CHAPTER - 05

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 MAJOR FINDINGS & CONCLUSION

1. Out of Total 477 Respondents, 251 (52.62%) are Male & 226 (47.37%) are Female this is slight variation seen in the ratio.

2. It is observed that 317 (66.45%) respondents belong to the age group below 25 years. It is clear & evident that majority of users belong to the age group below 25 years.

3. It was found from Table No. 4.5, in the present study that 460 (96.41%) users are aware of OPAC facility in all the four University Libraries. Which Indicates that “Library users are aware about the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)” Hypotheses- 1 is proved.

4. From Table No. 4.6, Majority of the respondents are found to be using OPAC Very Frequently & Frequently. Out of all the Four University Libraries Only SRTMUN, Nanded shows slightly lower results for using OPAC very frequently and a Large Number of Users are using OPAC. Which Indicates that “Library users are utilizing the available Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) Service” Hypotheses- 2 is proved.

5. From the study we can conclude that the major reasons for not using OPAC is Lack of Computer Knowledge & Lack of Online Help.

6. From Table No 4.8, It reveals that Card Catalogue is used to Search the Document’s by users who never use OPAC.

7. The study reveals from Table No. 4.10 that Simple Search is used by Maximum Number of Respondents i.e. 376 (83.37%) out of 451 (100%)
Hence If the Initial Approach Fails, the System does not assist by Providing Alternative Search Strategy. Which indicates that “When the user’s initial approach fails, system do not assist by providing alternative search strategy” Hypotheses- 3 is proved.

8. It is observed from the Table No. 4.11 that Title & Author are most used Access Point.

9. It can be seen from Table No. 4.12 that Books and Reference Books are searched extensively in all the Four Libraries.

10. From the Table 4.13 it is observed that 411 (91.14%) out of 451 (100) no of users are able to locate the documents of their interest from their library OPAC.

11. It is observed from Table No. 4.13.1 that Rate of Success of Locating Documents of Interest from OPAC is 50%.

12. It is seen from Table No.4.14, 253 (56.01%) out of 451 (100) respondents Learned how to Use OPAC from Library Course or Orientation

13. Out 451 Respondents 386(85.58%) Users are Awareness of User Orientation Programme using OPAC and the percentage User Orientation Programme is slightly higher in SRTMU Nanded.

14. It is clear from the Table 4.15.1 that those who attend the orientation programme in majority of cases opines that it helps in searching OPAC. Almost this kind of observation is found in all the Four University Libraries.

15. The Table No. 4.16, illustrates that 59 (13.08%) users say that library staff is always available near OPAC, 112 (24.83%) users say library staff usually available, 145 (32.15%) say library staff occasionally available, 38 (8.42%) say library staff rarely available and 97 (21.50%) say library staff never
available near OPAC. It is clear from the data that a large group of users say that library staff is occasionally & usually available near OPAC.

16. From the Survey it can be inferred that a large portion of users says that the number of available Computer is Adequate.

17. The Table No. 4.18 it reveals the 50(11.08%) out of 451 users opine very fast, 99 (21.95%) opine fast speed of OPAC, 136 (30.15%) opine moderately fast speed of OPAC, 42 (9.31%) opine slow speed & 42 (9.31%) opine very slow search speed of OPAC computer.

18. From Table No. 4.19, we can conclude that OPAC was easier than expected; it is comfortable with Simple and Quick Search. The respondents were comfortable while using OPAC.

19. From the Survey It is clear from Table No. 4.20, that the satisfaction level of OPAC among the users is more in all the Four University Libraries. Which Indicates that “Users are satisfied with the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)” Hypotheses- 4 is proved.

20. From Table No. 4.21, Highest Number of respondents feels that when a full, detailed OPAC record for a Book was displayed, easy to read that Display to find specific Information about the Book(s) was the Post Search Perception about Library OPAC

21. It is clear from the data furnished in the Table No. 4.22, that the users from all the Four University Library are influenced by the impact of OPAC.

22. Table 4.23, analyses the association between gender and frequency of use of OPAC. The test results reveal that the significance of Chi-square value is 0.006 (<0.05). Hence, the gender and frequency of use of OPAC are associated. It is observed from the table that overall, majority of users
belonging to both genders use OPAC almost regularly, while male users use slightly very frequently of OPAC facility. Thus, the gender of user affects the frequency of use of OPAC.

5.2 TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

The Hypotheses mentioned in the Present Study were tested with the Help of Available Responses. The details in this Respect are as under

1. It was found from Table No. 4.5, in the present study that 460 (96.41%) users are aware of OPAC facility in all the four University Libraries. Hence Hypotheses- 1 is proved.

2. From Table No. 4.6, Majority of the respondents are found to be using OPAC Very Frequently & Frequently. Out of all the Four University Libraries Only SRTMUN, Nanded shows slightly lower results for using OPAC very frequently and a Large Number of Users are using OPAC Hence Hypotheses- 2 is proved.

3. The study reveals from Table No. 4.10 that Simple Search is used by Maximum Number of Respondents i.e. 376 (83.37%) out of 451 (100%) Hence If the Initial Approach Fails, the System does not assist by Providing Alternative Search Strategy. Hence Hypotheses- 3 is proved.

4. From the Survey It is clear from Table No. 4.20, that the satisfaction level of OPAC among the users is more in all the Four University Libraries. Hence Hypotheses- 4 is proved.
5.3 SUGGESTION

On the basis of observations and findings of this research study, following suggestions are given:

1. Orientation program is organized by all the four university Libraries of Maharashtra. It is organized once in a year & the study reveals that orientation program improves the knowledge & skills & how to use OPAC. Hence it is suggested that it should be organized quarterly.

2. Special training can be given to the library staff for effective usage of OPAC.

3. Through orientation program is organized by the university libraries, still they have to adapt some contemporary & encouraging method to increase orientation program.

4. It is clear from the present study that there is a lack of awareness about Boolean and Truncation searching methods among the users of the four university libraries. Therefore, the users should be made more accustomed to these searching methods to utilize OPAC optimally.

5. It is reveal from the study that only a small segment of user use OPAC. By subject and keywords. Some initiatives must be taken by the library staff to make the users acquainted with other Access Points of OPAC

6. It is evident from the present study that the users have not acquired adequate knowledge and basic skills of searching OPAC in the four university libraries. Hence, they are not expert searchers of OPAC. In such a situation, they need the assistance from library staff to accelerate them near OPAC terminals for productive and maximum utilization of this service.
7. Workshops, tutorials, lectures, demonstrations on OPAC should be arranged by the library under study for making the users familiar with the facilities of OPAC. As on other program is organized expect orientation program.

8. To make the searching of OPAC to its maximum the four universities librarian may establish a Forum where the users can meet twice or three times in a year to discuss the usage of OPAC.

9. It is suggested that the software developers should introduce simpler search options and Video Help Buttons to use OPAC effectively.

10. The users need user-friendly onscreen help how to start the search process to get satisfactory the search results. Therefore, the library software developers should integrate on-screen help which is easy to understand to the users. It should provide step-by-step instructions.

11. The users sometimes do not know that they have misspelled their search terms. They spelling errors correction and frustrate with search failure. Therefore, all OPACs need to add automatic error correction programming. Feedback like ‘Please check your spelling’ or ‘Did you mean to search for’ can be very helpful to users.

12. Except LibSys, SOUL 2.0 OPACs do not offer the provision of new arrivals, separate search option for journals and the provision for patrons to see the information regarding the books on loan, over dues, Online Reservations etc. Therefore, the features should be added in SOUL 2.0.

13. Feedback Form for users to comment or suggestions should be included in OPAC features as it is useful for the library to improve OPAC services. It is suggested that library software developers should include the same.
14. Once OPAC is added to the library, it is duty of the library staff to create awareness about the new OPAC among the users to move towards the library.

15. All the Four Libraries are Suggested that they should install WEB-OPAC and give a Hyperlink on their Library Webpage and it should be available 24/7 to search.

5.4 AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

In view of the present research, the following recommendations may be carried out:

1. The study is confined only to university libraries of Maharashtra. Therefore, this study can be extended to various university libraries in different parts of the country.

2. Further studies can be undertaken on OPAC in special libraries in different states of India.

3. To make the study more comprehensive and comparable, further research can be carried out on the users’ point of view by involving various universities from different parts of India on a single OPAC system installed at different university libraries.

The Chapter is followed by Bibliography