USE OF LIBRARY WEB OPAC IN MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE, JAGADHRI: A STUDY

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Abstract: The study on the utilization of the Library Web OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) in Maharaja Agrasen College, Jagadhri, delves into the patterns and behaviours of students in accessing and utilizing the digital resources provided by the library. This research aims to uncover the extent of awareness, frequency of usage, and satisfaction levels among students regarding the Web OPAC services.

Employing a one method approach, the study gathers data through surveys and seeks to comprehend the students' familiarity with the OPAC interface, their preferences in searching for academic resources, and the challenges they encounter during navigation and information retrieval. Additionally, the study examines the role of library staff in facilitating and promoting the use of the Web OPAC system.

The findings of this research will contribute to enhancing the effectiveness and accessibility of the library's digital resources. Recommendations based on the study's outcomes aim to improve user experience, refine system functionality, and strengthen support mechanisms, thereby fostering a more user-friendly and efficient Web OPAC platform. Ultimately, this study endeavours to optimize the utilization of digital library resources to better serve the academic needs of Maharaja Agrasen College students in Jagadhri.

Keywords: Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), Web OPAC, Library automation, MAC library, Library Services, Library Software, Maharaja Agrasen College, Jagadhri

1.0 Introduction

Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is one of the automated services being provided in libraries with the help of Software. By using the OPAC users can search and retrieve the bibliographical records as well as periodical records. This web OPAC provides only basic search which is executed with few alphabets. It find the record of books/journals/magazines/newspapers with quantity, the status of a document, location of a document. This research investigates into the comprehensive usage and efficiency of the library's online catalogue system among the students and staff. The Web-OPAC access search points such as title, author, main subject, sub subject, keyword, call number, location number, accession number, publisher, series etc. Through a systematic analysis, this examination endeavours to offer a detailed understanding of how the Library Web OPAC facilitates finding and access to e-resources and enhances the learning environment at Maharaja Agrasen College.

1.1 Maharaja Agrasen College Jagadhri: A Brief Introduction

Maharaja Agrasen College, Jagadhri established in 1971 has traversed a long way, moving decisively toward its goal of becoming one of the leading institutions dedicated to imparting quality education to the students. The Kurukshetra University accorded recognition to the College in 1972 under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956.

The college is making consistent progress in both academic as well as co-curricular segments. The college is running the following courses such as:

B.A.: with Hindi, English, Economics, Political Science, History, Public Administration, Sociology, Physical Education, Computer, Environmental Studies, and Commercial Arts., B. Com General, B.Com with Computer Application (vocational), B.Com with Insurance (vocational), B.Com with Tax Procedures and Practices (vocational), B.Sc. Non-Medical, M.Com, M.A.(Hindi), M.A.(Economics)

The college has been providing University toppers consistently for several years now, especially in B. Com. The cultural programs and talent shows organized in the college give immense opportunities to the students to refine their abilities and endowments in various skills. The college serves as a regular platform for intra and inter-college events. Conferences, seminars and workshops are held regularly. Due emphasis is laid on sports, NCC, NSS, moral education and Environmental studies.

The college has valuable assets like a computerized, well-stocked and up-to-date library, separate common rooms for boys and girls, a conference hall fitted with high-tech equipment and audio/visual facilities to organize seminars, debates, conferences, panel discussions, etc. It also has state of the art communication lab and computers lab. Hostel facility for Girls is available in the college campus.

The teaching faculty of the College is highly qualified and deeply committed to the cause of teaching and research. The alumni of the College are well-placed in the fields of management, banking, government services and academics. Many are successfully managing their business establishments.

2.0 Objectives of the Study

> ➢ To find the Awareness of the OPAC;
> ➢ To find the ICT skills of users
> ➢ Satisfaction level of user to find the document using OPAC
> ➢ Find out the problems faced by users
> ➢ To estimate users need and find assistance of library staff to use the OPAC

3.0 Scope of the Study

The study is confined to the faculty members, UG (Undergraduate) students and PG (Postgraduate) students of Maharaja Agrasen College, Jagadhri.

2.0 Methodology

The survey method of research has been adopted to conduct this study. For this purpose, a questionnaire was designed to collect information. Random sampling are used for collecting data. Total 150 questionnaires were distributed among the students and staff. Users submitted the 125 responses out of 150. The distribution of respondents was as below:-

Table-1 Library Member-wise Responses

Member Type	No. of Responses	Percentage
UG Students	85	68
PG Students	25	20
Faculty Members	15	12
Total	125	100

3.0 Data Analysis and Findings

3.1 Gender-wise Representation of Respondents

Gender -wise representation of respondents is shown in Table 2. It reveals that out of total 125 respondents, 61 (48.8%) respondents are male and 64 (51.2%) are female.

Table-2 Gender-wise Responses

Gender	No. of Responses	Percentage
Male	61	48.8
Female	64	51.2
Total	125	100

3.2 Class-wise Representation of Respondents

Class -wise representation of respondents is shown in Table 3. Users of different categories are from various classes. Users are grouped under four class viz., BA, B.Com., M.Com, Faculty Members.

Table-3 Class-wise Responses

Class	No. of Responses	Percentage
BA	40	32
B.Com.	45	36
M.Com.	25	20
Faculty Members	15	12
Total	125	100

The table-3 reveals 40 (32%) users from BA, 45 (36%) from B.Com., 25 (20%) from M.Com., and 15 (12%) from Faculty Members.

3.3 Age-wise Representation of Respondents

Age -wise representation of respondents is shown in Table 4. Age of different groups are from various age categories. Age are grouped under four group viz., Below 25 Years, Between 26-30, Between 31-35 and Above 35.

Table-4 Age-wise Responses

Age	No. of Responses	Percentage
Below 25 Years	97	77.6
Between 26-30	14	11.2
Between 31-35	9	7.2
Above 35	5	4
Total	125	100

The table-4 reveals 97 (77.6%) age group from Below 25 Years, 14 (11.2%) age group from Between 26-30, 9 (7.2%) age group from Between 31-35, 5 (4%) age group from Above 35.

3.4 Awareness of Usages of Web-OPAC

Table 5 presents the awareness of users about the existence of OPAC service. 111 (88.8%) out of 125 users are aware of OPAC, whereas only 14 (11.2%) users are not aware of OPAC service. It can be observed from the table that most of the users are aware of OPAC facility available in the library.

Table-5   Awareness of Usages of Web-OPAC Responses

Awareness	No. of Responses	Percentage
Yes	111	88.8
No	14	11.2
Total	125	100

3.5 Skill for Usages of Web-OPAC

Table 6 presents the skill of users about the usages of OPAC service. 60 (48%) users out of 125 users have skill for using of Web-OPAC, whereas 65 (52%) users are not have skill of usages of OPAC service. It can be observed from the table that most of the users have not skill for using of Web-OPAC facility available in the library.

Table-6 Skill for Usages-Responses

Skill	No. of Responses	Percentage
Yes	60	48
No	65	52
Total	125	100

3.6 Purpose of Using OPAC

Table 7 presents the purpose of using about the existence of OPAC service. Purpose of using of different questions are from various purpose categories. Purposes are framed under four questions viz., Check Availability of documents, Find the status of documents, Find the location of documents, and Reserve the documents.

Table-7 Purpose of using-Responses

Purpose	No. of Responses	Percentage
Check Availability of documents	40	32
Find the status of documents	27	21.6
Find the location of documents	46	36.8
Reserve the documents	12	9.6
Total	125	100

The table-7 reveals 40 (32%) users agree with Check Availability of documents, 27 (21.6%) users agree with Find the status of documents, 46 (36.8%) users agree with Find the location of documents, 12 (9.6%) users agree with Reserve the documents.

3.7 Device used for accessing Web-OPAC

Table 8 presents the device used by users for accessing Web-OPAC. 85 (68%) users out of 125 users are used the Mobile device for accessing Web-OPAC, 2 (1.6%) users are used the Tablets device for accessing Web-OPAC, 16 (12.8%) users are used the Laptop device for accessing Web-OPAC, 22 (17.6%) users are used the Computer device for accessing Web-OPAC. It can be observed from the table that most of the users are used the Mobile device for accessing Web-OPAC.

Table-8 Device used for Accessing-Responses

Device	No. of Responses	Percentage
Mobile	85	68
Tablets	2	1.6
Laptop	16	12.8
Computer	22	17.6
Total	125	100

3.8 Problem faced in using of Web-OPAC

Table 9 reveals the problem faced by users in using Web-OPAC. 66 (52.8%) users out of 125 users have problem faced due to Slow speed in using Web-OPAC, 16 (12.8%) users have problem faced due to Interface not good in using Web-OPAC, 25(20%) users have problem faced due to Internet Problem in using Web-OPAC, 8 (6.4%) users have problem faced due to Typical Searching in using Web-OPAC and 10 (8%) users have problem faced due to Lack of library staff in using Web-OPAC. It can be observed from the table that most of the users are faced problem of slow speed in using Web-OPAC.

Table-9 Problem faced in using-Responses

Problem Facing	No. of Responses	Percentage
Slow speed	66	52.8
Interface not good	16	12.8
Internet Problem	25	20
Typical Searching	8	6.4
Lack of library staff	10	8
Total	125	100

3.9 Satisfaction level of Web-OPAC

Table 10 reveals the satisfaction level of users for using Web-OPAC. 97 (77.6%) out of 125 users have strongly satisfied level for using Web-OPAC, 11 (8.8%) users have satisfied level for using Web-OPAC, 10 (8%) users have neutral level for using Web-OPAC, 4 (3.2%) users have dissatisfied level for using Web-OPAC and 3 (2.4%) users have strongly dissatisfied level for using Web-OPAC. It can be observed from the table that most of the users have strongly satisfaction level for using Web-OPAC provided by the library.

Table-10 Satisfaction level-Responses

Satisfaction Level	No. of Responses	Percentage
Strongly satisfied	97	77.6
Satisfied	11	8.8
Neutral	10	8
Dissatisfied	4	3.2
Strongly Dissatisfied	3	2.4
Total	125	100

4.0 Conclusion and Suggestions

The utilization of a Library Web OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) at Maharaja Agrasen College, Jagadhri, presents an opportunity to enhance accessibility and streamline information retrieval. Implementing user-friendly interfaces and comprehensive search features could significantly benefit students and faculty. Suggestions include regular workshops to familiarize users with advanced search techniques, ensuring database updates for current resources, and incorporating user feedback for continual improvements. Such measures would augment the effectiveness of the system, fostering a more efficient academic environment. In conclusion,

optimizing the Library Web OPAC aligns with the college's commitment to providing robust academic support, empowering users to harness the full potential of available resources.

6.0 References

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