (1.16%) using .co.in domain for their library website.

Table 4 - Primary information about Library

Sr. No.	Information	Yes	No	Total
1	About Library	20 (83.33%)	4 (16.66%)	24 (100%)
2	Library Hours	16 (66.66%)	8 (33.33%)	24 (100%)
3	Membership	13 (54.16%)	11 (45.83%)	24 (100%)
4	Library Code of Conduct	13 (54.16%)	11 (45.83%)	24 (100%)
5	Library Staff	14 (58.33%)	10 (41.66%)	24 (100%)
6	Library Committee	13 (54.16%)	11 (45.83%)	24 (100%)

It is observed that university libraries providing their primary information such as 20 (83.33%) university library website provide about library, 16 (66.66%) university libraries provide library hours, 13 (54.16%) university libraries provide information about membership, 13 (54.16%) university libraries provide library code of conduct, 14 (58.33%) university libraries provide staff detail, and 13 (54.16%) university libraries provide library committee detail.

Table 5 - Information about Library collection

Sr. No.	Library Services	Yes	No	Total
1	Books	18 (75.00%)	6 (25.00%)	24 (100%)
2	Periodicals	17 (70.83%)	7 (29.16%)	24 (100%)
3	Reference Collection	15 (62.50%)	9 (37.50%)	24 (100%)
4	Thesis and Dissertation	14 (58.33%)	10 (41.66%)	24 (100%)
5	Bound Volumes of Periodicals	13 (54.16%)	11 (45.83%)	24 (100%)
6	Newspaper	12 (50.00%)	12 (50.00%)	24 (100%)
7	Conference Proceedings	13 (54.16%)	11 (45.83%)	24 (100%)
8	Online Databases	16 (66.66%)	8 (33.33%)	24 (100%)

It is observed that university library website or webpages are provides information about their collection such as 18 (75.00%) library website provide information about books, 17 (70.83%) library website provide information about periodicals, 15 (62.50%) library website provide information about reference collection, 14 (58.33%) library website provide information about thesis and dissertation, 13 (54.16%) library website provide information about bound volumes of periodicals, 12 (50.00%) library website provide information about newspaper, 13 (54.16%) library website provide information about conference proceedings, 16 (66.66%) library website provide information about online databases.

Table 6 - Information about Library Services

Sr. No.	Library Services	Yes	No	Total
1	Access to Online Resources	17 (70.83%)	7 (29.16%)	24 (100%)
2	Circulation	15 (62.50%)	9 (37.50%)	24 (100%)
3	Reference Service	16 (66.66%)	8 (33.33%)	24 (100%)
4	Current Awareness Service	16 (66.66%)	8 (33.33%)	24 (100%)
5	Digital Library	14 (58.33%)	10 (41.66%)	24 (100%)
6	Document Delivery Service	14 (58.33%)	10 (41.66%)	24 (100%)
7	OPAC	15 (62.50%)	9 (37.50%)	24 (100%)
8	Library Hours	16 (66.66%)	8 (33.33%)	24 (100%)
9	Website map	10 (41.66%)	14 (58.33%)	24 (100%)
10	Reprographic Service	14 (58.33%)	10 (41.66%)	24 (100%)

It is observed that university library website or webpages are provides information about their library services such as 17 (70.83%) library website provide information about online resources, 15 (62.50%) library website provide information about circulation, 16 (66.66%) library website provide information about reference services and materials, 16 (66.66%) library website provide information about CAS, 14 (58.33%) library website provide information about digital library or institutional repository, 14 (58.33%) library website provide information about document delivery service, 15 (62.50%) library website provide their OPAC link and information, 16 (66.66%) library website provide information about library working hours, 10 (41.66%) library website provide information about website map, 14 (58.33%) library website provide information about reprographic service.

Table 7 - Links on Library Website Home page / Webpage

Sr. No.	Links	Yes	No	Total
1	About Library	20 (83.33%)	4 (16.66%)	24 (100%)
2	Collection	17 (70.83%)	7 (29.16%)	24 (100%)
3	Staff Details	14 (58.33%)	10 (41.66%)	24 (100%)
4	Resources	15 (62.50%)	9 (37.50%)	24 (100%)
5	Institutional Repository	14 (58.33%)	10 (41.66%)	24 (100%)
6	OPAC	15 (62.50%)	9 (37.50%)	24 (100%)
7	Ask a librarian	13 (54.16%)	11 (45.83%)	24 (100%)
8	Search Engine	14 (58.33%)	10 (41.66%)	24 (100%)

It is observed that university library website or webpages are provides links such as 20 (83.33%) library website provide link of about library, 17 (70.83%) library website provide link of collection, 14 (58.33%) library website provide link of staff details, 15 (62.50%) library website provide link of their resources, 14 (58.33%) library website provide link of institutional repository, 15 (62.50%) library website provide link of OPAC, 13 (54.16%) library website provide link of ask a librarian, 14 (58.33%) library website provide link of search engine.

8. FINDINGS:

- Library collection, no of books and journals, their digital collection, web resources, no of subscribed journals and different kinds of library services are provided by most of the websites.
- Information about the library and working hours and details about their collection is given by almost libraries.

9. SUGGESTION:

Website has to be developed in such a way that users must be able to locate the necessary information in less effort. High priority information should be on the easy eye view. Those university libraries have funding problem they may use free online platform such as wordpress and wix etc. For this type of free website creation, lots of videos and tutorials are available freely on the internet. Library general information, library collection, different online offline resources, and their services are playing very crucial role in knowledge management in Higher Education.

10. CONCLUSION:

Evaluation of the website is a process which helps library staff to keep control on the quality of the website and make it always relevant to the user needs. The library website not only provide information, but also be a learning tool. Library web pages are excellent source to share the detail information about collection, services and different activities as well as resources. Most of the university sites provide detail information about the library and its resources and services.

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