The Internet gains its popularity from the perception that it answers all queries with the click of a mouse. The internet today has become one of the most important modes of communication and its services are being exploited by people in every walk of life such as business, education, defence, medicine, etc. The internet is a vast electronic library made up of millions of pages of information stored in hundreds of thousands of linked computers at the globe. The Web has brought to the desk top, not only metadata sources like bibliographic databases and table of contents, but also full text of journals, preprints, technical reports, patents, courseware, etc. In the field of library and information science, the Internet has become one of the most popular and talked about subject. In fact the library profession is one that has been most intensely affected by the challenges of internet and the World Wide Web. The shift from collection management to information management, from ownership to access, and the change in nature, boundaries and structure of information all call for a change in mind set of library professionals.

The emergence of this information superhighway challenges academic libraries to provide web-based reference services to their university populations. Nowadays, more and more academic libraries are developing their own websites. The emphasis has shifted from possessing printed materials to providing access to information via the web. The Internet will continue to serve as a prime gateway to information sources.

The recent years have seen the emergence of websites as an ideal medium through which knowledge and information can be disseminated very efficiently to every corner of the world. Libraries also use their websites for disseminating information among users and to popularize their services. Content richness of library websites depends upon its collection, services, facilities, administrative support and updating policy. These features are nothing but the content quality of library websites. It includes both qualitative and quantitative aspects of information on the library websites. Evaluating library websites through content awareness is one of the methods for measuring usefulness of websites.
Nowadays, any automated library aims at having its own home page or web site in order to present itself and its services to the users who increasingly prefer to interact electronically with the information resources available. Concerning the development of digital or virtual libraries and information centres, the presence on the WWW is crucial. When a user accesses such a home page in order to explore the information resources available, the structure, information and graphic design may facilitate or impede use. A well-arranged and logically constructed home page that includes relevant information in pleasant and inviting graphic surroundings will – other things being equal – give the user a positive experience and possibly stimulate into future use.

The study has been conducted with the objective of examining the university library websites of West Bengal and to analyze the patterns of information available on the Website. The study is carried out in analytical method using self-check questionnaire. The output of the study is intended for the research purpose only. The final output or results has nothing to do with the organization concerned or quality of the University Libraries of West Bengal. There is no intention of the researcher to defame any Library or Librarian. This is only a personal viewpoint.

Place: Guwahati

Date: ............

(Sharmila Bose)