Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on Digital Libraries

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to share the experience of a University of Delhi library in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper describes the library's position during the crisis and illustrates the challenges that the pandemic has posed to its digital services. Paper describes the library's various digital services that are used to meet the needs of its end-users during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also describes the challenges and implications for the library professionals working in-house and remotely.

1. Introduction

This is the era of knowledge and information. The unprecedented growth of knowledge and information has impacted all organizations including the libraries. In the digital environment, the role of libraries is changing to provide the competitive advantage for its users. E-books, digital libraries and E- resources were introduced in 21st century multimedia widely spread such type of concept rapidly into the modern age. Today's world is technological and need advanced knowledge. Libraries are source of providing this type of knowledge. A digital library is much more than just the collection of material in its depositories. Digital Libraries It provides a variety of services to all of its users. The basis of the digital library is the information objects that provide the content in the form of digital resource.

The proposed study is about the Digital Library in the period of pandemic (Covid-19) information services in the university libraries in Delhi. It would explore the interaction of end users with the digital library information from the university libraries. In addition, the study aims to highlight the problems faced by the users in accessing library services at that pandemic time. Library responses to the COVID-19 pandemics across the globe. With the explosion of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governments worldwide imposed a closure on the doors of academics and because students health is of utmost priority. Academics have been affected by either a budget cut or a lack of human resources. As a result, the standard library services are inaccessible to users. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the service provided by the academic libraries includes mainly issue/return, no-dues, settlements of fines, etc. After the lockdown imposed, libraries moved to off-campus services with Zoom-with-a-Librarian, remote access service etc. No-dues extended online through Email and messages, borrowing privileges made flexible for users, and fines waved due to the shutting down the doors of academics for students because of COVID-19 pandemic.

Distance learning with all variations has gained the importance. Distance learning was conducted by communicating the teaching contents via the telephone and distributing the printed material by the post. Audio and video recordings were used and distributed with printed material with the development of technology, the internet got the key role in distance learning. As a result, the most common form of distance learning which gains importance is online and blended learning.

In this project discuss the impact of pandemic (covid-19) on digital libraries and their services which are providing on that time. And through this project, I would like to focus on Delhi university library system at that pandemic time. However libraries give facilities to their students and users and teachers also.

2. Objective of the study

- To highlight the various e-resources helpful in digital libraries.
- To discuss various components of digital libraries.
- Awareness of the users about digital library
- To identify the impact of Digital Library in the pandemic of Covid -19.
- To study how the COVID-19 pandemic changed the library operations.
- To identify the difficulties faced by the Indian libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To discuss the initiatives adopted by the Delhi university libraries during the COVID- 19 outbreak.
- To discover the library challenges and preparedness after the post lockdown

3. Research Methodology

The study focused on Digital library services in Central Science Library Universities of Delhi. It investigates how

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digital remote-access based information helpful to the academic environment. And it is used by 200 users, this remote-access facility is very useful for academicians and researchers in pandemic (Covid-19) time. The research design will be used in this study is both 'Descriptive' and 'exploratory'. The data will be collected using both by collection methods as well as by secondary sources. Questionnaire is main tool for collecting data in this study. And the secondary data will be collected through magazines, newspapers, journals, Internet.

4. Data Analysis

Figure No. 1 - How frequently the scholars visit the library in the Pandemic period was tried to analysis where it found the highest number that is 25 of the respondents weekly visit the library which holds 29.41 percent and least only 11 respondents visit the library never which is least in number have 12.94 percent. It also shows that 16 respondents daily visit the library which holds 18.82 percent.
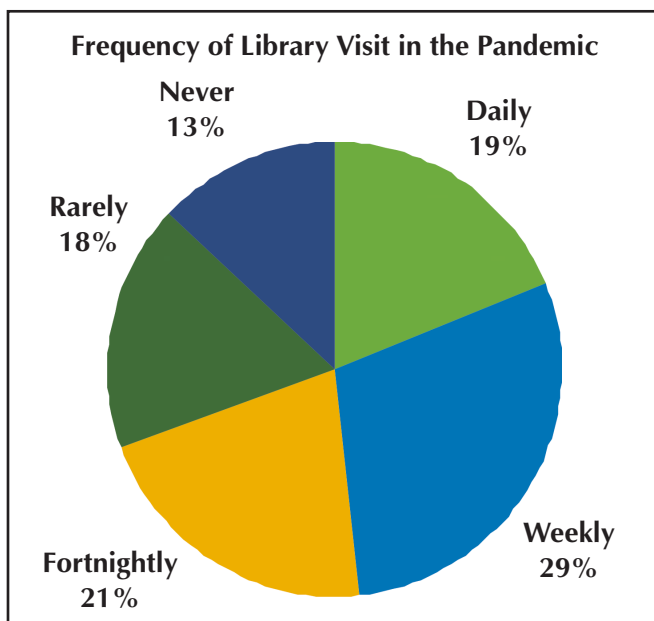

Figure 2: Frequency of Using Library Services

Figure 1: Frequency of LibraryVisit in the Pandemic

Figure 3: Hindrance faced by the Respondents

Figure No. 2 - Describes about the frequency of using library services where it is shown that 41.18 percent of the total use the services occasionally, second highest number of the services frequently, whereas 29.41, 16.47 and 12.94 percent respondents use the library services daily.

Figure No. 3 - It is mentioned the hindrance faced by the respondents while accessing the web- based resources and services, where it is pointed out that the 30 respondents which is the largest share with 35.29 percent of the total are not finding relevant information, it also showed that 11.76 percent respondent find it difficult reading from computer.
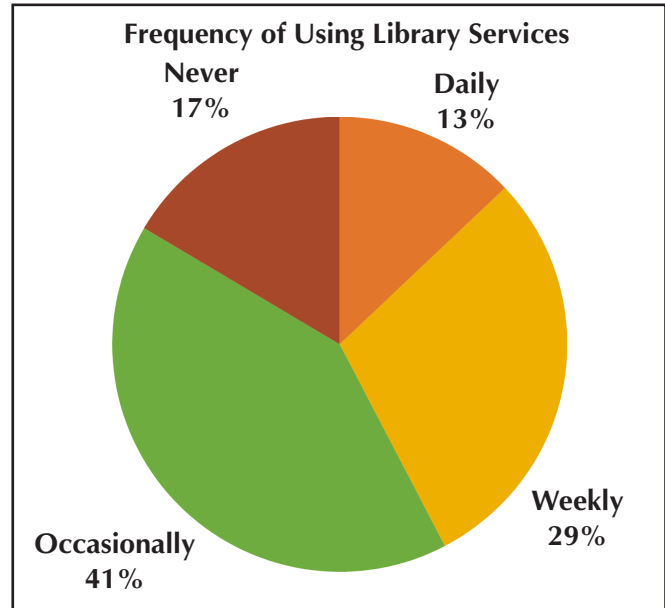
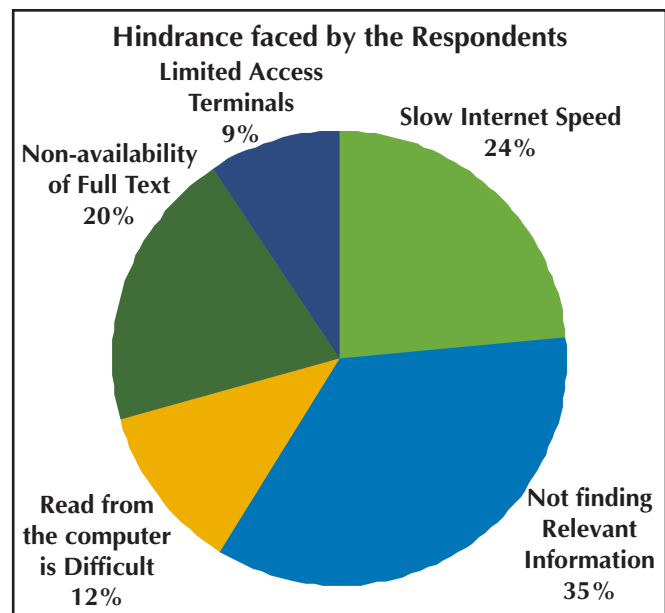Figure No. 4 - It is found in the respond of the question what kind of resources you prefer in the Pandemic more to use, 11.76 percent respondent preferred electronic sources whereas 9.41 percent preferred print, surprisingly majority of respondents that is 78.82 preferred both print and electronic together.

These pie charts show how the analysis of scholars & respondents work in the pandemic period that how they were visiting library in the pandemic and how they used library services and so much hindrance faced by the respondents and scholars the resources the preferred in the pandemic for their study purposes is in both print and non-
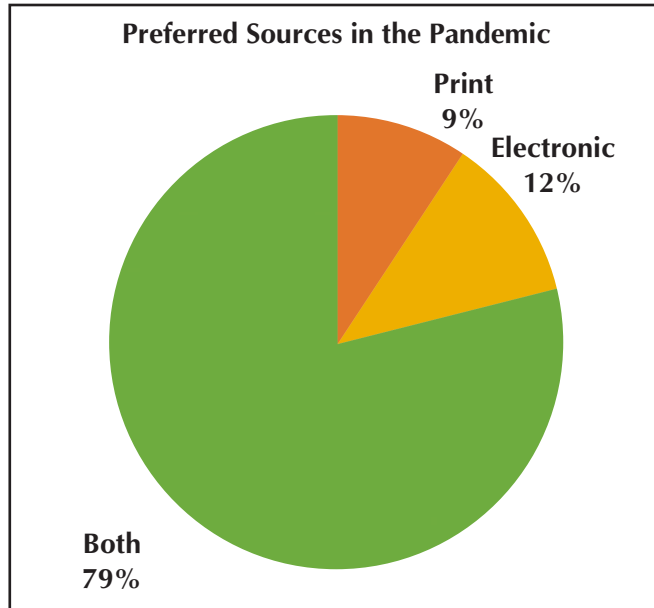
Figure 4: Preferred Sources in the Pandemic

print media. Digital libraries plays very important role for the scholars at that phase of pandemic (Covid-19).

4. Conclusion

The outbreak of Corona virus has completely transformed the education sector into a digital learning hub to meet the demand of users the study was conducted. Comparing the digital library system to the physical one, students preferred the digital one and they were willing and enthused to use it. This is in relation to the fact that the digital library is available and can be accessed twenty-four hours a day and as well as seven day in a week. Again the digital library is used effectively by students because of the situation in which they found themselves; the universities were closed, students were engaged in the online teaching and learning activities, and they could not access the physical resources provided by the physical library on their various campuses. Again the lecture notes provided by the lecturers during the online teaching period were inadequate and for that reason, students had to use the digital library resources for their study. Students during the COVID-19 lockdown, they encountered few challenges; most of them suffered from power outages when using the library system. Intermittent power outages are not new in the country.

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