CHAPTER - 1

INTRODUCTION

Information technology that will shape the future information world is fusion of computer and technology (Sharma, 1999). It is the application of a wide variety of electronic technologies to the information handing activities (Choukhande, 2003). Information technology is the modern new science of collecting, storing, processing and transmitting information. It covers the computer capability to store, process information and communication technology, which is capable of transmitting information to distance information technology, is application of tools and method that support through which or by means of which information is transferred, recorded, edited, stored, manipulated and disseminated (Vyas, 2003 ). Information technology has resulted from a convergence of computing technology and communication technology (Belkin, 1978). According to Caster “The systems and devices used for receiving, information in all its form and their application to all aspects of our lives, including the office, the factors and the home” (Kumar, 2003). Several areas of library works reference service, cataloguing management, network and providing better service to their users etc. have been significantly affected by information technology (Ramesh, 2000).

1.1 Library Automation

Library automation assumed a great deal of importance in libraries in the mid-1960s. Since then it has become a household word in librarianship. Library automation may be defined as the application of automatic and semi-automatic data processing machines to perform library functions such as acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, reference service, and serials control. Automation of library activities provides the services very efficiently, rapidly, effectively, adequately and economically. As a result of the recent developments, the public has entered cyberspace and expects its information provider, the library, to provide the launching pad. Accordingly, today's integrated system not only must provide modules automating the traditional library functions but also must be capable of connecting through the local systems into systems of other suppliers, databases – bibliography
and full content, online and compact disk read only memory (CD-ROM) databases, and the internet. Library users now expect their library systems to be able to do among other things: provide seamless integration between system gateways, remote and local databases through the public catalogue module; allow access by remote users to library's resources, either by telephone or via the internet connection; and provide access to resources available on internet using a variety of graphical and multimedia-based software interfaces (Singh, 1987).

McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, on the other hand, defines the word, ‘automation’ as a production system so integrated that materials move through the required operations with little or no human assistance (Groover, 1995). Automation is a word having no precise, generally accepted, technical meaning, but is widely used to imply the concept ‘development’ or the use of highly automatic machinery or control system. Automation, therefore, refers to the application of ‘machines’ to perform a task automatically. However, the term ‘automation’ is described in the Encyclopedia of Computer Science and Technology in terms of business world, as the words ‘automation’ and ‘computer’ are often used synonymously.

1.2 Areas of Automation in Libraries

Ranganathan’s Five Laws of Library Science stipulated that the documents a library should have maximum numbers of users. With the application of information technology (IT) in the areas of libraries and information center there has been a tremendous improvement in the library service offered by the library to the users (Schmidt 1995).

Many libraries mainly concentrated on the house keeping functions like acquisition, serial control, cataloguing, circulation, reference etc. In some libraries it has extended to the library management system to incorporate OPAC’s, Web OPACs, CD ROM Networks, DTP, Office Automation etc (Singh 1987). A large number of libraries and information centers in the world have automated one or more of the functions depending upon the type of libraries and information centers.
1.3 Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)

Library OPACs first emerged in the late 1970s and early 1980s and have gone through several cycles of change and development. The basic purpose of the OPAC is to create a database of library holdings which provides an online catalogue to help users to identify and find resources easily (Theimer, 2002). In fact the OPAC was probably the inspiration for many of the cutting edge services we find on the Internet today.

Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is an electronic catalogue which contains complete bibliographic and holding information of all items in the library. The OPAC is the gateway to library's collection. Sabine defines, an OPAC as an electronic database that contains the same information: that is; author, title, and subject information about the materials that a library owns. Some OPACs are union catalogues meaning that several libraries share the same database. SIRSI: Glossary of Terms defines OPAC as 'a computer workstation used to search a library's catalog (http://www.sirsi.com/glossary.html). OPAC can refer to either the actual workstation in the library, or to the interface provided by the library that is accessible from anywhere'. Another interesting definition found on the Internet says that 'OPAC is an online bibliography of a library collection that is available to the public. With the arrival of the Internet, most of the libraries have made their OPAC accessible from a server to users all over the world. Harvey describes an OPAC as "knowledge access system whereby the catalogue is both a finding and access tool". According to him, with user expectations becoming more demanding in terms of access to electronic information, the OPAC reflects an organized collection of databases and web (Dhawan, 1997). The third generation of OPAC is what exists today with its computer/ web interface and advanced searching abilities.

1.4 OPAC Generation

OPAC stages are most often described in terms of 'generations'. The first generation of OPAC appeared in the early 1980s as crude finding lists, often based on circulation system records or based on simple MARC records, perhaps with a circulation, serials, or acquisition module. Based on card catalogue and early online information retrieval system, their searching capabilities were limited to author and
title searches, using only left anchored searching (i.e., all searches must be based on
the first word or words of a particular text string starting at the left; for example, in
left anchored searching the title "organization of information" must be searched
starting with the word “organization” and cannot be found under “information”). The
interface was menu based and fairly primitive. These early systems had no subject
access and no reference structures.

1.4.1. First Generation OPACs

First generation OPACs were little more than poor imitations of print retrieval
tools. Some systems were programmed to respond to commands in which a code (e.g.
“a” for author, “t” for title, etc.) was to be followed by an exact string of characters
that would be matched against the system's internal index. In some others, derived key
searching was supported (i.e., taking parts of names and/or titles to create a search
string). In many early systems, the display of results was by the “last in, first out”
principle (i.e., the last records entered into the system were those listed first in the
display). These first generation systems were highly intolerant of user mistakes. There
was little or no browsing and title or no keyword searching, with or without Boolean
operators. Access points were limited only to those that were available in the card
catalogue, that is, left-anchored searches. First generation OPACs were primarily
book finding lists and worked best for known-item searching.

1.4.2. Second Generation OPACs

The second generation OPACs in the late 1980s showed major improvements.
This generation was marked by significantly improved user interfaces. Keyword
searching, with its use of Boolean operators was introduced, thus increasing the
number of access points available for searching. This meant that searches were no
longer required to be exact word or phrase, left-anchored searches; words could now
be matched, even if they were in the middle of a text string. Also greatly enhancing
the searching process were truncation and wild card support, browsing capabilities
(including index term browsing), use of full MARC records, interactive search
refinement, and subject access to items. Second generation OPACs also provided
greater manipulation of search results and provided better help systems with more
informative error messages (although there is still a lot of work to be done in this
area). Up to second generation of OPACs, the characteristics distinguishing each generation are fairly clear. As we move beyond the second generation, however, there are differences in how the profession refers to the more recent developments in OPACs. Some consider the systems that are currently in use (Web OPACs with GUI interfaces, Z39.50 compliant system, etc.) to be third-generation OPACs. Others describe the third generation as catalogues that are still in experimental stages (Aruna, 1998).

1.4.3. Third Generation

They move beyond simple matching and Boolean Operations towards more sophisticated search and matching techniques. It incorporates a number of techniques to improve subject access. Partial matching, stemming of keywords, ranking of retrieved output, coordination level matching, automatic mapping and relevance feedback are techniques developed through two decades of research on OPACs and these carry great implications to the third generation OPACs (Aruna, 1998).

1.5. Keywords Searching

One technique that many OPACs use to allow greater flexibility of access to records in the catalogue is keyword, or term searching. This feature enables a user to retrieve records on the basis of single terms or combinations of terms appearing anywhere within specified fields of a bibliographic record, such as author, title or subject heading. In finding an item by title, for example, a user can retrieve a record simply by entering one or more words in the title, regardless of sequence or position. A user can find a record for the peoples of the Soviet Far East, for instance, by entering the title-search terms “Soviet” “east” and “peoples.” The record can also be retrieved simply by entering the term “people” or any other single term or combination of terms in the title. A number of OPACs also allow keyword searching on author fields and on fields containing assigned subject headings, and some permit retrieval on the basis of terms appearing within a variety of other bibliographic fields.

Keyword searching has certain advantages over the exact order full-phrase searching required in other forms of the library catalogue. In corporate author searches, the keyword capability means that the user does not have to know the exact
hierarchy and order in which a corporate author name appears in the records; for title searches, the user does not have to know the full and exact wording of the title to be able to find it in the catalogue. A key word of search capability expands, and actually alters, the traditional concept of locating an item for which, in cutter’s terms, “the author or title is known.”

Keyword capabilities are particularly useful in subject searching. When a catalogue permits retrieval of terms appearing anywhere within assigned subject headings, the user does not have to know the full and precise working and filing sequences of assigned subject headings and subdivisions as they appear in the records themselves. Many OPACs allow a broadened view of the subject elements in a bibliographic record; for instance, by allowing keyword searching on title fields. Given usually high level of correlation between the subject content of works and the terms appearing in their titles, a keyword title search composed of one or two terms can be a viable form of subject searching in online catalogues. Some OPACs, in fact, automatically retrieve from title fields when subject searches are initiated. When the user carries out a subject search, records are retrieved for items in which the search terms appear either in the assigned subject headings or in the title field of a record. Whether or not this combination is provided automatically by the system, the ability to search the assigned subject heading by keyword, supplemented with term searching on other fields of the bibliographic record, makes subject access generally far more extensive than in other forms of the library catalogue.

Some OPACs allow a user to truncate, or abbreviate, search terms. For example, many online catalogues allow retrieval of records with an author's surname and first initial. Even though the full forename may be stored on the bibliographic records, the use of an initial is sufficient for retrieval. In addition to truncation or even omission of forenames and middle names, some OPACs permit retrieval on truncated forms of surnames. Others allow truncation of keywords in titles and assigned subject headings. Entry of the term "prehist" in a title search, for example, will retrieve records containing the terms "prehistoric," "prehistory," or any other derivative in the title. This facility often applies to phrases as well, especially in the case of searching on assigned subject heading fields. Entry of the phrase "Moving Pictures," for example, will retrieve records assigned subject headings "Moving Pictures, Talking,"
or "Moving Picture-History," and so on. In a search on assigned subject headings, truncation on most OPACs requires an explicit expression by the user. A special character must be keyed in to indicate that a term or phrase is being entered in truncated rather than in complete form. In title searches, some OPACs require the user to supply a special truncation designator, others provide an implicit form of truncation whereby the system automatically truncates a search term or phrase for retrieval according to an internally prescribed number of characters or words, regardless of how many the user has entered. By either means, the net effect of truncation is to broaden the set of records retrieved over what is possible in a search requiring complete and exact terms or phrases.

1.6. Access to Bibliographic Records

The usefulness of different forms of library catalogues can be understood in a variety of ways. One of the most important criteria is simply the extent to which a catalogue fulfills its basic purposes. Although the purposes of the library catalogue are not cast in stone but depend on one's perspective, one set of standards by which library catalogue functions have been measured throughout the twentieth century is the principle of Charles Ammi Cutter as noted in his ‘Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue’.

Cutter enumerated three major "objects" of a library catalogue. A catalogue should allow someone to find a book if its author, title or topic is known. A catalogue should fulfill a gathering function, showing which works a library owns by a given author, on a given subject or in a given type of literature. A catalogue should provide assistance in the identification of a book, either as to its edition or its literary or topical character. A fourth commonly recognized catalogue function, although not explicitly noted by Cutter, is collection, having to do with the arrangement and relationship of headings within the catalogue. Underlying most of these functions is the fundamental matter of access to the top bibliographic records in the catalogue, the points of entry through which a record for an item may be found. Cutter's first object, the finding function, is the essential basis for access. The function least directly related to access is assistance in the choice of material, which has more to do with content of a bibliographic record than access to it.
Whether Cutter's objects still provide the most viable criteria for defining the purposes of a library catalogue in an online era is debatable and some have questioned the degree of completeness to which these objects have ever actually been realized in libraries. Cutter's principles stem from a time quite different from the 1980s. New factors including but not limited to those of a technological nature should not be disregarded in defining the purposes of a library catalogue. Nevertheless, Cutter's principles serve as a point of departure in many decisions of online catalogues, and concerning access to bibliographic records they still provide a convenient framework for comparing online catalogues with one another and for comparing them with other forms of the library catalogue.

Access to bibliographic records in the library catalogues has traditionally been marked by a high degree of rigidity, requiring considerable knowledge and exactitude on the part of the user. Generally, access is gained through four types of bibliographic elements; author, title, series and subject. Multiple author and subject headings are assigned to an item as rules or judgment dictates, but the number is usually kept to a minimum. The terminology selected for headings is also tightly controlled, with the library usually trying to establish a one-to-one correspondence between headings and the persons, corporate bodies, or concepts they represent. These practices may be understandable from a practical point of view, but they do impose certain limits on accessibility to records. The user can indeed locate an item in the collection for which the author, title or subject is known, but only under some rather inflexible conditions. To find a record under the title, the user must know the full and exact wording of the title not some or most of the words, but all the words, and in their correct order. For access by author, because of the pre-AACR practice of establishing full and singularly valid forms of names, it has not always been enough to know the form of an author's name as it appears on publications or by which the person is popularly known. It has been necessary for the user somehow to know the exact form of a person's or corporation's name as it has been established by the library, often on the basis of considerable research. Where there are discrepancies in name form, it has been up to the user to figure out the form selected by the library. Access by subject is even more problematic.
1.7. Boolean Operators

Most OPACs allow the user to combine two or more search terms through the use of Boolean operators, such as "and," "or" and "not." In most OPACs, a Boolean "and" is assumed when two or more terms are entered in a search statement, especially if the search is conducted of a single field or type of information such as author, title or subject. Only records containing all specified search terms will be returned. In the earlier example of entering the terms "Soviet," "East," and "People" in a title search, one record for works containing all three words in the title would be retrieved. Some OPACs allow the combination of terms from different fields or serving different functions, such as an author's surname and a title word, in which case the user is generally required to enter a numeric code preceding each term indicating the field or function to which it applies and then linking the terms with an explicitly stated "and." OPACs with fuller Boolean capabilities allow the user to construct search statements with other operators as well, the most common being "or" and "not." Depending on which operator is used, the result of Boolean search capabilities is to allow a user to broaden or narrow the set of records retrieved. Capabilities such as keyword searching expand access to records through traditional avenues like author, title, and subject. Some OPACs index other fields of bibliographic description as well. In a few OPACs, virtually every term in every field of a bibliographic record are replaced by an all encompassing concept of access by "bibliographic description" the more specific elements of author, title, and subject headings become simply qualifiers for refining the scope of a search. OPACs generally have not taken this broadened approach, although some have indexed certain additional elements, such as names of publishers, for retrieval on term searches that act upon several different fields simultaneously.

A number of OPACs offer a more restricted idea of nontraditional access points in the form of bibliographic qualifiers that the user can employ to limit the results of a search. The two most common are language and date of publication. By including a language code or publication date or range of dates in a specified manner as part of a search statement, a user can block the retrieval of records for items that would otherwise qualify but are considered too old or too new to be useful or are in languages that the user does not read. Other bibliographic elements could be
incorporated into OPACs for purposes of qualifying search statements. The possibilities depend largely on the types of information discretely identified and consistently entered into the records in the bibliographic database. For libraries with records in the MARC format, one likely source of qualifiers is from the elements constituting the fixed fields. Based on these elements, an OPAC could provide the ability to limit retrieval according to government publication, conference publication, fiction, juvenile literature, and a host of other categories. Few existing OPACs, however, currently offer a range of qualifiers beyond the elements of language and date of publication.

In a somewhat different but not unrelated category, OPACs have attempted to address traditional limitations of access in library catalogues in the treatment of alternative forms of name, headings and subject terminology. The most frequent method used by card and offline catalogues has been to provide cross-references guiding the user from variants in the form of a name or subject term to the authorized, library-established, heading under which full bibliographic entries are listed. As noted earlier, this technique is not altogether service-effective, since cross-reference cards can be "buried" within long lists of entries or complex headings. Online catalogues generally fall into two categories in attempting to deal with likely alternatives in the terminology through which users might seek access.

Other features, such as the use of word proximity in term searching, have been incorporated into some OPACs to further expand the accessibility to records in the catalogue, but those described here are the most common and they significantly broaden the ways in which library users can approach a catalogue. None of these features are new to online information retrieval systems used in the library environment in general; there have been standard systems such as DIALOG and BRS for many years. What is new is their incorporation into the public catalogue. Librarians have long assumed that systems such as DIALOG and BRS require special expertise and training for effective use. What is most challenging about OPACs is that at least some of these sophisticated features are intended for people without formal training and with only limited need to use them. Taking these factors into account is perhaps the most crucial element in the successful design of online public-access catalogues and their implementation in the library environment. Because they are
interactive and can offer far broader approaches to access, OPACs are a fundamentally different form of catalogue than their predecessors. The overall difference can result in greater value for the library user, but not without costs in human terms. Interaction with computerized systems and the use of such techniques as keyword searching, truncation, Boolean combinations, and so on, involve skills that many users do not have, especially within the context of application in a library catalogue. For many, lack of familiarity with computers and retrieval techniques extends well beyond use in an online library catalogue. There are still many library users for whom interaction with a computer for any purpose remains an alien experience. This situation is changing rapidly as more and more of the population becomes educated in computer use, but for some time to come, unfamiliarity is a condition that must be taken into account in the design of online catalogues.

1.8. Web OPAC

Web OPAC is a library catalogue, it is an OPAC, which is provided on the web and with the help of internet anybody can access it even from remote quarters. According to Washington University in St. Louis, “A Web OPAC uses the World Wide Web protocol to act as an OPAC” (Mueller, 2002). According to ODLIS, “An Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) uses a graphical user interface (GUI) accessible via the World Wide Web, as opposed to a text based interface accessible via telnet” (http://flu.com/odlis/). It is a program designed separately from the library program. It is programmed to facilitate members to access the library catalogue, through Internet, for the ease of borrowing, instead of searching through the card catalogue (Husain and Ansari, 2006) and provides direct access to a library’s bibliographic database. It has the ability to use hypertext links to facilitate navigation through bibliographic records (Babu and O’Brien, 2000).

1.8.1. Feature of Web OPAC

The important features of Web OPAC are:

- It is accessible through internet.
- It is possible to search independently under categories of Author, Keyword, Title or Year.
- Displays complete bibliographic information as appearing on reprints.
Graphical User Interface (GUI), which is typically thought of as a combination of windows with pull-down or drop-down menus, icons and a pointing device such as mouse or trackball to manipulate information.

Features of traditional OPACs such as storing bibliographic and sometimes full text databases; providing direct access to a library’s bibliographic database by means of terminal or PC; search result is readily understandable form; sometimes remote access from the library’s location; information about community events; links to circulation files, reference help, etc.; search through a variety of access points such as author, title, keyword, subject, periodical title, class number, series, ISSN, ISBN, etc., are available.

It has the ability to use hypertext links to facilitate navigation through bibliographic records.

A move towards emulation of the appearance and search features similar to those found in search engines.

There is provision for, linking to the full text.

It has the ability to help bring a convergence in searching of all electronic information available through one interface. e.g. catalogues, CD-ROMS, internet sources, etc (Babu and O’Brien, 2000).

1.8.2. Advantages of Web OPAC

The following are the advantages of the Web OPAC:

It is worldwide and all the time accessible.

The status of any book may be known as to whether a book is issued or not, lost/transferred, etc. The status of an acquisition order may be available at both staff and public terminals located throughout the library.

It is possible for users to send reprint requests immediately by e-mail.

Compilation of various lists of reprints becomes very easy.

There is no limitation of space and time for searches of any documents. Any person can search a document not only of his/her library but also of any networked library. The available advantages are: Library’s bibliographic database by means of terminal or PC; search result in readily understandable form; sometimes remote access from the library’s location, information about community events; links to circulation files, reference help, etc., search
through a variety of access points such as author, title, keyword, subject, periodical title, class number, series, ISSN, ISBN, etc.

- It has ability to use hypertext links to facilitate navigation through bibliographic records.

A move towards emulation of the appearance and search features similar to those found in search engines is available (Husain and Ansari, 2006).

OPAC and Web OPAC are the same in some aspects like searching and browsing. Both provide pre-coordinated as well as post-coordinated phrase options. They differ from each other in some aspects. OPAC (LAN/Intranet) usage is limited, only the persons in LAN can use it. Users have to follow the program of the particular OPAC software in that library. Web OPAC usage is global; a person can access it from anywhere. Web OPAC, html files are used which hyperlink to the subject areas or disciplines.

1.9. Need for the Study

Law libraries in South India have a rich collection of Journals/E-journals, Books/E-Books, CD/DVD, Electronic Database, Reports/E-Reports, Printers, Computers etc., services like good library organization, OPAC/Web OPAC Searching information facility, Internet, library website and user support services. OPAC and Web OPAC facilitate accessing catalogue through online facility. These days, OPAC and web OPAC are gaining momentum. The users access catalogue through OPAC where LAN connection is provided, whereas web OPAC facilitates users can access the catalogue anywhere in the world and any time. As the availability of information online is increasing, access to this information is also growing tremendously.

To provide better service to the end users in the library, it is necessary to know the attitudes of the users. In this research study, the researcher felt the need to study the user attitudes particularly about the OPAC and web OPAC in the Law libraries of South India. Very few studies on OPAC and Web OPAC have been found to be carried out. The results of the study will help in bringing further improvement in the design, use of OPAC/ Web OPAC.
Scanning the articles and survey of LISA reports have been conducted to study the user attitudes, particularly of OPAC and Web OPAC users in Law Libraries of South India. The present study entitled “Attitudes of the law library users towards the use of OPAC and Web OPAC in South India: A Study”.

1.10. Statement of the Problem

The present study is conceived under the title.

“ATTITUDES OF LAW LIBRARY USERS TOWARDS THE USE OF OPAC AND WEB OPAC IN SOUTH INDIA: A STUDY”

1.11. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study covers four states (Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu) located in different parts of South India. This geographical area covers six Law University libraries and one hundred and fifty three Law college libraries (www.lawentrance.com/college_list.hm, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_law_schools_in_India and www.karnatakacolleges.com/Law-College/Law-Colleges/Index.asp ). Present study is confined only six Law university libraries in South India. They are:

- National Law School of India University library, Bangalore, Karnataka
- Karnataka State Law University library, Hubli, Karnataka
- Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University library, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- National University of Advanced Legal Studies library, Cochin, Kerala
- NALSAR University of Law library, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
- Andhra Pradesh University of Law library, Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

The colleges affiliated to these Law Universities are not included in this study. The users of Law university library include graduate students, post graduate students, faculty members, non teaching staff and research students working for M.Phil or Ph.D Degree. The study restricted to the sample of permanent teaching staff members, full time doctoral or M.Phil research scholars post graduate students and graduate students.
1.12. Definition of the Concept Used in the Study

The following are the key concepts used in the statement of the problem and their definition.

- **ATTITUDES**: The term attitudes used as a disposition or tendency to respond positively or negatively towards a certain thing (idea, object, person, situation). It is closely related to our opinions and beliefs and is based upon our experiences. In this study, the researcher studies the user attitudes towards the use of OPAC and Web OPAC in Law libraries in south India.

- **USE**: In this study, the term ‘use’ means the act of using or putting into service. In this context, it implies the use of OPAC and Web OPAC.

- **OPAC**: SIRSI: Glossary of terms defines OPAC as, “A computer workstation used to search a library's catalogue. OPAC can refer to either the actual workstation in the library, or to the interface provided by the library that is accessible from anywhere”. ALA Glossary defines OPAC as, "A Computer based and supported library catalog (bibliographic database) designed to be accessed via terminals so that library users may directly and effectively search for and retrieve bibliographic records without the assistance of a human intermediary such as a specially trained member of the library staff."

- **WEB OPAC**: Web OPAC is an OPAC, which is provided on the web and with the help of internet, anybody can access it from anywhere. According to Washington University in St. Louis, “A Web OPAC uses the World Wide Web protocol to act as an OPAC.” Web OPAC is an independent program designed separately from the library program. It is programmed to facilitate members to access the OPAC, through their own search, for the ease of borrowing, instead of searching through the card catalogue. In addition, members can also request for the information about borrowing, reservation, etc. related to their own library profile, as well as to make automatic reservations.
• **LAW LIBRARY:** A typical law library includes in its collection a large number of works not seen in other libraries, including a full set of Indian Reports, one or both of the unofficial National Supreme Court reporters. Large libraries may contain many additional materials covering topics like legal education, research and writing, the history of the National legal system and profession, the history behind certain high-profile cases, techniques of oral argument and the legislative history of important federal and state statutes. In contrast, a small law library, at a minimum, may contain only one unofficial Supreme Court reporter, selected national reporters and digests specific to the state in which the library is located, Indian Code, a few state-specific reporters and statutory compilations (if they exist for a particular state), and several state-specific treatises and practice guides. A number of law libraries have therefore reduced the availability of printed works that can easily be found on the Internet and have increased their own Internet availability. On the other hand, some university law libraries retain extensive historical collections going back to the earliest reports.

• **USERS:** The term “user” means a person who makes use of a thing. In this study, the researcher studied the OPAC and Web OPAC users of the Law libraries in South India.

• **A STUDY:** The term, ‘study’ means, applying the mind to learning and understanding a subject, a state of deep mental absorption, giving a careful consideration to something. It is also a detailed critical inspection considered in detail or a close analysis in order to discover essential features or meanings. In this study, the researcher studied the use of OPAC and Web OPAC in South Indian law libraries.

**1.13 Chapterization**

Chapter – I, ‘Introduction’, deal with a brief introduction and history of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and Web – based Online Public Access Catalogue (Web OPAC) presented in this chapter. This chapter also includes need for the study, scope and limitation of the study and definition of the concepts used in the study.
Chapter – II, The views and opinions on the subject expressed by many scholars are covered in the ‘Review of Literature’ chapter. This chapter includes user attitudes towards OPAC/Web OPAC, user perception towards OPAC/ Web OPAC, use of OPAC/ Web OPAC, characteristics of the OPAC/Web OPAC, Study on Library OPAC/Web OPAC, OPAC/ Web OPAC in academic library, Bilingual OPAC/ Web OPAC, Progress of the OPAC/Web OPAC.

Chapter – III, In this chapter, objectives of the study, research hypotheses, methodology, distribution of the sample and tools employed are presented.

Chapter – IV, ‘Profile of Law University Libraries’, this chapter includes six Law University libraries profile. It covers the history of library, year of the library automation, online public access catalogue services and facilities and computer and Internet facility.

Chapter – V, ‘Status of OPAC and Web OPAC in Law University Libraries in South India’, in this chapter is about the analysis of data and interpretation. It includes library resource searching facility, coverage of OPAC/Web OPAC, access points of OPAC/ Web OPAC, types of searches available, number of records displayed per screen.

Chapter – VI, ‘Analysis and interpretation of data’, this chapter is about the analysis of data and interpretation. The data collected from 671 respondents of South India, is analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics were utilized to generate responses to the research questions guiding the study. The analysis and interpretation of the data is presented in six sections. They are as follows: Section –I: Demographic data; Section –II: Use of OPAC/Web OPAC; Section – III: Perception about the use of OPAC/Web OPAC; Section – IV: users’ attitudes towards the use of OPAC/Web OPAC; Section – V: Problems in use of OPAC/Web OPAC; Section – VI: Users and features of the OPAC/Web OPAC

Chapter – VII, ‘Evaluation of hypotheses’, this chapter deal with the evaluation of hypotheses.

Chapter – VIII, ‘Summary of findings’, based on the results presented in the chapter 5, 6 and 7, the major conclusion of the study are given in the chapter 8.