Chapter-1

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1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Recent past has witnessed a volumetric growth of documents in print as well as electronic format. A journal is a periodical publication, especially dealing with matters of current interest, it may be in hard or soft form, printed journals refer to conventional printed edition published and distributed as hard copies, on the other hand electronic journals refer to: First journals that are otherwise published in printed form and are now made available in digital form; and Second electronic only journals which do not necessarily need a publisher and which can be managed by an editor and a scholarly community. We can also say the journal editions available online are called online-journals.

The emergence of the Internet particularly the WWW as a new medium of information storage and delivery represents a revolution, which would have a lasting impact on the publishing and information delivery system in the 21st century, increasing number of publishers are using the Internet as a global way to offer their publications to the international community of scientist and technologists.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the present study is to find out the use of online-journals by the M.Phil/Ph.D. students. The objectives are as follows:

1. To find out the awareness about the online-journals by M.Phil/Ph.D. students.
2. To know the preference of the M.Phil/Ph.D. students about the place of accessing online-journals, i.e. Maulana Azad Library, Computer Centre or their own department of studies.

3. To know the purpose of using the online-journals.

4. To seek the need orientation/training programme to search online-journals.

5. To assess and evaluate the degree of utilization of online-journals by the M.Phil/Ph.D. students.

6. To assess the level of satisfaction of M.Phil/Ph.D. students with the online-journals service in Maulana Azad Library.

7. To measure satisfaction level with the accessibility and speed of internet facility.

8. To know the influence of online-journals on research efficiency.

9. To find out the problems faced by M.Phil/Ph.D. students while using online-journals services and explore solutions.

10. To provide necessary suggestions for further improvement of the use of the online-journals.

1.2 SELECTION OF THE PROBLEM

The problem selected for the present study entitled "Access to Online-journals in Maulana Azad Library: A user survey". The problem deals with the use of online-journals in Maulana Azad Library. M.Phil/Ph.D. students have realized the advantage of the online-journals and seem to have accepted as the primary medium for their research work. At present most of the university libraries are actively engaged in incorporating online-journals and provide them much needed primary research information. Maulana Azad Library is providing faster access to
online-journals to meet the academic community’s expectations. It is essential to know how far the research scholars are making use of online-journals. Hence the need is felt to know in detail to study the use, find problem related with retrieval of online-journals and make suggestion for effective and efficient use of it.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the present study is restricted to the M.Phil/Ph.D. students who are enrolled in the Maulana Azad Library and use the online-journals for their research work.

1.4 HYPOTHESIS

To study the access the online-journals in Maulana Azad Library, following hypothesis has been formulated.

1) M.Phil/Ph.D. students are aware of online-journals.
2) M.Phil/Ph.D. students are facing problems with accessing online-journals.
3) The research scholars are aware of UGC-INFONET Consortium.
4) User training is required to make the services more effective.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

Survey is the most important tool for advancing knowledge for promoting progress and for enabling man to relate more effectively to his environment of accomplishes his purpose. There are several techniques available for collecting data such as (1) Questionnaire Method (2) Interview Method (3) Observation Method (4) Schedule Method (5) Interview by Telephone.
For this study the investigator has used questionnaire, observation and interview methods for the collection of data.

1.5.1 Questionnaire Method

Questionnaire is a tool to collect the data from the diverse large and widely scattered group. It is called the heart of survey operation. The important step in this method is to take care is the design of questions. Questionnaire is given to the person concerned and asks for the opinion or factual information. The questions are formed in such a way that the relation of one question to another can be readily apparent to the respondent, question sequence must be clear and the respondents have to answer the question on their own level.

Open Questionnaire

In this type of questionnaire no answer is given against question. Respondent supply the answer in his own words.

Closed Questionnaire

In this type of questionnaire answer is given against the question. The respondent has to select the alternative answer written against the question, so the work of the respondent is to indicate his/her choice.

1.5.2 Observation Method

This is normally employed in measuring, testing, characterizing human behaviour by the way of the investigators own behaviour, without interviewing the respondent. In this method we observe the things which are happening around us. In this method the investigator observes in relation to what is currently happening and is not related to either past or future intentions of users. This is totally gained by experience himself/herself.
1.5.3 Interview Method

The interview method is direct and has greater flexibility. According to Young “Interview is a systematic method by which a person enters more or less imaginatively into the life of a comparative stranger”. This method is unique because the collection of data is through direct verbal interaction between the individuals. In this method investigator ask some questions to the users and library staff relating to services and facilities provided by library.

1.6 TOOLS USED FOR STUDY

Questionnaire, Observation and Interview are used as the tool for the study.

1.7 SAMPLE POPULATION

The present study is conducted on a sample of total number of 50 M.Phil/Ph.D. students those who enrolled in Maulana Azad Library. Out of which 48 questionnaires from M.Phil and 57 questionnaires from Ph.D. students were received back to the investigator, out of which 45 questionnaires by M.Phil students and 48 questionnaires by Ph.D. students were found to be complete and were thus selected for the analysis and interpretation of data.

1.8 VARIABLES TAKEN

In order to achieve the objective of the study M.Phil/Ph.D. students who use online-journals in Maulana Azad Library, were taken as variables for detail analysis.

1.9 PILOT SURVEY

The pilot survey/study ensures the present questionnaires are relevant and meaningful to the average respondent and to decide which
questions were relevant for the purpose of the study. The investigator distributed questionnaires among 25 M.Phil/Ph.D. students for the pilot survey which was helpful in modifying the questionnaire suitably.

1.10 DATA COLLECTION

The investigator personally distributed the questionnaire to M.Phil/Ph.D. students followed by an informal talk regarding various aspects of the libraries. Besides this observation method was also used to observe the effective use of online-journals.

1.11 DATA ANALYSIS METHOD

Data collected through questionnaire was organised and tabulated by using statistical method of research. One important characteristic is that, this method does not study any individual, but a group of individuals. Secondly it is the method which is quantitative rather than qualitative.

1.12 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

In view of the short time available to conduct research as a part of M.L.I.Sc. programme, where a few restrictions were imposed. So that the whole study is confined to a few parameters. The major limitation of the present study consists of only the using online-journals; second limitation is geographical area, restricted to Maulana Azad Library, AMU, Aligarh and the third the type of user i.e. only M.Phil/Ph.D. students.