CHAPTER VI
FINDINGS
6.1 Introduction

The chapter is spread over various sections comprising findings of the study based on analysis of data on "Development of Web Resources in select fields of Social Sciences with a view to design a model Subject Gateway". The various findings are listed under different headings, in order to mark the development of Web resources from different perspectives surveying different Web resource providers like Project Muse, Directory of Open Access Journals, Online Version of Ulrichs Periodical Directory, California Digital Library, Oxford Scholarship Online; and University of Derby's e-Book Project.

Web resources have skyrocketed with the emergence of World Wide Web and are still accelerating. These are becoming leading information and learning resources.

6.2 Quantitative Development of Web Resources in Social Sciences

a) A total of 6,861 Web resources developed with Social Science titles amounting to 2,978 forming 43.40%.

b) 656 online journals in Social Sciences comprise 20.46%, out of a total score of 3,205.

c) 2,322 online books form 63.51%, out of a total of 3,656 titles.

6.3 Subject Wise Development of Web Resources in Social Sciences

The following paragraphs outline development of Web resources in Social Sciences.

a) Education ranks first with a total of 160 journal titles forming 24.39%.

b) Education is followed by General Social Science discipline with a score of 80 journals comprising 12.19%.
c) Library and Information Science ranks third with a score of 44 journal titles making 6.70% of the whole collection.

d) The other fields like Psychology, History and Political Science confirm 39 (5.94%); 33 (5.03%) and 32 (4.87%) titles respectively. On the other hand, fields like Gender Studies (including Women Studies, Sexuality and Gay and Lesbian Studies), Economics, Media and Communication, Anthropology and Law also are gaining impetus with 26 (3.96%); 22 (3.35%); 22 (3.35%); 19 (2.89%); and 15 (2.28%) journals respectively. Other disciplines having a meager presence are also identified. (Tables 5.1.2, 5.2.2 and 5.3.2). (Chapter V)

The intensity of the subjects representing online books also differs from discipline to discipline representing Social Sciences. These disciplines have widened their sphere in the online books store also.

a) Politics leads the other disciplines with a total of 334 titles forming 14.38%.

b) The second rank is occupied by Economics, scoring 308 (13.26%) titles.

c) History ranks third with 261 (11.24%) books.

d) The other fields like Gender Studies (including Women Studies and Men and Masculinity) with 157 (6.76%); Social Problems and Services scoring 118 (5.08%); Anthropology amounting to 83 (3.57%) and Law with an output of 33 (1.42) titles show less growth. The fields like General Social Sciences and Education that surpassed the other disciplines in online journals category show little score in terms of online book production with 19 (0.81%) and 18 (0.77%) book titles respectively. Psychology also shows a very little score of 4 (0.17%) books only. The detailed subject wise development of online books is given in Tables 5.4.2, 5.5.2 and 5.6.2 of chapter V.

e) The general picture shows that Political Science surpass other subjects with 12.29% resources followed by Economics and History constituting 11.08% and 9.87% of the total Web resources in Social Sciences.
6.4 Chronological Development of Web Resources in Social Sciences

The chronological development of Web resources is evident as a total of 656 online journals have taken birth during the previous years.

a) It is seen that a total of 4 (0.60%) journals came into existence in 1990. The year 1991 and 1992 however saw a halt in the addition of online journals to Web. The year 1993, 1994 and 1995 however saw an increase of 3 (0.45%), 3 (0.45%) and 10 (1.52) journals respectively. Thus, the race that started in 1990's began to increase its arena with the passing time. However, as compared to earlier years 1996 witnessed a mushroom growth of online journals with a score of 21 (3.20%) new titles. The speed slowed down in 1997 and 1998 with only 5 (0.76%) and 6 (0.91%) journals. The years 1999, 2000 and 2001 however, are awfully important years as 32 (4.87%), 68 (10.36%) and 32 (4.87%) journals made the years wealthier. The year 2002 saw only an increase of 23 (3.50%) journals. The years 2003, 2004 and 2005 proved as the golden years in the development of online journals. In 2003, a very large score i.e. 178 (27.13%) made Web a glorious store of online journals in Social Sciences. The years 2004 and 2005 gave also a good score with 155 (23.62) and 98 (14.93%) journal titles. So the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 rank first, second and third in the context of online journal development correspondingly.

b) In spite of the fact that only latest journals made themselves available on Web, the journals that have evolved in early 1950's to 80's have also formed the part of the Web but their actual date of online debut was not traceable and were put in a separate group of N.T (Not Traceable). A total of 18 journals were found whose online debut on Web was not sketched out but whenever they would have launched themselves on Web would have added to the potency of the Web resources in Social Sciences.

However, the chronological development of online books couldn't be traced as the information was not provided by the source authorities due to the confidential nature of information and non availability as mentioned in the
methodology section of the report. Only the dates from one source i.e; Oxford Scholarship Online provided the required information which clearly signifies that the development is showing a growing trend with time.

c) Of 447 online books making their online debut in different years, 2003 ranks first with a total of 313 (70.02%) titles.

d) Year 2003 is succeeded by 2005 and 2004 with 81 (18.12%) and 53 (11.85%) books respectively.

6.5 Increase in the Web Resources over Previous Years in Social Sciences

a) The study lucidly confirms that the year 1996 has the highest output of online journals over the year 1995 with a growth rate of 105%.

b) The second rank is captivated by the year 1995 with a 100% increase over 1994.

c) The third position is captivated by the year 2003 outscoring 85% over the year 2002.


e) The increase of online books over the previous years clearly shows that the year 2005 leads with 23.77%, followed by 2004 with 16.93%.
6.6 Geographic Output of Web Resources in Social Sciences

a) It is evident that United States of America escorts the online journal wealth with a harvest of 330 journals outlining 50.30% of the entire collection. This clearly indicates that U.S.A has more than half of the production towards online journal wealth.

b) U.S.A is followed by United Kingdom and Canada with 40 (6.09%) and 36 (5.48%) journal titles correspondingly.

c) However, nations like Australia, Brazil, Venezuela and Spain have also embraced the online journal technology in various fields of Social Sciences with an output of 33 (5.03%); 32 (4.87%); 27 (4.11%) and 15 (2.28%) journals.

d) On the other hand majority of the countries are in a developing stage to clinch to the online journal technology as they have contributed either one or two journals towards Social Science collection as is evident from Tables 5.1.6, 5.2.6 and 5.3.6 of chapter V.

e) Geographic Output of 37 journals was not traceable and hence put under N.T. However, the online books have also made their debut from various nations.

a) U.S.A which is in lead in the online journals also takes a lead in the online book market with a remarkable contribution of 2,093 (90.13%) ranking first.

b) U.S.A is immediately followed by U.K which ranks 2nd with an output of 189 (8.13%).

c) Japan holds 3rd position with a very little score of 3 forming 0.12%.

d) Netherlands, Argentina, Rome, Holland, France, Denmark and Canada capture the succeeding ranks with an output of 02 (0.08%), 02 (0.08%), 01 (0.04%), 01 (0.04%), 01 (0.04%), 01 (0.04%) and 01 (0.04%) titles respectively. However, geographical output of 28 online books couldn’t be traced out and hence put under a separate category N.T.

e) The overall development of Web resources in context of physical locations makes it evident that the highest number of Web resources are an output of U.S.A forming 81.36% with a total of 2,423 titles.
f) U.K and Canada occupy the 2nd and 3rd spots with an output of 229 (7.68%) and 37 (1.24%) respectively.

g) However geographic location of 65 Web resources couldn’t be traced out.

6.7 Future Projection of Web Resources (Quantitatively)

Moreover, the growth trend of online journals clearly reveals that their future is very bright. Using “Minitab Statistical Software” the future projection of online journals forecasts that the year 2010 alone will have an expected production of 1381 journals. Further, the years 2015 and 2020 will come up with approximately 2456 and 3837 journal titles. The predicted values clearly reveal that the years 2010, 2015 and 2020 will have an expected increase of 116.45 %, 77.84% and 56.22 % over the years 2005, 2010 and 2015 respectively. Comparing the year 2020 with 1990 in terms of online journal production signifies that there will be 95,825% increase of online journals. So, the prediction made for online journals clearly reveals a linear growing trend.

So, the study significantly shows that Web resources in Social Sciences are gaining momentum and the time is not far when Web resources in Social Science will do par excellence on the Web as compared to other growing disciplines like Sciences. The resources that covered dust over years have shed their dust and have gained a new youth by launching themselves on Web. The steam that Web Resources in Social Science has gained in the early 90's is trying to trap various resources in its warmth and in the future an information resource without a Web version will be considered endangered. Various resources in Social Sciences in the form of Web resources have made a knock-on effect on teaching, learning and research communities and have become a global activity. In some Social Sciences disciplines print resources still persist but online publishing dominates. Following on the heels of the Web, various resources in the field of Social Sciences will remain the main vehicle for communication in the years to come.

As the online debut of 18 journals was not traceable, therefore they were excluded while calculating the future trend of Web resources.