

## DIGITAL LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT IN MAHARASHTRA STATE UNIVERSITIES: A STUDY

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### Abstract

This study is an attempt to capture the present scenario in Maharashtra State University libraries about their ICT applications and digital environment to meet the modern dynamic users, a detailed survey resulted in understanding the same. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire and follow-up interviews with librarians revealed that the E-Journals are the most available e-resources and digitization activity with setting-up of digitization lab is found in many of these libraries. All these Maharashtra State University Libraries have a preference of both print & electronic resources for their collection development strategy.

**KEY WORD:** Digital Collection, Automation Softwares, Digitization, E-Resources, Maharashtra State Universities,

### Introduction

University is unique system in a sense that it caters to educational needs along with the social, cultural and economic needs at large. Maharashtra State Universities have oldest historic presence in India and they have commitment to competitive, professional quality & Academic excellence in higher Education and Research-Development in emerging areas. Each one of these Universities has a pool of talented dedicated faculties and researchers mentoring the younger generation students. They impart application oriented skills at par with International standards, so as to meet the challenges of Global scenario in innovative, professional job oriented courses. In order to promote excellence in study and research and to ensure equitable development they encourage and equip the aspiring students to succeed in their studies. These Universities provides a platform for enhanced research interaction. They shall, with the involvement of all the stakeholders, namely students-parents, teaching faculty, Non-teaching staff, College Principals and Managements, Authorities of various bodies, Government-State & Central, UGC, New Delhi; Industries and Chamber of Commerce; and

the People of the Society; try their best in this endeavor, providing best physical infrastructure facilities. As quoted by our former president of India; Dr. APJ Abdulkalam-“Dream is not what I see when asleep, it is the one which DOES-NOT allow me to sleep!” The focused path-forward set by these Universities are expansion, Diversity, quality and Inclusiveness for overall development of the society.

University Library is one of the integral parts of their respective Universities and because of the advancement in technologies; they are playing a vital role in disseminating the information to the dynamic needs of the user community in Maharashtra State. Study revealed that all these University libraries in Maharashtra state have adopted advance technologies in their collection development and imparting their services to teaching, learning and research activities.

### **Need for the study**

Maharashtra state has a large number of universities of both technical as well as non technical streams and millions of rupees are spent on the development of their infrastructure like library is one of the important units in them. It is evident from the facts that the majority of the library expenditure is on mainly for the development of digital library sources and services. Hence it is important to know at what extent the libraries attached to the universities in Maharashtra state have responded to these changes brought in by these new digital technologies.

### **Scope of the study**

The scope of the study is focused on Maharashtra state Universities established under Maharashtra State Public University Act 2011:

1. University of Mumbai, Mumbai; 1857
2. Nagpur University, Nagpur; 1923
3. University of Pune, Pune; 1948
4. SNDT Women's University, Mumbai; 1951
5. Dr. B R Ambedkar Marthwada University, Aurangabad; 1958
6. Shivaji University, Kolhapur; 1962
7. Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati; 1983
8. North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon; 1990
9. Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded; 1994
10. Solapur University, Solapur; 2004

### **Methodology**

The data was obtained from the University librarians of Maharashtra state universities libraries using Questionnaire method. Data obtained about ICT infrastructure availability and digital library development.

### Data Interpretation and analysis

A detailed questionnaire was sent to all the ten state universities and also visited to these University libraries to get their feedback.

All the Maharashtra State University libraries are automated, Table-1, Most of the (50%) libraries are using SOUL, followed by (30%) libraries are using LIBSYS and then (20%) libraries are using SLIM automation software to automate their library services.

**Table 1:** Automation status in Maharashtra State Universities

S.N	University Name	Automati on Software	Extent of Automation of Library Sections				RFID/ BARC ODE
			Acquisit ion	Catalogu ing	Circulati on	Seri al Con trol	
1	University of Mumbai	SOUL	PA	FA	PA	PA	Barcode
2	SNDT Women's University	SLIM++	PA	FA	FA	FA	Barcode
3	University of Pune	LIBSYS	FA	FA	FA	PA	Barcode
4	Shivaji University	LIBSYS	FA	FA	FA	PA	No
5	Solapur University	SLIM+	NA	PA	PA	PA	Barcode
6	RTM Nagpur University	LIBSYS	FA	FA	FA	FA	No
7	DBA Marathwada University	SOUL	PA	FA	FA	PA	Barcode
8	North Maharashtra University	SOUL	FA	FA	FA	PA	Barcode
9	SRT Marathwada University	SOUL	PA	FA	FA	PA	Barcode
10	SGB Amravati University	SOUL	FA	FA	FA	PA	Barcode

*FA- Fully Automated, PA- Partially Automated, NA-Not at all automated*

Extent of automation of their library sections also revealed that Cataloguing and Circulation sections are highly (90%), followed by 50% of Acquisition Section and only 20% serial control sections are 'Fully Automated'. Serial Control section is one of the lowest (90%) 'Partially Automated' sections. Bar Code technology is highly (80%) used in Maharashtra state Universities.

*Table 2: Digital Library collection availability*

S.N	University Name	Digital Collection	E-Books	E-Jrnl	E-Thesis	CD/DVD	AV Materials	other
1	University of Mumbai	Y	350	8000		2074	-	-
2	SNDT Women's University	Y	16	23378	-	4904	2000	-
3	University of Pune	Y	2090	14000	290	-	-	5941
4	Shivaji University	Y	124	7600	183	1663		09
5	Solapur University	Y	500	38659	-	136	-	-
6	RTM Nagpur University	Y	-	8045		193		
7	DBA Marathwada University	Y	3000	35000	3500	-	1500	-
8	North Maharashtra University	Y	200	8000+	-	700	-	-
9	SRT Marathwada University	Y	-	8000+	-	800	-	-
10	SGB Amravati University	Y	300	7800	-	500	-	-

Digital Library collection availability was studied in **Table-2**; all university libraries (100%) have digital collection. While e-journals are (100%) of all these libraries, where as SNDTWU, SU and DBAMU libraries have subscribe to more than 20,000 e-journals. e-Books and CD/DVD collection is the second highest (80%) of the digital collection and followed by e-Thesis (30%), Av-Materials (20%) of these university libraries have in their digital collection.

*Table: 3 Digital Library Facilities Availability in Maharashtra State Universities*

S.N	University Name	Digitization Lab (Y)	IR Initiative (Y)	DL Software	Digitization Activities	Shodhgan MoU (Y)	Cloud Computing (Y)
1	University of Mumbai	Y	Y	DSPACE	Y	Y	N
2	SNDT Women's University	N	N	N	Y	Y	N
3	University of Pune	Y	Y	DSPACE	Y	Y	N
4	Shivaji University	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N
5	Solapur University	N	N	N	N	N	N
6	RTM Nagpur University	Y	N	N	N	N	N
7	DBA Marathwada University	N	Y	IGPECMS	Y	Y	N
8	North Maharashtra University	Y	N	DSPACE	Y	Y	N

9	SRT Marathwada University	N	N	N	Y	Y	N
10	SGB Amravati University	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N

Availability of Digital library facilities in Maharashtra State Universities is studied in **Table-3**, Digitization Lab is setup in 60% of the libraries, only 30% of the libraries are initiated the Institution Repository (IR), DSPACE is the highly (30%) used digital library software. But 80% of the libraries have started 'digitization activities' and equal number of libraries has contributing to 'Shodhganga' initiative. No libraries (0%) have started using 'cloud computing' technology to provide their services to users.

**Table: 4** Opinion on extent of Electronic resources availability in the library

S. N	University Name	Computer Facility	Internet Facility	E-Jrnl	E-Books	E-Databse	CD-ROM Facility	IR	E-Thesis	AV	Email Facility	Collection Preferences
1	University of Mumbai	VG	VG	VG	VG	VG	G	G	G	VG	VG	B
2	SNDT Women's University	A	VG	VG	A	G	G	NA	G	NA	VG	B
3	University of Pune	VG	G	VG	VG	VG	NA	G	VG	NA	VG	B
4	Shivaji University	VG	VG	VG	G	G	A	A	G	A	VG	B
5	Solapur University	G	G	VG	G	G	G	NA	NA	NA	G	B
6	RTM Nagpur University	G	G	G	A	G	G	NA	A	A	G	B
7	DBA Marathwada University	VG	VG	VG	VG	VG	G	VG	VG	NA	VG	B
8	North Maharashtra University	VG	VG	VG	G	VG	G	G	NA	NA	VG	B
9	SRT Marathwada University	VG	VG	VG	G	VG	G	G	G	NA	VG	B
10	SGB Amravati University	G	G	VG	A	VG	G	G	NA	NA	VG	B

**VG-** Very Good, **G-** Good, **A-** Average, **NU-** No Use, **NA-** Not Available, **OP-** Only Print, **OE-** Only Electronic, **B-** Both Print & Electronic

Opinion on extent of ICT facility and electronic resources availability is obtained by these University librarians, presented in **Table-4**. Highest 'Very Good'(VG) is given for E-Journals followed by Email facility (80%), then Computer, Internet Facility and E-Database (60%). Most 'Not Available' (NA) is given to AV-Materials (70%), followed by e-Thesis (30%). Most 'Average' (A) is given to e-Books (30%). All University libraries have given the collection preference as "both Print and electronic sources" (100%).

### Findings from the study

Following findings were observed based on data analysis:

- All the Maharashtra State University libraries are automated and Cataloguing & Circulations sections have fully automated.
- Barcode technology is used in these libraries to render their services.
- All the Maharashtra State University libraries have the digital collection and e-journals subscriptions; this is may be because of the UGC-Infonet digital library consortium.
- Most of these respondent University libraries have setup the Digitization lab and they have started the digitization activities, and also participating in INFLIBNET, Shodhganga initiative.
- Most of the respondent University libraries have an opinion that, they have Very Good e-journals & email facilities available.
- All the University Libraries have given their preference of collection development to both print as well as electronic resources.

### Conclusion

We can conclude from the above mentioned data analysis as follows:

- Serial Control & Acquisition sections are required to be automated fully, this will help these University libraries to manage and control the collection.
- All these University Libraries are using commercial library automation softwares, since open source automation software are readily available like Koha, etc, can be used in the future.
- It is required to digitize the Thesis available in the library to make the available to their users.
- Need to increase the AV-Material collection in all these University Libraries.
- No libraries in the study have utilized the Cloud Computing technology, since digital library development and maintenance is one of the costly affairs for the University libraries with their shrinking budget, with proper security & mitigation plan, it is advisable to utilize the Cloud Computing technology.

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