

User Perception towards Digital Library Services and Implementation at Medical, Dental and Ayurvedic Colleges Libraries of Rajasthan

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Abstract

Digital libraries are becoming popular and are becoming one of the important activity of any organization. The rapid growth in computing networks, databases and public awareness have contributed to a hot topic of today such as digital libraries, digital archives, institutional repositories or digital repositories.

Digital libraries within traditional libraries needed by the resources, they are of different kinds. For example, for storage and retrieval, digital libraries, almost completely, depends on network systems, and the necessary staff equipment and system engineering skills, instead of traditional cataloguers and Reference Librarians' skills. "Outsourcing" the work of the library collection and experiment is another way to digitize the resources.

KEYWORDS: Digital Library, Institutional Repositories, Medical library, Digital Resources.

1. Introduction

Information technology has played an important role in library and information science. Due to the developments in information technology, now, it is possible for libraries to provide several new services to the library users along with traditional services. Libraries are now able to provide information in print form as well as in digital form.

We listen to the digital library as the World Wide Web seems to be a game that has a specific meaning. But the words are stored in the computer-based system for the collection of more specific and refer to the organization. Digital libraries provide resources, including skilled staff to choose the plan, structure, easily and economically so that the intellectual access to interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of digital works, storage time and continue to ensure the targeted community or communities, is available for use by groups. The term 'digital library' of the organization, intellectual accessibility, or service in the nation may refer to a collection of symptoms without a reference.

Six Medical, Dental and Ayurvedic College Libraries of Rajasthan have a Digital Library with many e-books and e-journals and also provide facilities like online access of e-database and full text e-journals.

2. Literature Review

Dr. P. Srinivasulu and Dr. V. Pulla Reddy (2010) reported that all the medical college libraries are providing information and reference services. Most replied that they are aware about PubMed (66.54 percent), Index Medicus (60.65 percent), Web Portals

(54.94 percent) and MEDLINE (85.55 percent). Most (79.09 percent) stated that they have basic knowledge of using computers. Almost all the respondents (97.72 percent) think that the networking of medical college libraries is very necessary. The majority (92.40 percent) replied that their colleges don't have digital library. Most users (80.61 percent) replied that they were not much aware about electronic database and open access to electronic journals¹.

Mausumi Basu and Palash Das (2012) noticed that although the majority of users were satisfied with the library facilities yet the study suggests that more needs to be done to promote self-directed learning. The better usage of library, its resources, ICT facility and services needs to be increased².

T. Asha, et al (2010) studied that medical libraries are the source of information for gaining knowledge and conducting research. There were many factors responsible for dampening of desire in Medical Research in India. Non-availability of desired reference material, expensive tools and delay in procurement of journals are some of the reasons. The requirements of students and faculty of Medical Colleges affiliated to Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences were analyzed by interacting with librarians, end users and policy makers during our visits as individual and as team³.

3. Objective of the Study

The following objectives have been set to study the levels of use of Digital Library facilities by the users of Medical & Dental Academic Libraries of Rajasthan:

1. To know assess the level of satisfaction with existing Digital Library facilities.
2. To about the digital libraries software using by the libraries.

4. Research Methodology

Three methods viz., questionnaire surveys and semi-structured interviews with user and observational visits in the libraries will be used in data collection. A survey method based on a structured questionnaire will be used for the study which will be circulated to library. The purpose of questionnaire will be to obtain data regarding the contemporary use digital resources and services in Medical & Dental Academic Libraries in Rajasthan.

The data collected through questionnaires will be converted into machine –readable form and imported into the statistical analysis package, SPSS. The data will be analyzed and inference made based on various standard statistical methods. The respondents will be asked to select multiple answers for ICT services.

5. Data Analysis

5.1 Digital Library Facility.

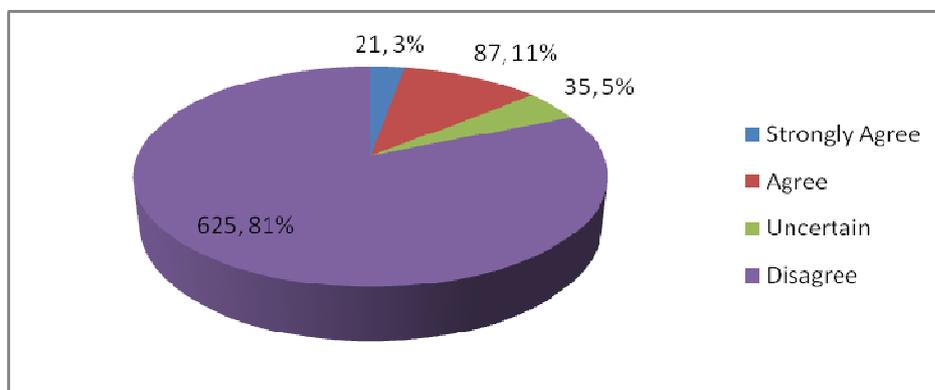


Figure 5.1

The above figure shows that only 3% respondents strongly support Digital Library Facility, 11% respondents agree with it, 5% respondents are uncertain while 81% do not agree to it. It clearly shows that the use of Digital Library is not yet in much demand and popular among the users of Medical, Dental and Ayurvedic colleges libraries in Rajasthan and also that the users are not very keen in accessing Digital Library services.

5.2 Software used for Institutional Repository and Digital Library.

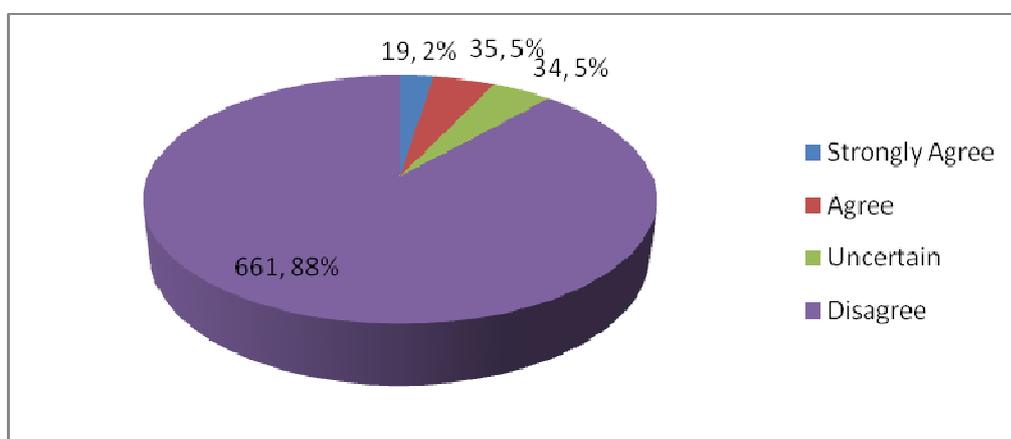


Figure 5.2

The above figure shows that only 2% respondents strongly agree with Software used for Institutional Repository & Digital Library, 5% respondents agree with it, 5% respondents are uncertain while 88% do not seem to be aware with it.

5.3 Are you satisfied about sufficient number of Computers, Internet Nodes and Digital material in library?

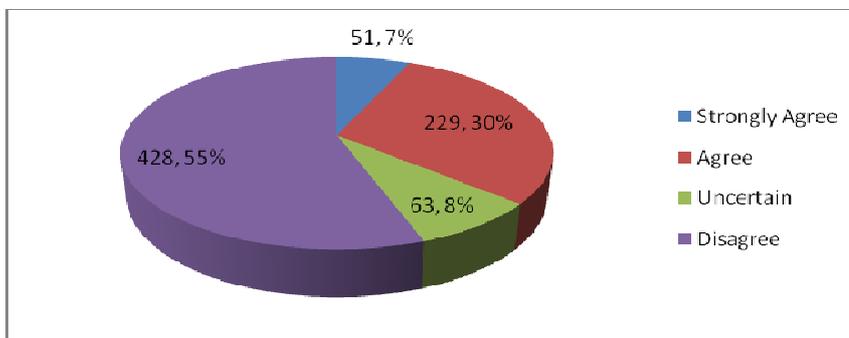


Figure 5.3

The above figure shows that the 7% strongly agree and are satisfied about the number of computers, Internet Nodes and Digital material available in library, 30% respondents agree with it, 8% respondents are uncertain and 55% disagree with it. The survey shows that yet the libraries do not have sufficient ICT infrastructure and digital material in their respective libraries. It is, therefore, suggested that college authorities and administrators should provide adequate funds on rational basis for the development of proper ICT infrastructure.

5.4 Are you satisfied about sufficient number of computers, Internet Nodes and Digital material in library?

The figure shows that the 7% strongly agree with sufficient number of computers, Internet Nodes and digital material in library, 30% respondent agree with it, 8% respondent are uncertain and 55% disagree with it.

Table-5.4

Variables	Ayurvedic (1/39)/ Medical institutes (3/156) Total-4/195	Government colleges (10/247)	Private colleges (10/338)	Frequency (24/780)
Strongly agree	21(11%)	18(7%)	7(2%)	46(6%)
Agree	81(42%)	78(32%)	71(21%)	230(29%)
Uncertain	12(6%)	42(17%)	86(25%)	140(18%)
Disagree	81(41%)	109(44%)	174(52%)	364(47%)

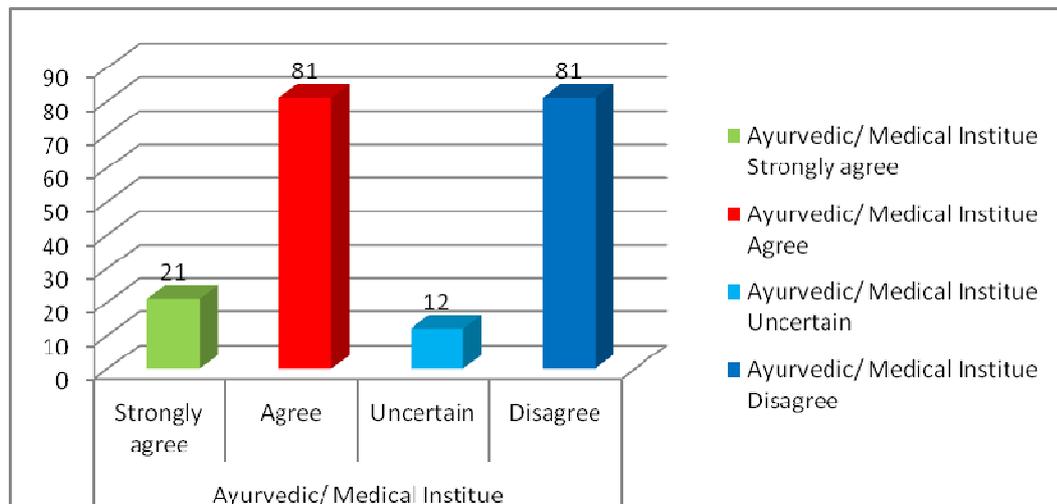


Figure 5.4

On comparing the responses for satisfaction level about sufficient number of computers, Internet Nodes and digital material in library we found that ayurvedic/ medical institutes, government colleges and private colleges varied in responses. 21(11%) respondents from ayurvedic/medical institutes strongly agreed whereas 18(7%) and 7(2%) respondents from government and private colleges respectively also strongly agreed. 81(42%), 78(32%) and 71(21%) respondents respectively agreed while 12(6%), 42(17%) and 86(25%) respondents are uncertain respectively. 81(41%) respondents from ayurvedic/medical institutes disagreed whereas from government and private colleges the number of respondents which disagreed are 109(44%) and 274(52%) respectively.

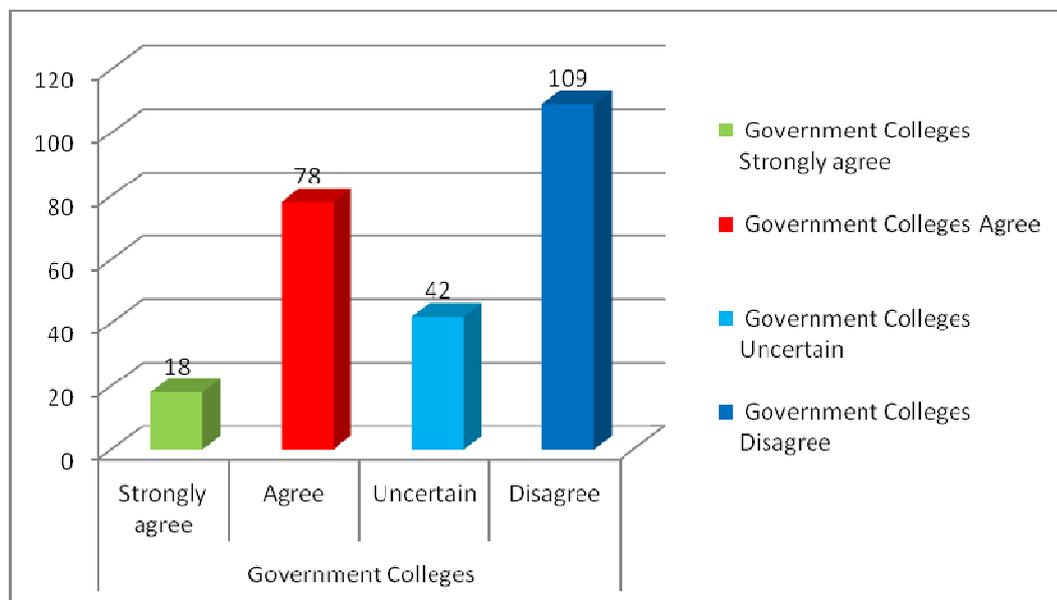


Figure 5.5

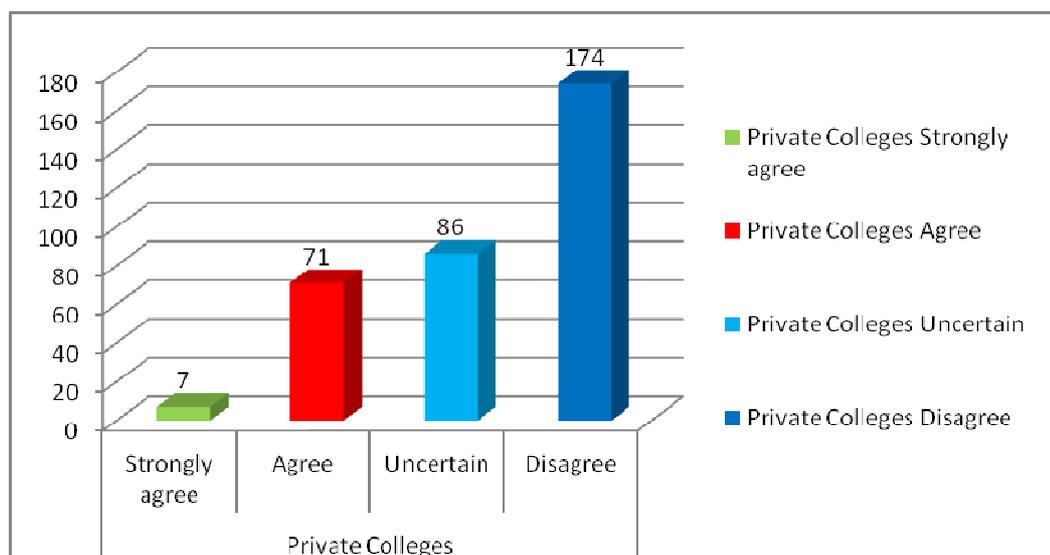


Figure 5.6

More than half of the respondents are not satisfied with the computer node, internet facility and digital material available in the library. The reason behind is that most of libraries don't have computer, internet and digital material and also they don't have ICT skilled staff, for that top management and government should made a policy and take necessary action to make available these facilities to the library and appoint ICT skill staff and provide training to the existing staff.

Conclusion

The emerging technologies have vigorously changed the way information is gathered, organized, accessed, stored and dissemination. e-resources are the need for research and academic activities and help in faster access and retrieval of information in various disciplines. Looking at the present position of information explosion and ability in acquiring it, it is on the part of the library staff to create more awareness about the e-resource availability among the users and provide them a user friendly environment so that they can make a better use of the digital library facility. The user in the library requires training in handling the e-resources and users need an orientation for using them. Library user should be provided proper training, which will help them acquiring more sophisticated searching and retrieval skills. The librarians' role has to be redefined in view of technological developments keeping in mind the best interest of users and retrieval efficiency.

References

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