

LIBRARY PORTAL OF MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH RAHURI: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract:

Library portals are important vehicles by which to support the information needs and uses of library patrons. These systems provide users with convenient, personalized Web-based access to a comprehensive collection of information resources of relevance and authority. Moreover, library portals support a broad range of information seeking activity from browsing to search, provide mechanisms for communication and collaboration, and facilitate knowledge creation and sharing – all through a usable, intuitive interface. Research and education are progressive with the paradigm changes in the valuable services offered by the Libraries. The spectrum of electronic resources required for research and the necessity of customizing them for use have contributed to the design and function of Library Portals. These portals contain gateway functionality and also provide tools for organized knowledge discovery. The paper highlights the concept of library portals and information architecture and the relationship that exists between the two concepts. Also paper illustrates the features and proactive role of the University Library Portal of the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth Rahuri in enhancing the quality of research.

Key words: Library Portal, MPKV, University Library, e-Resources

INTRODUCTION:

The library portal arena offers clients opportunity to browse and sieve resources which promise to be useful for their research work and other things they may need the information for Clients stumble upon a myriad of information while on the library portal and some of the information are not

useful to them due to the manner in which the resources are linked and made available on the portal. Sometimes, priorities are misplaced and information is uploaded on some library portals which are not meant to serve the immediate needs of the library clients. Library portals are meant to bridge the gap between the clients and the cumbersome method the traditional setting of information location offers. [Sadeh and Walker, 2003]

The current process of accessing several resources for the sake of seeking information is cumbersome and requires some knowledge of the various resources, their access mechanisms, the query interface they provide, and the type of results they return. Library portals have tremendous roles to play in the present age and here comes in the information architecture aspect and who plays the role. Information architecture is the arrangement of information in classes which they belong; classification of information in an orderly manner. Librarians are trained classifiers of information – they catalogue and classify, in which case they are termed ‘cataloguer librarians’. The role of librarians as Information Architects cannot be overemphasized, more so relating it to library portals design.

The demands of the contemporary society have become highly selective and expect customized information, are it either about products or services. Reaching out to such demands successfully has become possible through mechanisms namely ‘Portals’. Michael Looney and Peter Lyman define them as: “Portals gather a variety of useful information resources into a single, ‘one-stop’ Web page, helping the user to avoid being overwhelmed by ‘info glut’ or feeling lost on the Web”. Academic users of portals seek valuable services provided by the Libraries to the academic community which select and organize information resources that support research and education. Library portals in the digital realm enhance the value and function of electronic resources with the facility of searching multiple resources.

LIBRARY PORTALS:

There has been considerable interest and research activity in library portals in recent years. At the end of 2000, a special issue in *Information Technology and Libraries* (ITAL) journal was devoted to the topic. There, library portals were defined as “user-centered, customizable interfaces to collections of library resources” (Morgan, 2000, p.166). Such a description emphasizes the need to build robust interfaces to library resources – interfaces that address the information needs and uses of patrons through personalization of information content tailored to individual preferences. As libraries create, license, or negotiate access to more and more digital content, the need for such easy-to-use interfaces becomes increasingly important (Pasquinelli, 2002).

“A library Web portal has the potential of changing how libraries are used and how librarians will do their work. These portals have the potential of bringing about real change to our professional and organizational culture. These changes will enable libraries to be customer centered. Systems and processes will be based on dynamically linked and scalable databases that will enable library staff to concentrate on content delivery and teaching. These trends will inevitably enhance the academic library’s ability to deliver positive learning outcomes to customers and stakeholders.” (Lakos and Gray, 2000, p. 169).

There are variations in the literature on the agreement over what constitutes or differentiates a library portal from other library Web initiatives, such as a Web-based front-end to a library catalogue. According to Pasquinelli (2002):

“Library portals typically include an online catalog of materials as well as gateways to collections of digital resources accessible to the user. Broadcast search tools allow library users to search all of these sources simultaneously with a single query. Portals may include electronic reference services (“ask a librarian”), personalization features (“my bookshelf,” custom intelligent searches), and other research tools. Enriched content, such as author biographies and book reviews, tables of contents, and jacket images can be provided to supplement the online catalog. Some libraries have built interactive features into their portals, allowing development of virtual communities.” (Pasquinelli, 2002, p. 24)

OBJECTIVE

This paper plans to visualize the proactive role of the M.P.K.V’s Library Portal of taken up as a case study.

University Library Portal of MPKV:

Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth Rahuri has an institutional portal which furnishes information to its stake-holders in a wider perspective pertaining to its mission and motto. Library services forming a component of the portal provide a link to all the Campus of the University. MPKV Campus which caters to the academic needs of the Agricultural Education has an exclusive Library Portal. This portal is at present accessible in the intranet only. Efforts had been taken to satiate the needs of the academic science community; a one stop point wherein the researcher saves much of his precious time to look for what he/she requires most importantly and urgently – starting from the basic Library Info to specialized electronic resources such as Subject Gateways.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
(Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri)

Welcome to University Library, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Dist. Ahmednagar (M.S.) India

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Procedures

- Online Catalogues
- Current Periodicals
- Back Volumes
- Theses
- Indian Standards
- Video Cassettes
- CD ROM Databases
- DVDs
- Acta Horticulturae
- Online Resources
 - CeRA
 - Krishiprabha
 - Jgate
 - e-Granth,
 - IndiaStat.com
- Login/Sign In
- Click Here

Knowledge is the Antidote to Fear
.....Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan
(1892-1972)
Father of Library Science

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan's Laws of Li

Current News

Library to be in October 2012

CeRA facility is available for retrieval of full text journal articles at <http://cera.jcc.in>

Contact

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Best Viewed in 1024 x 768

The following illustrates the facets of the Campus Portal.

Library Info

- **About Library:** Provides information about the Librarian, History of Library, Introduction of Library, Building, Library Collection, Library Section, Opening Hours, Borrowing eligibility, Library staff of the Library.
- **Services:** Both traditional services and value added electronic information services are listed to give an overview of the library services offered.

- **News & Events :** Information regarding forthcoming Seminars, Conferences or Workshops organized by the Departments of the Campus, Orientation programmes for Research scholars, Refresher courses for faculty etc are periodically furnished
- **Photo Gallery:** Displays an image gallery of the events organized by the Library such as Workshops, Orientation programmes, Faculty interaction programmes and also those associated with the Librarian who spearheads & participates in various events.
- **Training:** Provides different Workshop and training session organized by the university.
- **Publication:** Provides the latest publication details from the Research Scholar and from the teaching staff.
- **Rules:** Provides the rules and regulation of the Library.

Search Facility

- **Member Status:** The Library members could check out the transactions, about what documents are due to be returned and could renew the borrowing period from their desktop without having to walk into the Library.
- **Books/Theses:** Members have the OPAC accessible in the intranet to search for the books they require the no. of copies available; locate theses by various parameters such as by the Guide, Author, Keyword, Title, Accession no etc. A detail of submission from which Department and whether it is a doctoral or B.Tech, M.tech.dissertation is also indicated. University being a research institution, a lot many searches are done for Theses.
- **Journals Subscribed:** The currently subscribed print journals and the archive of subscribed journals can be searched for availability with details of missing volumes and the receipt date of latest issues. This enables the user to know if the current issue is displayed for use thus saving his precious time.
- **Online Journals and Databases:** The electronic resources under the ICAR, CeRa consortia both electronic journals and databases can be searched alphabetically, by subject coverage or by publisher. The links created at the portal for journals in the consortia (over 2939 e journals) helps the user to access the homepage of the journal right away and download the full text articles required. There has been an overwhelming appreciation for this facility because of the ease at which they can access electronic resources.

CATALOGUE OF THESES
(2002-2006)

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Author	Title
AHIR (V P)	Evaluation of water harvesting structures in selected water sheds of Ahmednagar district. M.Tech.(Ag.Engg)Thesis, MPKV, Rahuri, 2005 108pp (Acc.No. T-5923) Guide: N.L. Bote
AHIR (V P) & OTHERS	Performance evaluation of power tiller operated direct driven axial flow pump. B. Tech. (Agri.Engg) Report, MPKV, Rahuri June,2002 pp.12+index (Acc.No.T-4812) Guide: VD Deshmukh
AHIRE (V D)& SAPKALE (H A)	Probability analysis of reference crop evapotranspiration. B. Tech.(Agri Engg)Report, MPKV, Rahuri June 2004, pp.51 (Acc.No. T-5423) Guide: AA Atre
ATHARE (A Y) & OTHERS	Optimization of maintenance of electrical motors used in agriculture. B. Tech.(Ag.Engg)Report, MPKV, Rahuri, 2004 30pp (Acc.No. T-5612) Guide: M.S. Patwardhan
BACHAKAR (H R) & OTHERS	Determination of moisture distribution pattern at harvest stage of sugarcane using porous pipe. B. Tech.(Ag.Engg)Report. MPKV, Rahuri, 2006 32pp (Acc.No. T-5791) Guide: R.S. Dhotre
BACHHAV (A B) & OTHERS	Effect of low cost soil and water conservation measures on runoff, soil moisture status and growth of tree. B. Tech.(Ag.Engg)Report, MPKV, Rahuri, 2005 21pp (Acc.No. T-5620) Guide: G.B. Gutal
BAGADE (S P)	Response of Sapota fruits to precooling and low temperature storage conditions. M.Tech.(Ag.Engg)Report, MPKV, Rahuri, 2004 65pp (Acc. No. T-5511) Guide: P.A. Unde
BAGADE (S P) & GAIKWAD (N N)	Studies on post harvest management of Mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.). B. Tech. (Agri.Engg)Report, MPKV, Rahuri June, 2002 pp.76 (Acc.No. T-4814) Guide: H.G. More
BALSANE (V K) & BHAGAWAT (D L)	Status of some agro processing industries in Ahmednagar District. B. Tech.(Agri.Engg)Report, MPKV, Rahuri 2001-02, pp. 50 (Acc.No. T-4815) Guide: D.N. Konde

Details of the Catalogue theses of different Disciplines (relating to the departments of the Campus) and the themes on which electronic resources are compiled are listed below.

- **Agricultural Engineering**
- **Agricultural Chemistry**
- **Agricultural Extension**
- **Agricultural Microbiology**
- **Agronomy**
- **Animal Sci. & Dairy Science**
- **Biochemistry**
- **Economics**
- **Food Sci. & Technology**
- **Horticulture**
- **Irrigation**
- **Meteorology**
- **Plant Breeding**

- **Plant Pathology**
- **Plant Physiology**
- **Seed Science**
- **Soil Science**

Open Access Resources: In the light of the open access movement gaining ground globally, it was felt that open sources of journals, directories, tutorials, PowerPoint presentations, Conference proceedings etc provide a rich supplement to research.

Other Resource Links:

Links to important URL's, CeRa, J-Gate, Krishiprabha, e-Granth, Indiastat.com which are time again required to be accessed to apply for projects etc. also serve as quick access points.

METHODOLOGY

The data required to be uploaded on the portal is done periodically. Constant scrutiny, reviewing, evaluation of resources, removing dead links forms the back-end tasks. Focus areas on specific themes are arrived at with several discussions with the respective faculty and scholars and also as a result of the queries received time and again to furnish details. Open sources, several institutions like universities who give access to resources are given links to. Internet indeed has been a major highway to cull out the required information after constant evaluation of the resources.

Librarian's Role

Academic Librarians play a major role in evaluating and organizing the content created in the Campus portals in tune with their parent institutions. Right from planning to implementation, knowledge about copyright, expertise in creating customized web-based information delivery systems are several of the skills that they display.

In tune with these skills the Library personnel of the University Library MPKV too have exercised keen interest in determining what is valuable with more scholarly focus to support the academic programs offered by the Campus.

Future Plans

The Library intends to build up an Institutional Repository (IR) of the research output of the Campus of Journal articles, Research Reports, Conference Proceedings Lecture material and also the Theses and Dissertation, and the work is going on and it will be available to user very soon.. Being a institution of higher education the need for an IR is deemed essential. The Library personnel have undergone training with the required software to establish an IR and progress in this direction would enhance the visibility and use of the institutional research output.

CONCLUSION:

The University Library of M.P.K.V. Library portal was an initial attempt to customize the existing resources like the library catalog, commercial full text databases, electronic journals, Subject Gateways etc accessible in the intranet. More resources tailored to the user requirements would be added as and when possible.

Next move would be to integrate all the four Campuses of the University of Madras for a cooperative effort to share their respective areas of strength. This would enrich the level of content in the institutional portal environment. Library portal would translate to Scholarly portals leading users to discover the depth of information at their fingertips.

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