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ATTITUDE TOWARDS DIGITAL LIBRARY / INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY BASED ON DOMAIN OF INSTITUTIONS AMONG THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS IN TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

Digital Libraries and Institutional Repositories are organized collections of documents in digital form. Digital Library and Institutional Repository software such as Dspace, Eprints, and Greenstone etc are used for collecting, organizing and managing various digital resources in a retrievable way and providing access to them from distant locations needs. This paper makes an attempt to examine the attitude towards Digital Library/Institutional Repository among Library and Information Science Professionals in NAAC (National Assessment Accredited Council) Accredited Higher Education Institutions in Tamil Nadu. Questionnaire was adopted as a tool for data collection. A total of 251 questionnaires were distributed to the library professionals in NAAC Accredited (A & above A Grade) 251 colleges out of which 196 fully complete questionnaires were received. The study found that in general 72.6% to 93.8% of the respondents from Arts & Science Institutions, 82.1% to 95.5% of the respondents of Engineering Institutions and 87.6% to 100% of the respondents of Colleges of Education indicated the positive attitude towards Digital Library and Institutional Repository.

KEYWORDS: Digital Library, Institutional Repository, NAAC, Attitude, Domain of Institutions)

INTRODUCTION

According to Rohatgi (2015) The digital library is an electronic or virtual library where information is selected, acquired, processed, organized, stored and retrieved in digital form. The developed countries have already digitized their libraries. The developing countries are in the process of digitization of their libraries. The users of digital libraries are the universal users who should have facility to access to all created and acquired digital sources of information in the form of electronic text, image, map, sound, video and multimedia. Thus the digital libraries are attributed to electronic databases and capable of handling large data and servicing users effectively in resource sharing environment.

Rohatgi (2015) has also defined the term Institutional Repository as a digital archive of the intellectual output of an Academic Institution. It makes the quality and breath of scholarship produced at that Institution accessible to others worldwide over the internet. It is a set of services that a University / Organization offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital material created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially on organizational commitment to the stewardship of the digital materials including long term preservation. The basis and fundamental level of an Institutional repository is that it is a recognition that the intellectual life and scholarship of an University will increasingly be represented, documented and shared in digital form and that a primary responsibility of our

University / Colleges is to exercise stewardship over these riches both to make available and to preserve them.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bamigbola (2014) examined the level of awareness, attitude to use of institutional repositories and challenges faced by faculty in Agriculture disciplines in Federal University of Technology, Akure, (FUTA) Nigeria., Akure, Nigeria. The findings suggested that the level of awareness about IRs by faculty members is increasing; however, there was variation in the level of awareness across agriculture disciplines. This study found further that there was a general positive attitude to IR, yet there was low submission of scholarly works by faculty. Ramzan and Dlijit (2008) examined the factors affecting librarians' attitudes toward IT application in libraries. The study found that the intensity of the librarian's fears in IT learning, ability to cope with the ever-changing IT innovations and their level of understanding of IT based rules and regulations were good predictors of librarians' attitudes toward information technology. It concluded that fears regarding the handling of technologies needed to be eliminated or reduced to a minimum through raising their level of knowledge, experience and exposure of emerging information technologies. Adekunle, Omoba, and Tella (2007) studied the attitude of selected librarians in Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria, towards information communication technology (ICT). The results showed

that librarians had a positive attitude towards ICT. The fear of ICT that some librarians in Africa demonstrated made the widening digital divide. Abdelrahman, (2017) investigated the use of the University of Khartoum Institutional Repository (Khartoumspace) by graduate students and to explore their attitudes towards the repository and its contents. The study revealed that electronic theses and dissertations and e-Books are the most frequently used items of the repository's collection. The study showed that there was low usage rate of the repository by the respondents but they have positive attitudes towards the repository, and that the majority of the respondents learnt about the existence of the repository from a colleague rather than from a librarian. The findings indicated that, in order to enhance the usage of the repository by graduate students, there is a need for more awareness raising and advocacy programmes to be carried out by the library about the repository and its benefits to the academic community of the university. Hall (2013) used a phenomenological approach to examine faculty attitudes in an institutional repository context as well as the socio-technical factors that affect scholarly communication and data sharing practices. The author conducted interviews and observations with Environmental Studies faculty at two large public research universities. This article reported preliminary results, though data transcription and analysis are ongoing. The author planned to analyze interview transcriptions to find dominant themes. Allen (2005) compared the attitudes and behaviors of academics from different disciplines towards depositing their work in institutional repositories. The study revealed that the number of humanities documents in institutional repositories is currently far lower than that

in STM disciplines. Awareness of Open Access amongst humanities academics is also low. However they perceive many advantages to depositing their work in institutional repositories, especially for the reader, not for themselves. Manjunatha and Thandavamoorthy (2001) identified that the humanities and social science researchers are found to have a low level awareness of the institutional repository but are interested in contributing their research work to the university institutional repository and have a positive attitude towards providing free access to scholarly research results of their University. Therefore, there is a scope to study the users' awareness of institutional repositories to measure local scenarios.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To examine the attitude of Library and Information Science Professionals towards Digital Library / Institutional Repository based on Domain of Institutions

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted among the Library and Information Science Professionals of NAAC Accredited (A & above A Grade) Higher educational institutions comprise of Colleges in Tamil Nadu. Questionnaire was adopted as a tool for data collection. A total of 251 questionnaires were distributed to the library professionals in NAAC Accredited (A & above A Grade) 251 colleges out of which 196 fully complete questionnaires were received, indicating return rate of 70.75 percent.

DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

TABLE 1
ATTITUDE TOWARDS DIGITAL LIBRARY AND INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

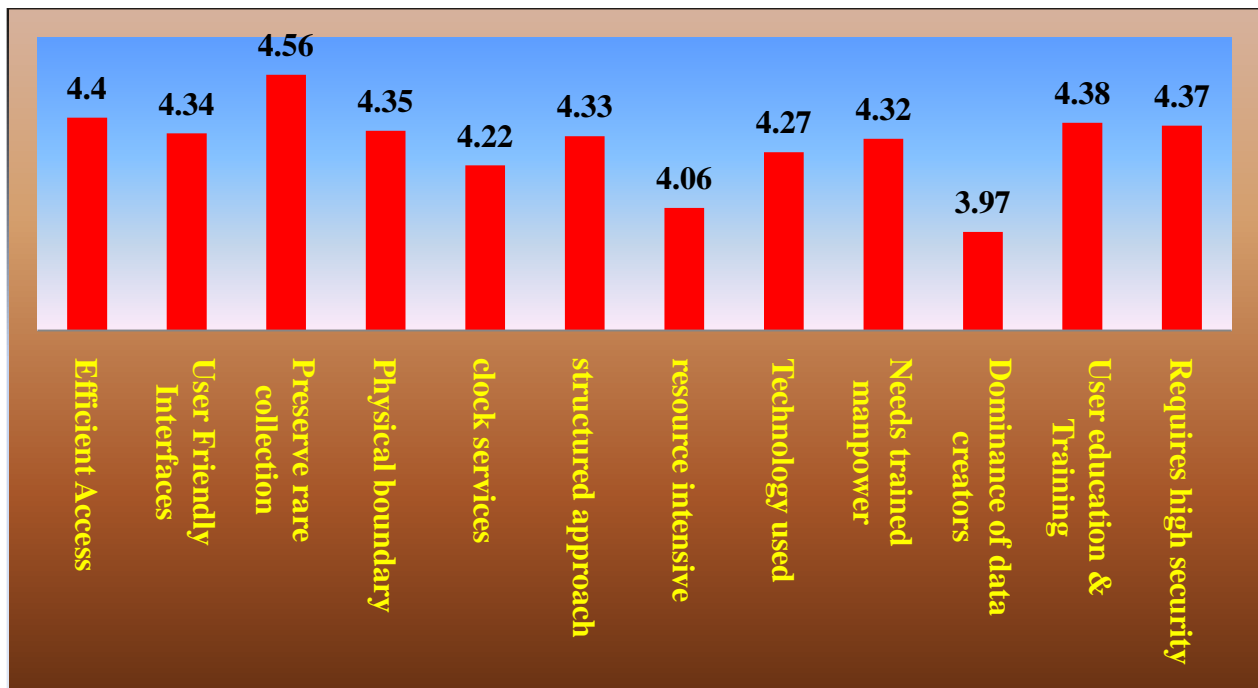
S. No	Description	SD	DA	UD	A	SA	M	Std	R
1	Offers efficient access.	0 .0%	2 1.0%	1 .5%	109 55.6%	84 42.9%	4.40	.56	2
2	Offers user friendly interfaces.	1 .5%	0 .0%	0 .0%	125 63.8%	70 35.7%	4.34	.53	6
3	Helps to preserve rare collection through digitization.	0 .0%	1 .5%	9 4.6%	65 33.2%	121 61.7%	4.56	.60	1
4	Does not have physical boundary.	4 2.0%	1 .5%	18 9.2%	71 36.2%	102 52%	4.35	.83	5
5	Offers round the clock services.	2 1%	2 1%	15 7.7%	107 54.6%	70 35.7%	4.22	.71	10
6	Has a structured approach	1 .5%	1 .5%	14 7.1%	96 49%	84 42.9%	4.33	.67	7
7	Is expensive and resource intensive.	0 .0%	14 7.1%	25 12.8%	92 46.9%	65 33.2%	4.06	.86	11
8	Technology used is more dynamic (Keeps on changing)	0 .0%	8 4.1%	9 4.6%	100 51%	79 40.3%	4.27	.73	9
9	Needs trained manpower.	0	9	13	80	94	4.32	.79	8

		.0%	4.6%	6.6%	40.8%	48%			
10	Dominance of data creators and e-publishers.	4 2%	11 5.6%	24 12.2%	103 52.6%	54 27.6%	3.97	.89	12
11	Utilization requires proper user education & training.	0 .0%	1 .5%	19 9.7%	79 40.3%	97 49.5%	4.38	.68	3
12	Requires high security against hacking & sabotage.	0 .0%	10 5.1%	9 4.6%	74 37.8%	103 52.6%	4.37	.79	4

(M=Mean; Std = Standard Deviation, R=Rank), (SD) Strongly Disagree(DA) Disagree
(A) Agree (SA) Strongly Agree

(UD) Undecided

FIGURE 1
ATTITUDE TOWARDS DIGITAL LIBRARY AND INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY



The mean values of all twelve variables were taken up for the study and it ranges between 3.97 and 4.56. It is found that the variable- 'Helps to preserve the rare collection through digitization', occupied the first rank, it is followed by 'Offers efficient accesses, and 'Utilization requires proper user education and training', which ranked second and third positions respectively. It is observed that the variable - 'Dominance of data creators and e-publishers', occupied the last rank. In general, it is observed that 80.2% to 94.9% of the Library and Information Science Professionals emphasized that they have positive attitude towards

Digital Library and Institutional Repository.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS DIGITAL LIBRARY AND INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY BASED ON DOMAIN OF INSTITUTION

Attitude towards Digital Library and Institutional repository among the respondents is further analysed based on the Domain of the Institution by using Likert's five point scale. The rank was assigned based on mean and standard deviation and the same is shown in Tables.

TABLE 2
ATTITUDE TOWARDS DIGITAL LIBRARY AND INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY BASED ON DOMAIN OF INSTITUTION

S. No.	Description	Arts & Science n= 113			Engineering n = 67			College of Education n= 16		
		M	Std	R	M	Std	R	M	Std	R
1	Offers efficient access.	4.42	.56	2	4.34	.56	7	4.50	.51	3
2	Offers user friendly interfaces.	4.34	.57	3	4.34	.47	8	4.31	.47	10
3	Helps to preserve rare collection through digitization.	4.58	.63	1	4.52	.58	1	4.56	.51	2
4	Does not have physical boundary.	4.31	.83	5	4.37	.88	5	4.56	.51	3
5	Offers round the clock services.	4.23	.82	8	4.22	.57	11	4.18	.40	11
6	Has a structured approach	4.28	.70	7	4.37	.64	6	4.50	.63	5
7	Is expensive and resource intensive.	3.89	.89	12	4.26	.82	10	4.37	.50	7
8	Technology used is more dynamic (Keeps on changing)	4.22	.72	10	4.28	.77	9	4.62	.50	1
9	Needs trained manpower.	4.23	.83	9	4.44	.63	4	4.37	1.02	8
10	Dominance of data creators and e-publishers.	3.92	.91	11	4.11	.86	12	3.75	.93	12
11	Utilization requires proper user education & training.	4.33	.71	4	4.46	.65	3	4.43	.51	6
12	Requires high security against hacking & sabotage.	4.30	.83	6	4.50	.72	2	4.37	.80	9

(M=Mean; Std = Standard Deviation, R=Rank)

TABLE 3
ATTITUDE TOWARDS DIGITAL LIBRARY AND INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY BASED ON DOMAIN OF INSTITUTION

S. No.	Description	Arts & Science (n= 113)						Engineering (n = 67)						College of Education (n= 16)					
		SA	A	UD	DA	SD	M	SA	A	UD	DA	SD	M	SA	A	UD	DA	SD	M
1	Offers efficient access.	0.0%	1.9%	1.9%	53.1%	45.1%	4.42	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	61.2%	37.3%	4.34	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50%	50%	4.50
2	Offers user friendly interfaces.	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	61.9%	37.2%	4.34	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	65.7%	34.3%	4.34	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	68.8%	31.3%	4.31
3	Helps to preserve rare collection through digitization	0.0%	1.9%	5.3%	28.3%	65.5%	4.58	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	38.8%	56.7%	4.52	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	43.8%	56.3%	4.56
4	Does not have physical boundary.	1.8%	1.9%	10.6%	37.2%	49.6%	4.31	3.0%	0.0%	9.0%	32.8%	55.2%	4.37	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	43.8%	56.3%	4.56
5	Offers round the clock services.	1.8%	1.8%	8.8%	46.0%	41.6%	4.23	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	62.7%	29.9%	4.22	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	81.3%	18.8%	4.18
6	Has a structured approach	1.9%	1.9%	6.2%	53.1%	38.9%	4.28	0.0%	0.0%	9.0%	44.8%	46.3%	4.37	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	37.5%	56.3%	4.50
7	Is expensive and resource intensive.	0.0%	8.8%	18.6%	46.9%	25.7%	3.89	0.0%	6.0%	6.0%	43.3%	44.8%	4.26	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	62.5%	37.5%	4.37
8	Technology used is more dynamic (Keeps on changing)	0.0%	4.4%	4.4%	55.8%	35.4%	4.22	0.0%	4.5%	6.0%	46.3%	43.3%	4.28	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	37.5%	62.5%	4.62
9	Needs trained manpower.	0.0%	6.2%	7.1%	43.4%	43.4%	4.23	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	40.3%	52.2%	4.44	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%	25.0%	62.5%	4.37
10	Dominance of data creators and	1.8%	7.1%	13.3%	52.2%	25.7%	3.92	1.5%	3.0%	13.4%	46.3%	35.8%	4.11	6.3%	6.3%	0.0%	81.3%	6.3%	3.75

	e-publishers.																		
11	Utilization requires proper user education & training	0 .0%	0 .0%	16 14.2%	43 38.1%	54 47.8%	4.33	0 .0%	1 1.5%	3 4.5%	27 40.3%	36 53.7%	4.46	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	9 56.3%	7 43.8%	4.43
12	Requires high security against hacking & sabotage	0 .0%	7 6.2%	6 5.3%	46 40.7%	54 47.8%	4.30	0 .0%	2 3.0%	3 4.5%	21 31.3%	41 61.2%	4.50	0 .0%	1 6.3%	0 .0%	7 43.8%	8 50.0%	4.37

(SA) Strongly Agree, (A) Agree, (UD) Undecided, (DA) Disagree, (SD) Strongly Disagree,

It is found that majority of the respondents of Arts & Science Institutions indicated that 'Helps to preserve rare collection through digitization', 'Offers efficient access', and 'Offers user friendly interfaces', which were given first, second and third ranks respectively. In the case of Engineering Institutions majority of the respondents preferred 'Helps to preserve rare collection through digitization', followed by 'Requires high security against hacking & sabotage' and 'Utilization requires proper user education & training' which occupied first, second and third ranks respectively. In the case of respondents from Colleges of Education, majority of the respondents indicated their preferences as the first, second, third ranks for 'Technology used is more dynamic (Keeps on changing)', 'Helps to preserve rare collection through digitization', and 'Does not have physical boundary' respectively. It is further observed that respondents from Arts & Science Institutions least preferred that 'is expensive and resource intensive' and hence it occupied twelfth position and respondents from Engineering Institutions and Colleges of Education indicated their least choice to 'Dominance of data creators and e-publishers' and hence it occupied the twelfth position.

In general 72.6% to 93.8% of the respondents from Arts & Science Institutions, 82.1% to 95.5% of the respondents of Engineering Institutions and 87.6% to 100% of the respondents of Colleges of Education indicated the positive attitude towards Digital Library and Institutional Repository.

CONCLUSION

Digital Library and Institutional Repository are important components in an education system. In India, the higher educational institutions are introducing Digital Library and Institutional Repository in their Libraries to promote higher education by means of enhancing access and dissemination of their scholarly literature. These Digital Libraries and Institutional repositories will enable learners and faculty members to acquire new knowledge and up-date their skills with latest developments in their disciplines. However, it is worth bearing in mind that in order to access resources available in Digital Library and Institutional repository, learners and faculty need computers and access to the internet. At this juncture Library plays an active role in providing these facilities to the learning community. Hence, digital resource

service becomes a popular service. Digital contents are attractive and easy to reach and also it helps overcome the limitations of time constraints and access barriers. Hence, in near future Digital Library and Institutional Repository will have wider scope in the Educational Institutions. Digital Library/Institutional Repository is also one of the areas that attracts researchers and it requires funding for development. If the investment is to be maximised, it is imperative that library science professionals in association with other faculties generate robust models to develop various models for Digital Library/Institutional Repository.

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