

Full Length Research

A Comparative study of selected University Library Portals in South India

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This paper concentrates on the substance of University library portals of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu state. The study found that of the 10 portals studied from both states just 40% have copyright explanation followed by site copyright developers and maintenance (30%). The technical aspects such as hyperlinks and frames were tolerably utilized within the portals. There are chances to overhaul the outline and structure of the portals. Paper has additionally given proposals dependent upon the discoveries.

Keywords: Library, Portals, University, Hyperlinks, Frames, Internet.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the Internet has emerged as the most powerful medium for storage and retrieval of information. It works round the clock and connects every nook and corner of the globe (Singh, 2006). The internet is a million of computers interconnected together that allow millions of users to search, retrieve and store information in various forms. It provides numerous services such as email services, discussion forums, File Transfer Protocol (FTP), chat, instant messaging and web portals to share the information in electronic form. Few organizations and individuals develop technical aspects of this network and set standards for creating applications on one hand whereas, few are using it on the other.

The eruption of the Internet and information technology has created opportunities for the information professionals who are redefining their role for the present and future (Krishnamurthy, 2005). Progression of the Internet has its effect on establishments included in information activities. University libraries, information centers, documentation centers use the web and its

services to fulfill the client requirements. Libraries are kept tabs on advancing apparatuses, for example, web portals (Krishnamurthy, 2005). Thus, web portals are well known and utilized in the academic libraries. The portal allows searching databases, refining of search results, email alerts, record searching and basic and advanced search options (http://faculty.weber.edu/portals/library_portals.htm). They are the gateway to a rich source of information for the yearning students and research scholars. These should be constantly upgraded now and again⁴. As Strauss has noted, a portal is a special kind of gateway to Web resources, "a hub from which users can locate all the web content they commonly need" (Strauss, 2003). They provide information about the library, library services, collection, E-Resources, E-journals. The development and maintenance of the portals lie in studying them systematically.

This study concentrates on two things. Firstly, the study might give a thought regarding the library homepage, the

extent of the library, the scope of the library and profundity of data furnished in the library homepages of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu Colleges. Secondly, a study of nature would help the prospective design of university library portals regarding the kind of information that should be made available on a website.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study has the following objectives.

1. To study and analyze the homepage contents and contact details of library portals of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu universities.
2. To find out the projection of traditional and specialized services offered by the different university libraries.
3. To identify the general information offered by the library portals.
4. To compare the number of hyperlinks provided and frames used in university library portals of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu universities.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study is limited to the library portals in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu University libraries. The websites that were retrievable with the help of search engines only were considered. Researchers have taken only 10 University library portals of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu University libraries portals. The study focused on the analysis of the content of University library portals of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. For the present study, the following universities have been selected on the basis of convenience of the researcher. (Table 1)

METHODOLOGY ADOPTED FOR THE STUDY

Examiner has utilized Internet Explorer to search and retrieve the content from selected University library portals. The University library URLs were gathered and entered in the address bar. Essential information was gathered and recorded in MS-Excel worksheet for further examination. Then, the information was classified, tabulated and inferences were drawn.

Analysis and Interpretation of data

Ten dynamic portals, a total of ten university library portals from Karnataka (n=5) and Tamil Nadu (n=5) have been studied. The study concentrated on the analysis of several components that are displayed over the library portals of universities of 2 selected states. Table 2

projects the home page elements that are available in the university library portals of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Availability and accuracy of home elements of a portal determine its usability. Table 2 reports the availability of a title, university logo, library picture, and menu bar. An average of 80% university library portals from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has a title. All five university library portals of Karnataka state have library photo whereas, only 60% University library portals have library photo. Out of 10, a total of 5 portals (50%) have a university logo.

Communication Elements in University Library portals

Most of the libraries portals have provided communication elements like library address, phone number, fax number, e-mail address. Table 3 represents the contact details of the Karnataka and Tamil Nadu University libraries portals. 80% of the library portals from both states have library address and phone numbers followed by Email address (70%) and fax number (50%). 80% of university library portals of Tamil Nadu universities and 60% of the portals from Karnataka University libraries have an email id. Highest numbers of university library portals from Tamil Nadu are providing contact details than the university library portals of Karnataka state.

Copyright statement in University library portals

Table 4 explains the details of copyright holders and developers and maintaining the authority of University library portals. Of the 10 portals of both states, only 40% have copyright statement followed by site development and maintenance (30%). Observation of table 4 reveals that the awareness towards Intellectual property rights is limited.

Academic elements in university libraries portals

It is evident from Table 5 that the details of the librarians and library hours are projected in 5 university library portals of Tamil Nadu (100%) followed by four university library portals of Karnataka State (80%). A total of 9 (90%) library portals provided information on the librarian. Comparatively, Tamil Nadu library portals stand first in providing information on working hours of the library. It also observed that only 40% of the university library portals of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have given the details of the various sections of libraries followed by information on alumni (20%)

Table 1.

Karnataka	Tamil Nadu
Indian Institute of Science	Anna University, Chennai
Manipal Academy of Higher Education	Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli
National Institute of Technology	Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai
National Law School of Indian University	Madurai Kamaraj University
University of Agricultural Sciences	Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore

Table 2: Homepage Elements

SL. No	Elements	Number of library portals					
		Karnataka (n=5)		Tamil Nadu (n=5)		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1	Title	4	80	4	80	8	80
2	Logo	2	40	3	60	5	50
3	Library Photo	5	100	3	60	8	80
4	Menu bar	4	80	3	60	7	70

Table 3: Contact details

SL. No	Elements	Karnataka		Tamil Nadu		Total (n=10)	%
		Number	%	Number	%		
1	Library Address	4	80	4	80	8	80
2	Phone Number	4	80	4	80	8	80
3	Fax number	2	40	3	60	5	50
4	E-mail address	3	60	4	80	7	70

Table 4: Intellectual Property Rights Elements

SL. No	Elements	Karnataka (n=5)		Tamil Nadu (n=5)		Total	%
		Number	%	Number	%		
1	Copy right	3	60	1	20	4	40
2	Site developed (Designed and Maintained by)	1	20	2	40	3	30

Table 5: Academic Elements

SL. No	Elements	Karnataka (n=5)		Tamil Nadu (n=5)		Total	%
		Number	%	Number	%		
1	Service offered	4	80	3	60	7	70
2	Sections of the libraries	2	40	2	40	4	40
3	Staff/faculty	4	80	3	60	7	70
4	Librarian	4	80	5	100	9	90
5	Working hours of library	4	80	5	100	9	90
6	Library authority	2	40	2	40	4	40
7	Alumni	1	20	1	20	2	20

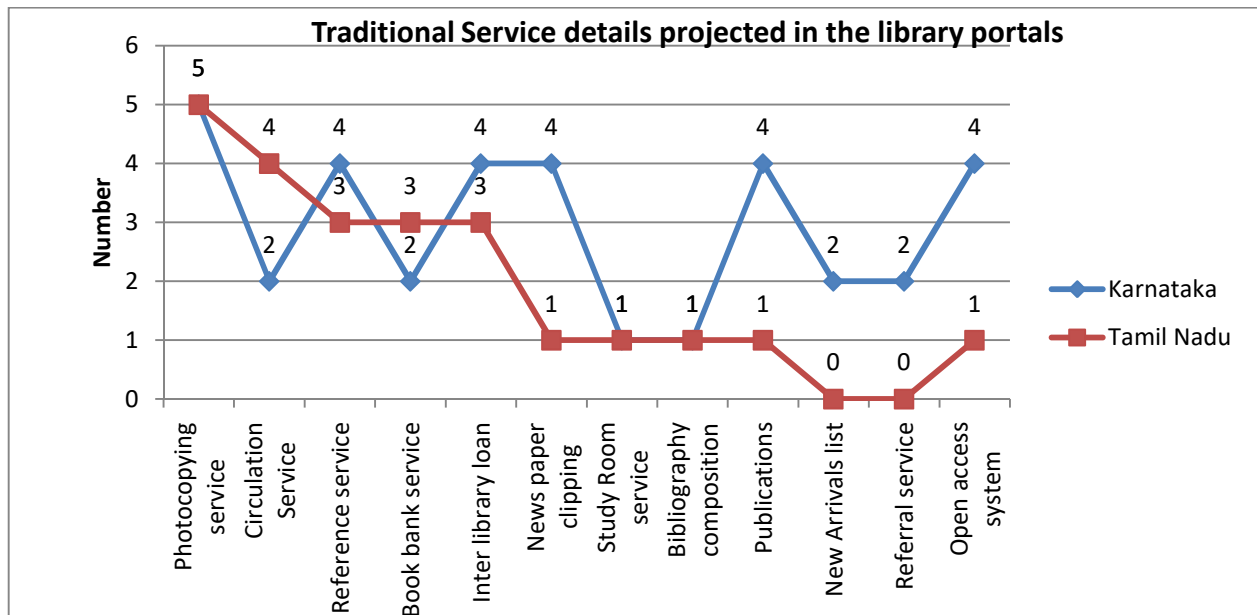


Figure 1: Traditional Service Elements in University portals

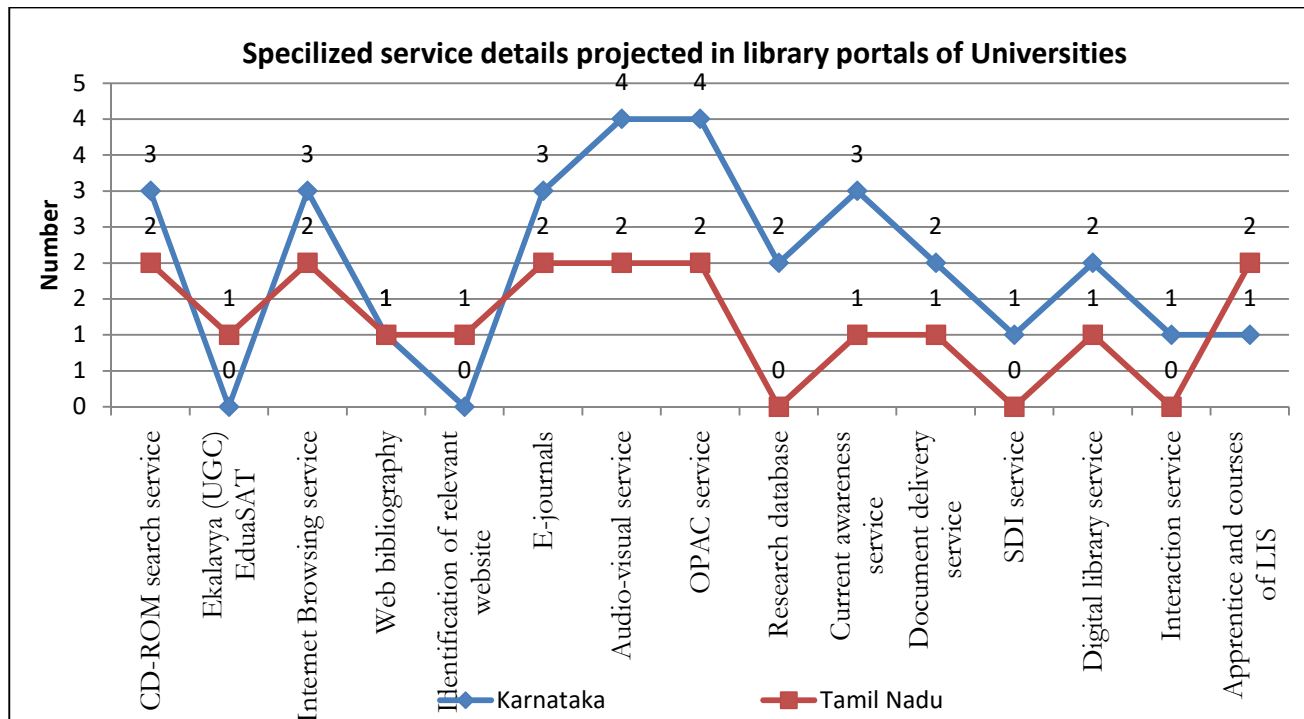


Figure 2: Specialized Service Elements in University portals

Specialized service elements in University Libraries Portals

University Library portals project the details on traditional and specialized services offered by the libraries. Figure I and II depict that the services project in the university

library portals of two states. It is evident from figure 1 that all 10 portals studied have projected the details of photocopying service (100%) followed by Reference, Interlibrary Loan, Newspaper clipping services, bibliographic compilation and open access system (80%). Figure 2 deals with the specialized services that are

Table 6: General Information Elements

SL. No	Elements	Karnataka (n=5)		Tamil Nadu (n=5)		Total	%
		Number	%	Number	%		
1	Rules	-	-	2	40	2	20
2	Total collection	5	100	4	80	9	90
3	workshop	1	20	1	20	2	20
4	Eye view / overview	3	60	-	-	3	30
5	About library	5	100	5	100	10	100
6	Established year	4	80	4	80	8	80

Tamil Nadu		Total	%
(n=5)			
Number	%		
1	20	3	30
2	40	3	
1	20	1	
1	20	3	

Tamil Nadu

Figure 3: Number of Hyperlinks in University Library Portals

projected in the university library portals of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu state. 4 university library portals of Karnataka state have provided the details of audio-visual service and OPAC service. It is interesting to note that the display of the details of specialized service in Tamil Nadu university library portals is not more than 40%.

General Information Elements in University Library portals

It is clear from Table 6 that 100% University library portals of both states have given background information on their libraries in 'About Us' segment, followed by 80% of them have recorded the establishment year of the libraries. 100% library portals of Karnataka university libraries and 80% of library portals of Tamil Nadu universities have furnished information on library collection. 60 percent of Karnataka college library portals have given information on library overview, whereas none of the library portals from Tamil Nadu colleges have

specified this issue. Just 2 (40%) of library portals of Tamil Nadu state have furnished information on library rules while none of the library portals from Karnataka Universities have focused on this issue.

Hyperlinks and Frames Used in University Libraries portals

Out of 5 library portals of Karnataka Universities 2 (40%) have 0-10 and 30-40 hyperlinks, whereas, 40% of library portals of Tamil Nadu universities have 10-20 hyperlinks. (Figure 3)

Table 7 deals with the number of frames projected in university library portals. 4-6 frames were most astounding among university library portals of Karnataka (40%) and Tamil Nadu (60%). Only 20% portals from Karnataka university libraries have the most noteworthy number of frames i.e. 13-15.

Table 7: Number of Frames

SL. No	Range of Frames	Karnataka (n=5)		Tamil Nadu (n=5)		Total	%
		Number	%	Number	%		
1	0-3	1	20	2	40	3	30
2	4-6	2	40	3	60	5	50
3	7-9	1	20	-	--	1	10
4	10-12	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	13-15	1	20	-	-	1	10

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Averages of 80% university library portals from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have a title.
2. Highest numbers of university library portals from Tamil Nadu are providing contact details than the university library portals of Karnataka state.
3. Of the 10 portals of both states, only 40% have copyright statement followed by site development and maintenance (30%)
4. The highest number of university library portals of Tamil Nadu state provides information on librarians and library working hours than those of Karnataka.
5. Photocopy service is the common service provided in all studied university libraries, whereas audio-visual service and OPAC are highest among the university library portals of Karnataka.
6. Details on library rules and regulations have not been projected in the library portals of Karnataka Universities whereas, limited library portals of Tamil Nadu state universities have concentrated on the display of rules and regulations over the portal.
7. The study also identified that the portals are technically moderate. The hyperlinks given in the portals and the frames used in the designing of the portals are not exhaustive.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

This study concentrated on deliberately thinking about the significant components that are projected in the university library portals. Taking into account the significant findings of the study it was suggested that the library portals may as well have copyright holder's portions. The information on the specialized service offered by the university libraries ought to be anticipated. It exhibits the competencies of the libraries. Likewise, rules and regulation of the libraries could be completely given to make consciousness around the library clients.

At long last, truly library portals can lure the clients when they utilize propelled and advanced techniques within creating portals. Most recent methods, for example, CSS style sheets/latest form of HTML could be utilized to plan the portals which furnish stylish magnificence to the portals.

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