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Digital Library Services and its Utilization Among the Students: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

Advancements in information retrieval and its technologies in current generation users and their needs lead to the conversion of traditional libraries into digital libraries. Utilizers are not satisfied with printed materials alone. They need many alternative resources, but only a limited number of topics are covered in printed formats in the library. That's why utilizers need digital library formats materials and a variety of contents in their subject-related topics of gathering or retrieval of information. In this modern era, the digital library and its services also play a vital role in information gathering and user satisfaction. Through this study, digital libraries and their services, utilization, and more related topics are covered. The highest number of utilized digital library services are e-books and their related content to subject topics. Even though all resources are available in digital format, most of the users prefer printed learning materials to e-resources. A lot of advancements in the internet and technologies are leading to serve a multi-disciplinary and innovative library and information services in academic libraries. This helps to satisfy the users in all corners when it comes to gathering or information seeking. They need alternative resources, not replaced ones. This research paper mainly explores digital library services and their utilization among students.

Keywords- Digital library, E-books, Limitations, Students, Utilization

INTRODUCTION

Availability and demand are dynamically increasing for digital library

startups in any type of library. Traditional libraries are still managing a huge count of printed materials that are expensive and add a heavy workload to all libraries. The need for various electronic resources and digital format materials is high compared to previous generation users. Such as e-books, e-journals, and subscription of e-packages etc., the main purpose of digital libraries is to give access to utilizers in easy ways like remote, LAN etc., and accessibility of a huge number of resources by utilizers, which leads to developing their information retrieval skills and getting appropriate information without wasting their time. This research paper mainly focuses on the utilization of digital library services among students [1].

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Rajasekaran's (2023) research article reveals the services provided by academic libraries in the modern era [2]. The paper discusses the updated and modern day that is useful to utilizers. Services like social media-related services in the library. In present days, information and related services are highly developed and innovative to satisfy the utilizers. The users also need appropriate and rapid information. Providing multiple numbers of innovative services in the library was to increase the usage in the library among the utilizers.

Dhamdhare's (2012) paper observed that digital library services and practices expand the features and facilities in the library to develop digital library services with ICT technologies [3]. The research article reveals the importance of the digital library. Students and research scholars want to publish their research-related work and other papers online to download

whenever they want. Digital libraries are in a position to support those types of services in the library.

Shah and Waghchoure (2019) article explored the advantages and disadvantages of digital libraries [4]. In this modern equal count of e-resources and e-packages are needed to balance any type of library. Particularly in academic libraries, the digital library plays an essential role in the libraries. The

The research paper clearly shows the exceptions and needs of the user utilizers. The availability of various types of learning materials is engaging the library to be more attractive among the utilizers.

DIGITAL LIBRARY: DEFINITION

The library in which collections are stored in digital form, is an alternative to print-related materials and is accessible by computers [5]. It collects, manages and preserves data for a long time to serve valid digital libraries and their resources are transparent to users. The digital library will be a collection of distributed

information sources. Unlimited access to users, distributed collection and access control are free as well as fee-based.

OBJECTIVE OF THIS STUDY

The main objective of this study is to observe the digital library and its usage.

- Learn more about digital library services.
- To understand the utilization among the students.
- To conclude the effectiveness of the digital library.

METHODOLOGY

The availability sampling method was followed in selecting the sample size for this research paper. A total of 176 questionnaires were distributed among the students. Out of 176/128 questionnaires are fully responded to by students. The collected data was analyzed by SPSS.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: No. of respondents gender-wise.

S. No.	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	52	40.62
2	Female	76	59.38
Total		128	100

Out of 128 responses, 76 respondents belong to female students, and the rest of them are male students 52. 59.38% of female students

showed more interest towards digital library utilization compared to male students 40.62% (Table 1).

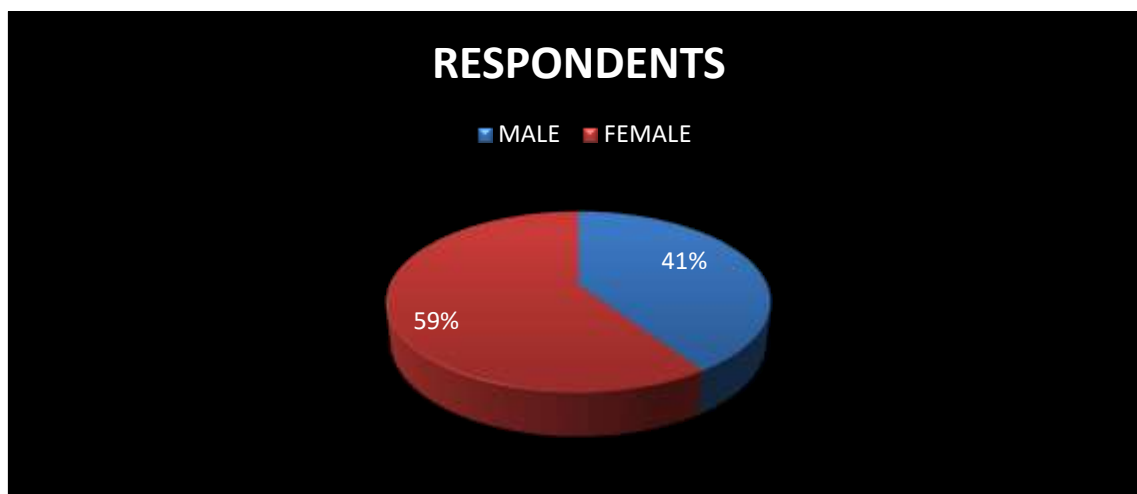


Figure 1: No. of respondents gender-wise.

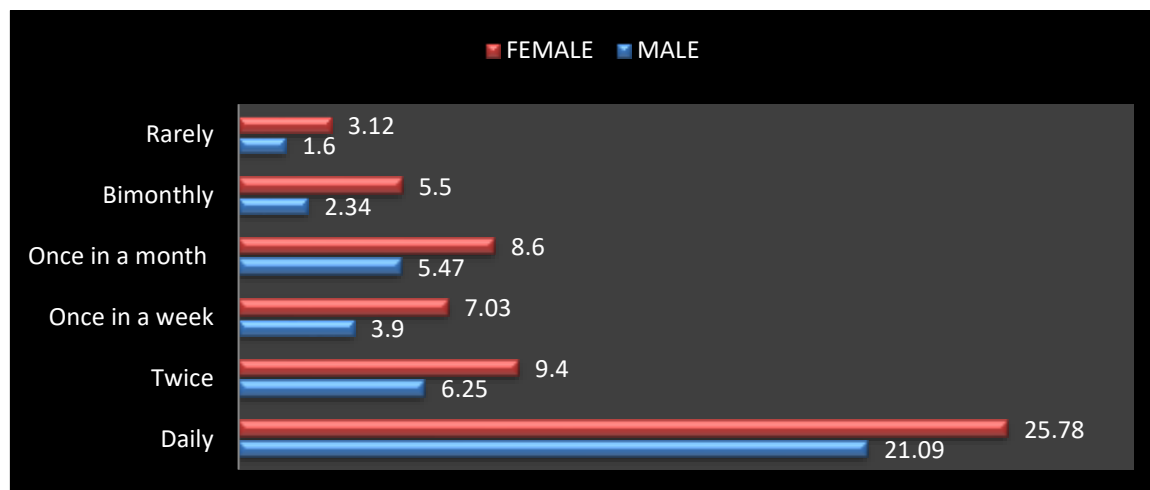


Figure 2: Frequency of digital library visits by students.

The data was collected from 128 (52 males and 76 females). Fig. 1 reflects that out of 128 responses of students 25.78 % of female students prefer to visit the digital library daily, whereas only 21.09 % of male students prefer it.

Secondly, 9.4 % of female students prefer to visit the digital library twice a week but 6.25% of male students prefer it. The least visited percentage in the digital library is male (1.6%), whereas female (3.12%) prefers it (Fig. 2).

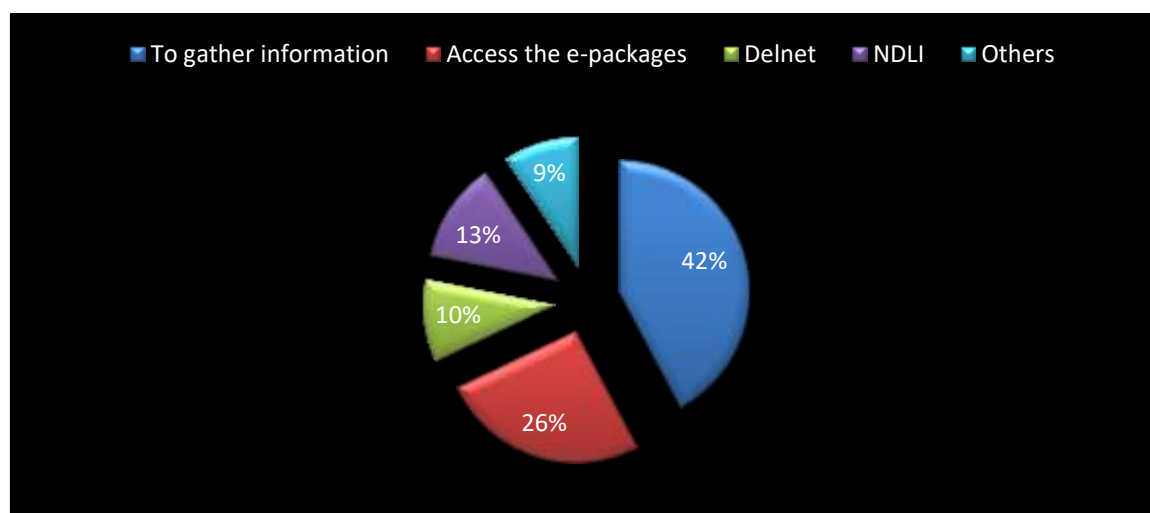


Figure 3: Purpose of visiting the digital library by students.

Fig. 3 clearly shows that most of the students utilize the digital library for information gathering or to collect information related to their current subjects from various sources available in the digital library 42%. Secondly, to access the organizational subscribed e-packages (e-books, e-journals etc.) in the library 26%.

Delnet and NDLI-related information was also accessed through the digital library at 10% and 13%. Other related works like checking their e-mail, browsing to know the important dates, registration etc., 9%. It clearly shows the importance of the digital library part of library (Table 2).

Table 2: Utilization and non-utilization of digital library resources by the student.

S. No.	Resources	Gender(Utilized)		Not Utilized		Percentage		Not Utilized(%)	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	E-Books	37	68	15	8	71.2	89.5	28.8	10.52

								4	
2	E-Journals	29	51	23	25	55.8	67.1	44.2 3	32.9
3	Delnet	43	36	9	40	82.7	47.4	17.3	52.63
4	NDLI	32	63	20	13	61.5	82.9	38.5	17.10
5	K-HUB	28	44	24	32	53.8 5	57.9	46.1 5	42.10
6	Open resources available in the library	47	71	5	5	90.4	93.42	9.61	6.6
7	Others (e-mail, exams, registration)	31	27	21	49	59.6 1	35.52	40.4	64.5

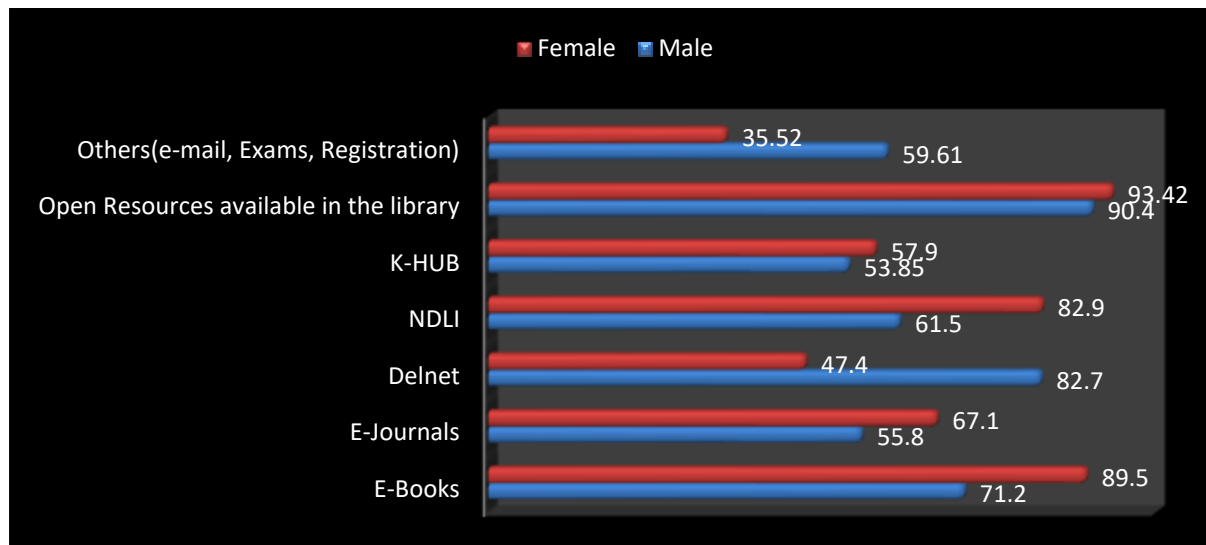


Figure 4: Digital library resources utilized by the student.

Fig. 4 reflects the utilization of digital library resources by students. Most of the students prefer an open resource that is available in the digital library. E-books and their related packages play a vital role in students' alternative

resources for their studies. Users must, almost, utilize all the services and resources available in the digital library. The highest utilized resources are open resources.

LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

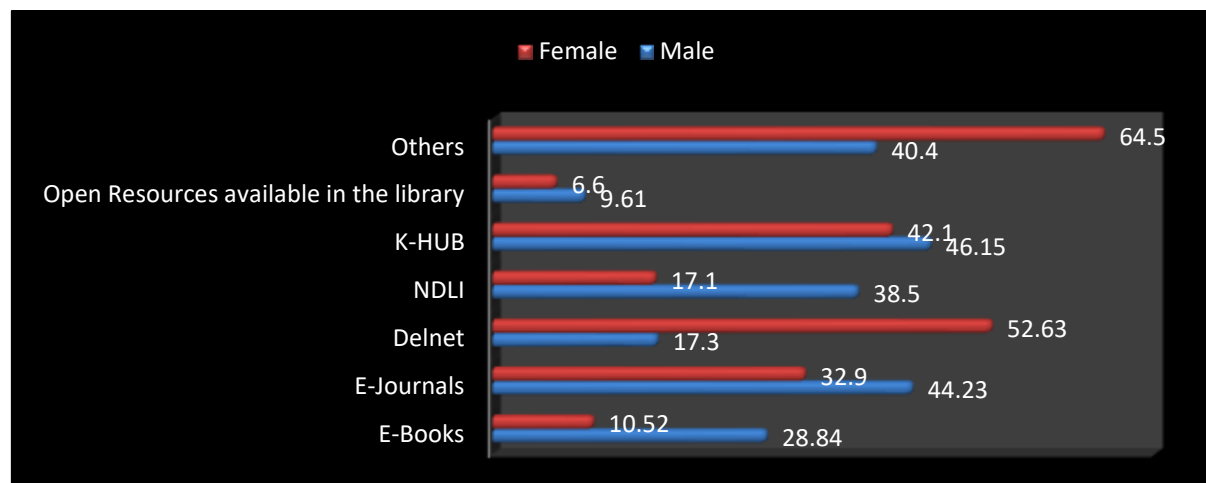


Figure 5: Digital library resources not utilized by students.

Problems faced by utilizers at the time of digital library utilization like low-configuration computers, insufficient space and its environment. The internet and the intranet are both networks that are important for the digital library [6]. The slow speed of internet connectivity leads to wasting the time of the user who wasn't able to gather a piece of appropriate information and access the e-packages. Adding more digital formats data leads to an increase in usage among the students. Lack of space is also

a major reason for non-utilization. Improving their e-related content quality and proper computer setup with high-speed internet connectivity and reading space helps to attract students to utilize the digital library (Fig. 5) [7].

WORKFLOW DIAGRAM FOR DIGITAL LIBRARY

The workflow of the digital library is given in Fig. 6.

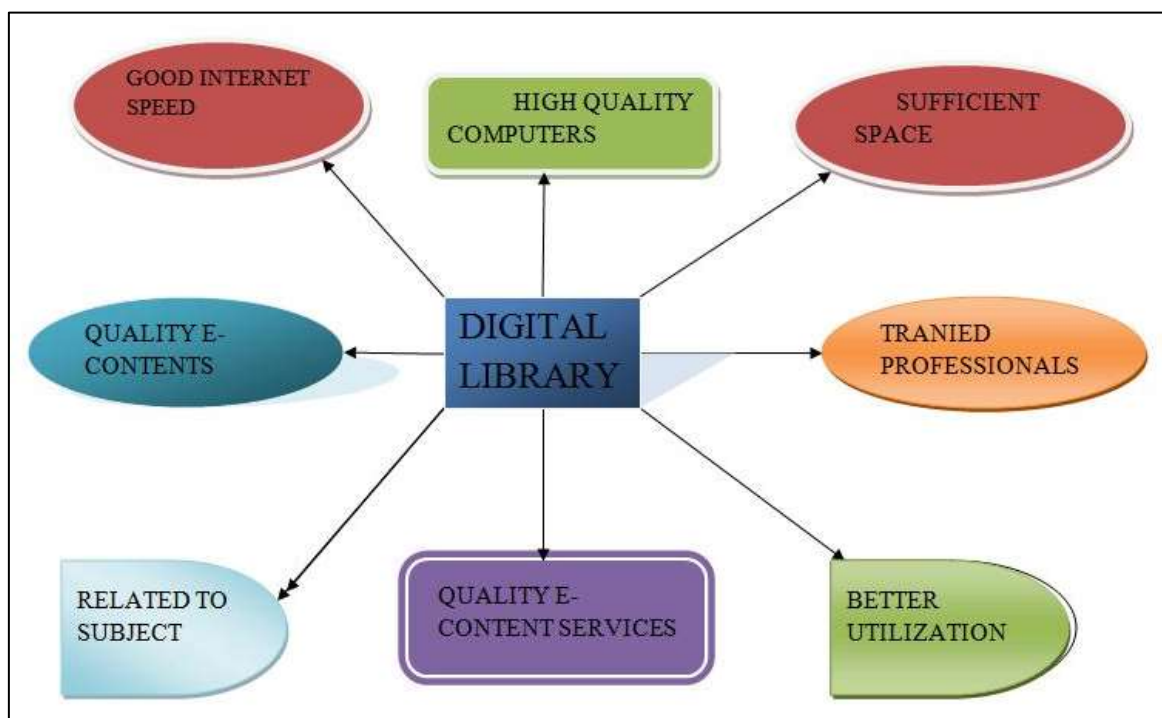


Figure 6: Workflow of the digital library.

CONCLUSION

Almost all traditional libraries are conserved into digital libraries. Libraries must redesign and improve the digital content delivery format-related services in the library utilizer's needs are high, so libraries should serve appropriate digital content to the users for their research-related studies and others. Impact, which is created by digital libraries, is much more impressive than printed materials. But, the digital library is part of the library, and users need both materials for reference, research etc., and the library must be updated and well equipped with those services to meet the needs of the users. Most of the libraries didn't have adequate space; computers and the lack of trained professionals are the main reason behind

the non-utilization of the library. In this modern era, all products need some fame and advertisement to attract the utilizes, so libraries also need some marketing strategies and advertisements for their services. Most of the users responded that the non-availability of proper resources creates non-utilization in the library. High-configuration computer systems, improvement in internet facilities, and the proper environment with supporting staff are the key factors to improve the digital library services in libraries. This kind of setup in the library creates much more attractiveness in the libraries.

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