Chapter-3

METHODOLOGY
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This chapter deals with the methodology used in the study and has been discussed under the following headings:

- Selection of the problem
- Significance of the study
- Need and Purpose of the study
- Objectives of the study
- Methodology
- Limitations of the study

Selection of the Problem

The problem selected for the present study is entitled “Web based Products and Services of National Information Centers: A Study”. The problem deals with the overall assessment of web based information products and services in information centers on the basis of introduction, purpose, scope, types, features etc.

Need and Purpose of the study

Due to information explosion in the internet era, various types of resources are available on the web. So majority of the users are not aware about the information products and services provided by the information centers. This type of study is very much needed to make users aware about what are the categories of information products and services and what types of products and services are provided by the information centers.

Purpose of the study is to throw light on those products and services provided by the selected information centers.
Significance of the study
Information products and services are the most important assets of information centers. But due to enormous amount of internet resources/web resources, users may not pay attention to various information products and services provided by different information centers. Information centers play a very important role in providing information services to the society. Variety of information is available on the websites of information centers in different forms. Users can take help of those products and services for their study, knowledge and research purposes. So this study will be very helpful for creating awareness about the information products and services provided by the Information Centers.

Objectives of the Study
The main objectives of the study are as follows

- Study information products and services in information centers available on the web.
- Identify and enumerate the information products and services of information centers available on the web.

Methodology
The investigator located the information products and services on the internet by putting the keyword ‘Information Centers’ in three popular search engines namely ‘Google’ ‘MSN’ and ‘Yahoo’, thus a number of information products and services were retrieved. It was not possible for the investigator to evaluate all the retrieved information products and services of different information centres. Thus investigator went through information centers and selected only (6) information center’s products and services for detailed study due to time constraint.
Limitations of the study

This study is limited to the Information Centers in India. Information about the products and the services are taken from the center’s websites.

List of Selected National Information Centers

1. INFLIBNET
   http://www.inflibnet.ac.in

2. DELNET
   http://delnet.nic.in

3. NISCAIR
   http://www.niscair.res.in

4. NIC (National Informatics Centre)
   http://www.nic.in

5. SAARC Documentation Centre
   http://www.saarc-sec.org

6. Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore centre
   http://www.isibang.ac.in