

Usage of Online Public Access Catalogue by Faculty Members of Jeppiaar Maamallan Engineering College: A Case Study

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Abstract - This paper aims to gift the results of a survey conducted to see the effective use of online Public Access Catalogs (OPAC) at the library of Jeppiaar Maamallan Engineering College in Chennai. The paper examines the result from a questionnaire based survey conducted at the library. 50 samples of the form were distributed in a random way between the employees of Jeppiaar Maamallan Engineering College in Chennai out of which 48 completed and valid questionnaires (96.00 %) were received for analysis. The information received from the respondents through these questionnaires was analyzed. Thus, the study clearly highlighted the requirement for associate degree education programme module for users to market the effective use of OPAC. An effort is formed through this study to gift the difficulties Janus-faced by users at engineering college libraries, in looking for data victimization OPAC. This paper provides helpful empirical proof for librarians and therefore the analysis community on the usage of OPAC in libraries of engineering colleges. The results of this study are going to be helpful for librarians at Jeppiaar Maamallan Engineering College in Chennai and additionally to different librarians around the state and country. This paper provides original information from library finish users in engineering college, relating to their expertise whiles victimization OPAC.

Keywords - OPAC, Library Automation, Engineering Colleges Libraries, Effective Usage

I. INTRODUCTION

OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) modified the traditional library catalogue system. Within the new system, information is often unfolded at intervals laptop so the desired entry is often retrieved now through OPAC system in any format. Online Public Access Catalog is a progressively standard piece of apparatus in libraries. It's interface info of data of knowledge retrieval system that assists information searchers to access resources of libraries exploitation many access points. It's created looking out and retrieval of bibliographical records of materials easier and quicker. Today, an outsized range of libraries have machine-controlled their operations and services exploitation this technology to satisfy their users' wants. Public catalogue, that is a crucial service of the library, isn't exceptional for engineering. The computerized catalogue is termed as online public access catalogue (OPAC). It acts as a data retrieval system for the user. OPAC has revolutionized thanks to bibliographical data through search capabilities like keyword looking out, Boolean looking out,

truncation, proximity looking out, and item identity range looking out. These weren't viable within the ancient catalogue. An outsized range of libraries is providing OPAC service to their users to seek out their documents. In such a scenario, the libraries ought to examine often each therefore usually, what proportion comfort the users feel with this service so some initiatives may well be taken timely to boost this facility. Therefore, a study has been undertaken on the employment of OPAC by the users in the Jeppiaar Maamallan Engineering College Faculty Members in Chennai.

II. HOW EFFECTIVE ARE OPACS?

Users come back to the OPAC with a specific want for data. However, they have an inclination to go looking the OPAC as if it were an online computer programme. Looking the online consists primarily of hit or miss keyword searches. Where as varied information schemes exist to produce additional structure to Web-based data, they are not in widespread use. Because the new net generation, savvy at looking, involves expect tongue destined, full text looking and retrieval, OPACs begin to appear additional and additional dated in structure and potential. Its surrogate record structure doesn't lend itself simply to its style of question. Most user's area unit unaware of the catalog's structure and area unit unable to use it effectively.

The OPACS still rely on user experience for moderately eminent operation. Given their magnified use of search engines on the online, it is exhausting for users to grasp that they cannot realize everything within the catalog by exploitation their own vocabulary, as they did doing an internet search, however should use a pre-coordinated subject heading system that doesn't essentially match their language usage or topical vocabulary. The OPACS are terribly dangerous at subject looking out usually because of poor authority management and subject heading assignment and therefore the proven fact that progressively students and therefore the public conceive to search the OPAC as they'd search with an online program. These two insufficiencies mix to produce poor search results. As a result of there is currently international access to OPACS on the online, automation in trilingual and multi script environments becomes vital. Some vendors support this, however not all.

III. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Malliari and Kyriaki-Manessi (2007) Study shows that 58% of information searchers who use OPAC are graduate students, 25% are undergraduate students while 11% are teaching faculty. Moreover, their study shows that academic disciplines of searchers do not produce any significant differences in the use of OPAC. The low percentage of undergraduate students and faculty members who use the OPAC signify a vacuum that must be filled. The study does not show the reasons for low usage of OPAC by undergraduate students and faculty members.

Ansari (2008) reveals that a high percentage of library users in five academic libraries in New Delhi use OPAC as a search tool for retrieving documents. His study also shows that most of the users handled the OPAC themselves. One can conclude here that users of those five academic libraries have gone through the training offered by the libraries which help information searchers to use OPAC without requesting for the assistant of the library staff.

In a study by Srinivasulu and Reddy (2010) on medical college users (undergraduates and postgraduates) in Andhra Pradesh, India, most of the users (78.14 percent) replied that they have not used the library catalogue/OPAC to locate books in the library. Consequently, the authorities were advised to take appropriate steps to creating awareness of OPAC among the users by conducting user education programmes

Shiv Kumar (2011) have conducted studies on Effect of web searching on the OPAC: a comparison of selected university libraries, the study adopted a questionnaire-based survey. A structured questionnaire was administered to 500 users comprising faculty, research scholars, and postgraduate students of selected university libraries to collect data regarding the influence of web search engines on OPAC users. The study showed that a majority of the users in all three universities made use of the web-based resources. Ready access to information through search engines considerably increased the expectations of library users while searching OPAC. Web searching influenced their OPAC searching process greatly, as the majority of searches were performed on OPAC-like popular search engines. Simultaneously, users did not know the difference between inner-workings of OPAC and common search engines such as Google.

IV. NEED FOR THE STUDY

The usage of OPAC has caused huge changes within the library practices. What is more, it's created the library assortment, simply accessible to everybody by breaking the physical boundaries of the library. It is conjointly necessary to seek out out the usage of the OPAC from time to time, in order that the mandatory measure is started for higher utilization of this service. This study focuses on the effective use of OPAC at the library of Jeppiaar Maamallan

Engineering faculty in metropolis. Further, an effort has been created to understand the knowledge necessities of the tip users and to what extent OPAC is ready to fulfill their necessities during this profile.

V. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the standing of OPAC facilities at the library of Jeppiaar Maamallan Engineering College Faculty Members in Chennai.
2. To understand the standing of library automation in Jeppiaar Maamallan Engineering College Library in Chennai.
3. To study the aim and utilization of the OPAC services by the library users as well as students, research scholars, teachers and other non-teaching staff.
4. To recommend, appropriate measures to boost the OPAC services for the good thing about users.
5. Members will notice the resources tested to them.
6. To study the satisfaction level whereas victimization OPAC.

VI. ANALYSIS OF COLLECTED DATA

TABLE I DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRES

S. No.	Types of Users	Questionnaires Distributed	Questionnaires Received
1.	Faculty Members	50 (100%)	48 (96%)
Total		50 (100%)	48 (96%)

Table I the 50 questionnaires were distributed to the college members of Jeppiaar Maamallan Engineering College Faculty and also the responses received from them are bestowed in Table I. Among the fifty questionnaires, 48 (96.00%) were distributed to the college members of Jeppiaar Maamallan Engineering faculty.

TABLE II GENDER WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Types of Users	Faculty Members	Total	%
Male	20	20	41.67
Female	28	28	58.33
Total	48	48	100

Table II pair of Indicates the gender wise distribution of the respondents, out of 50 faculty members 20 of them are male and 28 of them are female. It is conclude from the table, 28 (58.33%) of them female and 20 (41.67%) of them are male from 48 total respondents.

Table III shows the frequency of OPAC victimization in library by the respondents. . The results showed 22 (45.84 %) of the respondents were victimization it once in a week. and 17 (35.41%) of the respondents were victimization OPAC Daily. It is recognized the table, III (2.08%) faculty members were used the OPAC Once in a month within the library.

TABLE III FREQUENCY OF USING THE OPAC

S. No.	Regularity	Faculty Members	Total	%
1	Daily	17	17	35.41
2	Once in a week	22	22	45.84
3	Once in Fortnight	7	7	14.59
4	Once in a month	1	1	2.08
5	Occasionally	1	1	2.08
Total		48	48	100%

TABLE IV PURPOSE OF USING OPAC

S. No.	Purpose of Using OPAC	Faculty	Total	%
1	To identify the availability of document and information	14	14	29.17
2	To know whether required document issued	7	7	14.58
3	To know status of the document	10	10	20.83
4	To know the location of required document	17	17	35.42

Table IV shows the purpose of using OPAC is indicated. It depicts that 14 (29.17%) users consulted OPAC to identify the availability of document and information in the library, 7 (14.58 %) to know whether required document issued, and 10 (20.83%) to know status of the document, and 17 (35.42%) to know the location of required document. It is

clear from Table IV that majority of users consulted OPAC to know the availability and location of the required documents.

TABLE V SEARCHING REQUIRED INFORMATION IN THE LIBRARY AND OPAC

S. No.	Purpose of Using OPAC	Faculty	Total	%
1	Through OPAC	46	46	95.83
2	Browsing books on Shelves	42	42	87.50
3	Assistance by Library Staff	35	35	72.91
4	From card catalogue	28	28	58.33
5	Through help from friends	37	37	77.08

Table V showed how the users chose their books and other materials for their study. Analysis showed that 46 (95.83%) of them chose the OPAC for finding information about to using OPAC in Libraries, 42 (87.50%) of them directly go to the shelves and browse books, without using OPAC.

Nearly 37 (77.08%) of them got the specified data with the assistance of friends. equally 35 (72.91%) of them get their materials by consulting from the assistance of library workers, followed by 28 (58.33%) library catalogue of the surveyed users, who got the information through peers. From the table above, it is clear that OPAC has made a beginning with the users and will definitely dominate the scene in the years to come.

TABLE VI TYPES OF SEARCH INFORMATION FINDING ON OPAC

S. No.	Finding of Information	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Percentage%
1	By Author	34(70.84%)	13(27.08%)	1(2.08%)	0(0.00%)	48	100
2	By Title	28(58.34%)	16(33.34%)	2(4.16%)	2(4.16%)	48	100
3	By Subject	32(66.67%)	12(25.00%)	3(6.25%)	1(2.08%)	48	100
4	By Publishers	30(62.50%)	18(37.50%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	48	100
5	Keywords	26(54.17%)	15(31.25%)	5(10.42%)	2(4.16%)	48	100
6	By Accession Number	23(47.92%)	23(47.92%)	2(4.16%)	0(0.00%)	48	100

Table VI shows that, 34 (70.84%) of the respondents used OPAC search by author, 32 (66.67%) through by the subject, 30 (62.50%) search the publishers, 28 (58.34%) search by the title, 26 (54.17%) by the keywords and 23 (47.92%) of respondents approached through the Accession

number respectively to find out the knowledge. the sort of search went to get the knowledge from library by author and subject it's within the first and second position severally.

TABLE VII REASONS/PROBLEMS FOR NOT USING OPAC

S. No.	Reasons/Problems	Faculty	Total	Percentage %
1	OPAC access is password protected	40	40	83.33
2	Inadequate systems	45	45	93.75
3	Complicated/confusing to use	37	37	77.08
4	No output/null retrieval	27	27	56.25
5	Lack of on-screen help	26	26	54.16
6	Lack of assistance from library staff	6	6	12.50
7	Slow speed	8	8	16.66

Table VII the study conjointly investigated the explanations for not victimization the OPAC services by the respondents. From the analysis these respondents were asked to administer the reasons/problems for not victimization OPAC. That 45 (93.75%) of respondents expressed Inadequate systems, 40 (83.33 %) expressed OPAC access

is password protected', 37 (77.08%) expressed Complicated/confusing to use', 27 (56.25%) categorical on output/null retrieval', 26 (54.16%) expressed 'lack of on-screen help', 8 (16.66%) expressed 'slow speed' and 6 (12.50%) expressed 'lack of assistance from library staff.

TABLE VIII OVERALL SATISFACTION LEVEL IN USING OPAC

S. No.	Users	Fully Satisfied	Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total
1	Faculty Members	26 (54.16%)	12 (25.00%)	5 (10.42%)	3(6.25%)	2(4.17%)	48(100%)

Table VIII reveals the general satisfaction level of users in using OPAC within the library. Among the 48 faculty members, 26 (54.16%) were fully satisfied, 12 (25.00%) were satisfied, 5 (10.42%) were moderately satisfied and 3 (6.25%) of them dissatisfied and 2(4.17%) very dissatisfied with using OPAC facility in the library. It is concluded from the table, more than fifty percent of the respondents were fully satisfied with using the OPAC facility.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. On the idea of the findings, the subsequent suggestions are created for optimum exercise of OPAC facility within the college library.
2. To facilitate the users, the University library ought to organize user education programmes on the employment of various techniques and methods in retrieving info regarding the documents. The instruction programmes might enhance user data and basic skills for looking OPAC.
3. Based on the study bound suggestions square measure given for higher utilization of the OPAC service at the libraries of Jeppiaar Maamallan Engineering College.
4. Few respondents prompt for the distribution of up-to-date library guides explaining regarding the way to use the OPAC and different library services, by the library workers.
5. It is determined that the OPAC does not provide varied essential options like spell-check code, fast search, on-line reservation, on-line renewal, new arrivals and book cowl show facilities. Besides these options, there is no provision for links to electronics sources/content pages. Therefore it is powerfully counseled that the aforesaid options should be incorporated in OPAC. Such options might enhance its optimum exercise and additionally build it additional enticing and helpful.
6. The study indicates that OPAC system is tough to use. The main reason of quality of use is that OPAC is DOS-based system. Therefore, the library ought to give Windows-based OPAC system that has easy search choices.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Users typically return to OPAC after they wish to look the desired materials on the subject of their interest. During this method, OPAC, as a retrieval tool, plays a very important

role for locating out the desired documents. The search method in OPAC has a lot of or less remained an equivalent, as within the library catalog however with inflated access points, kinds of search options and inflated complexness of the method. The employment of OPAC by college members has inflated their info, retrieval rate particularly in locating books and different reading materials within the library. From the study, it is evident that OPAC is employed by most of respondents. This can be thanks to the actual fact that respondents obtain up-to-date info to enhance their analysis work and on latest analysis ways that they will apply. The employment of OPAC by college members has inflated their info, retrieval rate particularly in locating books and different reading materials within the library. This can be evident within the indisputable fact that all the respondents square measure happy with their search outputs. So as to satisfy the challenges of the new millennium, while not wasting any time, it is suggested that the libraries within the country should re-introduce and upgrade their info technology and processed systems to render higher services to the library users. This can be evident to form initiatives to upgrade their info technology and processed systems to render higher services to the tip user community.

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