ABSTRACT

The study on “Adoption of Web 2.0 Technologies in the National Libraries of the World: A Comparative and Evaluative Study”, discusses the general background and basic concepts of Web 2.0 technologies and tools, aimed at finding how Web 2.0 tools helps in superior level collaboration and communication with the national library and users or readers. The investigator has tried to find out the world national libraries that are adopting Web 2.0 tools like RSS, Blogs, Wikis, YouTube etc. for sharing information to the readers. National library is a very large reference library with vast infrastructure in the country. So the common people physically cannot reach easily the national library. The web 2.0 tools and technologies supports the national libraries in a significant manner, it will contribute to the nation’s collection building and sharing knowledge, allows users to interact and collaborate with each other in a social media enabled dialogue in a virtual environment.

The study also put effort to find on the evaluation of web 2.0 applications in the libraries worldwide, especially in the case of national libraries and from the review of literature, it has found that there are considerably fair numbers of publications available on Web 2.0 technologies. In a normal circumstance every national library has its own websites. As expected, in the last few years most of them national libraries have official websites. So this study, the researcher attempted to identify the adoption of Web 2.0 technologies in national libraries along with the purposes, features and evaluation of functional level of Web 2.0 tools.

The result of the study shows that more than half of the national libraries (109, 63.7%) aware of the Web 2.0 technologies. The study is more helpful to identified continent wise comparison study of the adoption of Web 2.0 in the national libraries,
it was found that 45 (26.3%) national libraries from Europe have highly adopted Web 2.0 technologies. Web 2.0 tools wise comparison also found that, 87 national libraries (79.8%) have the highest adoption of Social Networking Sites and followed by RSS in 66 national libraries (60.0%).

In this research the continent wise comparison of functional Levels of Web 2.0 technologies in the national libraries, developmental status of the countries and implementation of Web 2.0 in national libraries have been studied.