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Ranking of Library Websites of Agricultural University of India: A Study

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Abstract:

Purpose: The purpose of the study is to derive the current status of web contents of library websites of Agricultural Universities in India and to examine the web-based library services provided via their websites and to determine the rank of the library websites on the basis of content analysis.

Design/ Methodology/ Approach: For data collection in this study, survey and observation methods were applied. Data are collected from the library websites of Agricultural Universities of India with the help of a checklist prepared on the basis of previous studies done.

Findings: The findings show that most of the surveyed libraries have up-to-date library websites or webpages with the information of adequate services and facilities. Most of the library websites provide access to e-resources and provide remote access to their resources.

Keywords:

Content Analysis, Agricultural University, Library Websites, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

1. Introduction:

In the age of information explosion, right way of information dissemination and collection is the main issue of any organization or institution. Users are received information easily with the help of internet, but many are failed in getting right information in right time. To overcome this problem, there should be a systematic way of representation of information, so that user get their desired information easily. Library of any institution always helping the users by providing right information in less time. As the people nowadays want information in their doorsteps, therefore library of any institution always tries to fulfil the users need. Webpage is the best medium for providing information to users easily. The library website or webpage can be considered as the mirror image of the library. The aim of this study is to determine the rank of top ten library websites of Agricultural Universities of India listed as per ICAR ranking.

According to Shu Liu, "Beyond providing information about Libraries and library services, academic library websites provide access to online catalogs, electronic databases, subject resources, library instruction/tutorials, and digital collections." (Shu Liu, 2014)

2. Literature Review:

(Amrohi, 2015) discussed theoretically about various types of web-based technology used in the special libraries. The main technologies explained in the paper are library websites, web technology and information communication technology, access to database, e-bibliographic and cataloguing services, e-current awareness services (CAS), Electronic selective dissemination of information service (E-SDI), Email Service, E-newsclipping service, OPAC/Web OPAC, E-Refence Service, Ask-A-Librarian, Tagging, Instant Messaging, Reference service, Wikis, Blog, Web based Chat systems to interact with library users.

(Manjunatha, 2016) suggested that the library website should be informative, interactive and attractive to attract the users by doing the study on the contents of eight special library websites of Bangaluru, Karnataka.

(Mani & Thirumagal, 2016) discussed the preview of Engineering College Library Websites of Tirunelveli District of Tamilnadu. To solve the drawbacks of the library websites, librarians must be undergone training to fulfil the institutional goal, which will make the librarian to update their library websites to fulfil the demand of the users.

(Punwatkar & Salunke, 2018) studied the web contents available over 13 IIM library websites and recorded the data using checklist. (Gadhavi, 2017) studied the content analysis of library websites of institutes of national importance in Gujarat.

(Yoon & Schultz, 2017) studied 185 library websites of academic libraries in the United States. They also studied the research data services, data management recommendations and tool adoptions and reveals areas that need improvement and support.

(Gulnaz & Fatima, 2017) discussed a detailed preview of the contents of IIT Madras and IIT Bombay Central Libraries. They found that these library portals have all the features to achieve the needs of their users. The study reveals that library portals are important tools to higher and technical education and these are serving to provide print as well as electronic resources to their users. The checklist prepared for the study is based on 95 items under the following heads: general information, accessibility, navigation, currency, e-resources, services and special features.

(Haridasan & Uwesh, 2014) analysed various aspect of 13 Central University library websites of India. A checklist was prepared for collecting data from the selected University websites.

(Devi & Verma, 2018) carried out their study on the library websites of 19 IITs and 29 NITs. Total 172 parameters and a five-point-rating scale have been designed to rank IITs and NITs library websites.

(Hugar, 2019) analysed the contents of engineering college library websites of Goa affiliated to Goa University. This study suggested to develop and manage better library websites.

3. Scope of the Study:

The current study is based on the content available in the library websites of Agricultural Universities of India taken for the study. The study is limited to the library websites of Agricultural Universities of India ranked in top 10 Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as per 2019 ranking. The scope of the present study is further limited to ten Agricultural Universities of India which have functional library websites as on July, 2020.

4. Objectives of the Study:

- a. To analyse the web contents of library websites of Agricultural Universities of India as per ICAR ranking.
- b. To know the available library collection type through the selected library websites.
- c. To know the services provided by the selected library websites.
- d. To know the available e-resources in the selected library websites.
- e. To determine the rank of the library websites of the Agricultural Universities of India.

5. Methodology:

For the study, survey and observation method have been applied to collect the data from the library websites of Agricultural Universities of India. A checklist is prepared on the basis of available literature and previous studies done by various authors etc. The study tries to evaluate the content of these library websites of Agricultural Universities of India such as URL classification, accessibility of library websites, general information, collection, services and application of web 2.0 technology provided on the websites. On the basis of checklist, the obtained results and scores will be structured in two variables i.e. Yes=1 and

No= 0. By scoring points the selected library websites will be categorized and ranked with the help of MS-Excel.

The five-point rating scale was derived on the basis of maximum 40 score points. The scale of ratings to rank the library websites is based on the point as given below:

- More than 33 : Excellent
- 25-32 : Very Good
- 17-24 : Good
- 09-16 : Average
- 01-08 : Needs Improvement

6. Data Analysis and Interpretation:

6.1 Agricultural Universities of India listed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research as per 2019 ranking:

Table 1: List of library websites of Agricultural Universities of India

ICAR Rank	Name of the University	State	Year of Establishment	Library URL
1	ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal (NDRI)	Haryana	1923	http://www.ndri.res.in/ndri/Design/library.html
2	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (PAU)	Punjab	1962	http://www.pau.edu/msrlibrary/
3	ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi (IARI)	Delhi	1905	https://iari.res.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=96&Itemid=352
4	ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar (IVRI)	Uttar Pradesh	1889	http://www.ivri.nic.in/Division/CE/NFC/NLVS/default.aspx
5	G B Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar (GBPUAT)	Uttarakhand	1960	https://www.gbpuat.ac.in/facility/library/index.html
6	Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar (HAU)	Haryana	1970	https://www.hau.ac.in/college/nehru-library
7	Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana (GADVASU)	Punjab	2005	https://www.gadvasu.in/page/-about-the-library/109/108
8	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore (TNAU)	Tamil Nadu	1906	https://tnau.ac.in/library/
9	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (UAS)	Karnataka	1986	http://www.uasd.edu/index.php/library/2015-12-03-01-37-45
10	Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad (PJTSAU)	Hyderabad	2014	https://www.pjtsau.edu.in/library.html

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) was established on 16th July, 1923. The ICAR is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of India. The ICAR Ranking list 2019 was released on 5th December, 2020. This paper is mainly dealing with the top 10 Agricultural Universities of India listed in ICAR Ranking of 2019.

6.2 Classification of Websites by URL extension:

Table 2 shows the different extension used in the URL of the parent website of the Agricultural Universities taken for study.

Table 2. Classification of Websites by URL

Sl. No.	URL Extension	No. of Institutes (n=10)	Percentage
1	.res.in	2	20%
2	.edu	2	20%
3	.nic.in	1	10%
4	.ac.in	3	30%
5	.in	1	10%
6	.edu.in	1	10%

6.3 Accessibility of Library webpage:

Table 3 reveals the accessibility of library webpage from the parent homepage. Out of total 10 Universities, six library webpages have direct link on parent homepage and other four library webpage links are given under other menu of the parent homepage.

Table 3. Accessibility of Library Webpages

Sl. No.	Accessibility of library webpage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Direct link on parent's home page	6	60%
2	Link under other menu	4	40%

6.4 General information of the libraries of the Agricultural Universities:

Table 4 reveals the general information about the library websites of ICAR ranking Agricultural Universities of India. From the survey, it is found that 100% of the library websites are providing information like 'About the Library'. 90% of the library websites are providing information about 'Contact Information' and 'Library Hours'. Among the websites, 80% of the libraries are mentioned the 'Library Rules' and 'Membership' in their websites. 40% of the library websites provide information about 'News and Events'. 'FAQ's' is mentioned in 20% of the library websites only. Information about 'Library Layout/ Floor Plan', 'Date of Updated' and 'Feedback' are provided by 10% of the library.

Table 4: General information of the libraries

Sl. No.	Website Content	ND RI	PA U	IAR I	IVR I	GBP UAT	HA U	GADVA SU	TNA U	UA S	PJTS AU	Percentage
1	About the Library	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
2	Contact Information	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	90%
3	FAQ's	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	20%
4	Library Committee/ Governance	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	30%
5	News and Events	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	40%
6	Library Layout/ Floor Plan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10%
7	Library Hours	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	90%
8	Library Rules	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	80%
9	Membership	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	80%
10	Library Tour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
11	Date of Updated	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10%
12	Feedback	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10%
	Total Score (maximum 12)	8	6	2	5	8	8	4	7	3	5	

6.5 Information about Library Collection:

Table 5 reveals the information about library collections of the Agricultural Universities of India ranked in ICAR ranking, 2019. It is observed that 100% of the libraries provide information about 'Book', 'Print Journals', 'Reference Sources', 'Back volumes of Journals', 'Newspapers' and 'Thesis' Collection in their websites. 50% of the surveyed library websites provide information about 'Reference Sources'. Among the surveyed library websites, only 20% of the libraries provide information about 'Rare Collection'.

Table 5: Information about Library Collection

Sl. No.	Website Content	NDR I	PA U	IA RI	IV RI	GBPU AT	HA U	GADV ASU	TNA U	UA S	PJTS AU	Percentage
1	Books	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
2	Print Journals	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
3	Reference Sources	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
4	Back volumes of journals	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
5	Newspapers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
6	Thesis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
7	Reports	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	50%
8	Rare Collection	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	20%
	Total Score (maximum 8)	7	7	7	7	7	6	8	6	6	6	

6.6 Information about Library Services:

Table 6 shows information about the library services provided by Agricultural University library websites under study. All the surveyed library websites (100%) provide information about 'Access to Online Resources', 'Circulation Service', 'ICT Based Service', 'Online Catalogue', 'Reading Room' and 'User Education Service'. 90% of the surveyed library websites provide information about 'Digital Library' and 'Reference Service'. 70% library websites provide information about 'Reprographic Service'. 60% library websites are providing information about 'Current Awareness service'. 50% of the library websites provide information about 'Remote Access'. Only 30% of the surveyed library websites provide information about 'Document Delivery Service'. No library is providing information about 'QR Codes'.

Table 6: Information about Library Services

Sl. No.	Library Services	ND RI	PA U	IA RI	IV RI	GBP UAT	HA U	GADV ASU	TN AU	UA S	PJTS AU	Percentage
1	Access to Online Resources	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
2	Circulation Service	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
3	Current Awareness Service	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	60%
4	Digital Library	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	90%
5	Document Delivery Service	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	30%
6	ICT Based Service	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
7	Online Catalogue	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
8	Reading Room	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
9	Reference Service	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	90%
10	User Education Service	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
11	Reprographic Service	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	70%
12	QR Codes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
13	Remote Access	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	50%

14	Inter-Library Loan	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	50%
	Total Score (maximum 13)	11	10	10	9	13	11	7	12	10	11	

6.7 Information about available e-resources:

Table 7 denotes the status of available e-resources in the Agricultural Universities of India. E-resources are the most useful resources a library should have in present day situation. Most of the users preferred e-resources for their reading. Most of the libraries are providing remote access to the e-resources. With the help of remote access facility, the user can access the resources from their residence. All the library websites under study provide information about e-books, e-databases, e-journals, e-Open Access and Web OPAC. 60% of the library websites provide information about CD-ROM database.

Table 7: Status of available e-resources

Sl. No.	E-resources	ND RI	PA U	IAR I	IVR I	GBPUA T	HA U	GADVAS U	TNA U	UA S	PJTS AU	Percentage
1	E-books	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
2	E-databases	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
3	E-journals	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
4	E-Open Access	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
5	Web OPAC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
6	CD-ROM Database	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	60%
	Total Score (maximum 6)	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	5	5	

6.8 Ranking of the Agricultural University Library Websites:

Table 8 shows the rank and the total score of the Agricultural University library websites, calculated from the previous Table 4 to 7. From the study, it is found that G B Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar has obtained total score 34 with 'excellent' rating. All other eight Universities obtained 'very good' rating. University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad has scored lowest with 'Good' rating.

Table 8. Ranking of Agricultural University Library Websites

Sl. No.	Name of the University	Table 4	Table 5	Table 6	Table 7	Total Score (max=40)	Rating	Rank
1	ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal	8	7	11	6	32	Very Good	2
2	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	6	7	10	6	29	Very Good	4
3	ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	2	7	10	6	25	Very Good	7
4	ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	5	7	9	5	26	Very Good	6
5	G B Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar	8	7	13	6	34	Excellent	1
6	Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar	8	6	11	6	31	Very Good	3
7	Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana	4	8	7	6	25	Very Good	7
8	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	7	6	12	6	31	Very Good	3
9	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	3	6	10	5	24	Good	8
10	Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad	5	6	11	5	27	Very Good	5

7. Findings:

7.1 From the study, it is found that 100% of the library websites provide information like ‘About the Library’ and 90% of the library websites provide information about ‘Contact Information’ and ‘Library Hours’.

7.2 Regarding information about library collection, 100% of library websites provide information about ‘Book’, ‘Print Journals’ ‘Reference Sources’, ‘Back Volumes of journals’, ‘Newspapers’ and ‘Thesis’.

7.3 All the surveyed library websites (100%) provide information about ‘Access to Online Resources’, ‘Circulation Service’, ‘ICT Based Service’, ‘Online Catalogue’, ‘Reading Room’ and ‘User Education Service’. 90% of the surveyed library websites provide information about ‘Digital Library’ and ‘Reference Service’.

7.4 All the library websites (100%) provide information about e-resources such as e-books, e-databases, e-journals, e-open access and Web OPAC.

8. Conclusion:

The present study reveals that the library websites of the Agricultural Universities of India provide most of the library information in their websites. As the web 2.0 services are very popular in the library websites for the user-friendly services, the inclusion of web 2.0 services in the surveyed library websites is very important. But, any of the surveyed websites is not using Web 2.0 services in their library websites. 50% of the library websites provide ‘remote access’ service to the user. Still upgradation of library websites is very important for all the institutions.

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