Digital Library Services: A Perception study of Management students in Central India

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Abstract

The present work focuses to examine the viewpoint of Central India management students' about the digital library services. With an ever-growing role of technology in improving teaching and learning processes in educational organisations, knowledge of how students perceive these services is central to achieving maximal use of such tools. In order to get a combination of both quantitative and qualitative data, structured questionnaires and unstructured interviews were administered on management students in more than one institution in Central India. This research paper shows that, although students in general have some appreciation for the fact that digital library services are convenient and accessible, the issue of adequacy of training for utilizing these resources is a concern. Conclusions show that the users' awareness of the technological equipment in the classroom highly favors attitudes and rates among students. Furthermore, the findings of the research propose the role of the interface appearance and the presence of relevant material as a major factor influencing the positive experiences. As a result of this research, the paper presents the following recommendations for the enhancement of digital library services: Training of librarians ought to be improved to accommodate the changing needs brought about by the increased use of Information Technology (IT), Friendly user interfaces for digital library services ought to be developed, An efficient method of selecting and organizing resources to meet the needs of cube learners ought to be developed. By so doing, the educational institutions will establish a favorable learning environment that will suit the needs of management students in the current world as described in this paper. This research helps to expand the body of knowledge of digital library services, and offers insights useful to practical application by librarians, educators, and policymakers, for the improvement of digital teaching materials in Central India.

Keywords - Management Students, Central India, User Perception, Educational Resources, Digital Literacy

Introduction

Over recent years the article found that the increased growth in technology has affected the educational field in general and the various digital library services in particular.<|human|Thus, the author of the article identified that in the recent years, the increased development of technology has created a change in the provision of education throughout the growth of digital library services. These services have become the most valuable assets to the students because these provide a wide source of electronic documents like E-books, journals, databases and multimedia. Therefore, for the management students who may need to update their information and resource base, the digital libraries offer a chance to improve their performance. Nevertheless, the usability of such resources mainly depends on students' estimations and their capabilities of accessing the information.

With regards to this research context, the recourse of interest is centred on identifying and exploring the extent of management students in the Central India region towards digital library services. As the access to educational technologies continues to progress more and more schools incorporate project services into the educational process it is necessary to consider how students perceive and approach these services. This information can thus be useful in the determination of a number of factors including strengths and weaknesses of the existing products.

Prior surveys have established those which capture students' usage of digital library services; these include usability, accessibility, and relevance of the content. Nevertheless, literature lacks information regarding how each of these factors impact the management students focusing on Central Indian region. This research therefore seeks to present this gap by focusing on the students' perceptions on digital library services, a challenge likely to be faced in its implementation, and their recommendations on how the gaps could be closed.

The findings of this research include using both a quantitative approach of surveys alongside a qualitative one of interviews to capture the best student perceptions. The results will not only enhance the theoretical knowledge of service developments for digital library services but also provide specific implications for librarians, educators and institutional leaders to guide the management students to improve their study.

Thus, as the concept of digital libraries develops, it is especially important to comprehend students' rationale for their use. This research aims at illuminating these perceptions and enable efficient application of digital library services in Central India with a view of enhancing the learning experience of the management students.

Literature review
This paper presents an analysis of the literature that has been published in the last seven years concerning digital library services with emphasis on the views of management students especially those in Central India. It includes papers from 2020 indicating trends on user experience, accessibility, digital literacy and innovation fueled by technology.

Some of the newer research works done showed that user experience should be a key factor in regard to digital library services. Kumar and Gupta (2021) whether stated that the user interface design greatly influenced students' satisfaction and engagement. From their findings, they realised that students pursuing management prefer paper that has simple presentation and layouts with readily understandable icon tool bars and other aids used in the navigation of the paper. Consistent with this, Singh et al. (2022) found that patients avoid using some resources because interfaces deter them due to their negative experiences with complex interfaces.

Hence, quality of digital library services is again contingent upon the accessibility of such services. Based on the study conducted by Patil & Deshmukh (2020), it was found that there is a significant concern regarding accessing knowledge resources majorly because most institutions fail to provide sufficient support and little training is provided. From their study, they pointed out that students use other sources to find information, some of which are fake. This finding supports the work of Sharma and Raghavan (2021) that called for depth, breadth, and interconnectivity in curating and improving the discoverability and usefulness of resource collections.

Student perception and adoption of digital library services include effective digital literate skills. Chaudhary and Singh (2021) found that management student, who have more digital literacy, expressed more use digital library. In this regard, they postulate that institutions should make digital literacy to be compulsory in curriculum to enable the students to make proper utilization of the available facilities. Joshi, et al.: 2023 supports this view arguing that embedding the Digital literacy programmes can greatly improve the students' performance.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic forced institutions to adopt online education which clearly points to the need for the services of digital libraries. The study conducted by Verma and Yadav (2022) found that the more the student uses technology resources in learning during the pandemic, their perception of library services is changed. Students additionally, indicated that they developed an appreciation for digital libraries due to the versatility of the sources they provided. But the study also revealed that technical challenges and connectivity problems continued to surface, which impacted the students' experiences.

A compound literature synthesis established various suggestions in developing recommendation for digital library services. In their study, Agarwal et al. (2021) proposed that to enhance the engagement of students, schools should adopt training sessions so that students could learn the use of tools and other resources readily available in digital platforms. They stressed that by offering organization specific training that would suffice the needs and aptitude of the employees it would be easier to close the gap in the use of technology and enhance the utilisation of the resources. Also, Rai and Bansal (2023) supported the need for feedback systems to provide usability feedback frequently and respond to new issues.

The available literature from the year 2020 onwards identifies the important factors affecting the management Students' Perceptions towards Digital Library Services. These are user experience, accessibility, digital literacy, and shifts that have occurred within the past years. Stakeholders can isolate these challenges and employ the necessary intervention to increase the efficiency and use of the digital library services that are crucial for the success of the management students in the region.

Objectives of the study
- To assess the management students' perception about the efficiency and easiness of using the digital library services in Central India.
- To assess some of the major difficulties faced by management students, particularly in the use of digital libraries.
- In order to Identify how effective students are in the use of digitally supported library services.

Hypothesis of the study
H0: Management students in Central India do not perceive digital library services as effective and usable in enhancing their academic experience.
H1: Management students in Central India perceive digital library services as effective and usable in enhancing their academic experience.

Research methodology
This research, therefore, uses a mixed research method using both quantitative and qualitative design to establish the extent of management students' perception of digital library services in Central India. The quantitative part is a survey developed based on a structured questionnaire received from a group of management students in various schools. It employs closed questions using Likert scales to measure users' satisfaction, ease of use, and their perceived level of web literacy. Such data will be then subjected to a statistical analysis in order to establish patterns. In addition to the quantitative outcomes, semi structured interviews will be held with a number of participants for them to elaborate on their experiences, difficulties, and recommendations. This two pronged approach ensures independent collection of data, which increases on the validity of the results obtained. The research will also see to it that ethical consideration is observed by obtaining participants consent and guaranteeing their anonymity throughout the study. Altogether, this methodology is intended to generate valid data to enhance the proposed management services in the digital library.

Data analysis and interpretation
Table 1 – Descriptive statistics

Demographic Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	120	53.3
	Female	100	44.4
	Other	5	2.2
Age Distribution	18-20 years	60	26.7
	21-23 years	130	57.8
	24-26 years	30	13.3
	27 years and above	5	2.2
Year of Study	First Year	90	40
	Second Year	70	31.1
	Third Year	45	20

Final Year	20	8.9

Significant insights into the sample's makeup are revealed by the demographic analysis of the 225 management students. There are more male students than female students (53.3% vs. 44.4%), and a tiny minority (2.2%) who do not identify with either gender. This fairly even distribution of sexes indicates a gender-diverse cohort.

Most participants are in the prime age range for undergraduate study, with 57.8% of students being within the 21-23 years group. Those between the ages of 18 and 20 make up a lower percentage of students (26.7%), while those between the ages of 24 and 26 make up 13.3%. The program seems to attract younger students, in line with the average undergraduate demographics, as there are just a handful of people aged 27 and beyond (2.2% of the total).

Among the participants, 40% are first-year students, which suggests that they have been actively involved with the program from its start, according to the study's findings. Third-year students account for 20% of the total, while second-year students account for 31.1%. Last but not least, 8.9% are seniors, which may indicate a low enrolment rate for seniors or a high graduation rate for previous classes. In sum, these descriptive data let us get a feel for the student body as a whole, which is useful for future research into how students feel about and have used digital library resources.

Table 2 - T-Test Results for Perceptions of Digital Library Services

Variable	Group	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	p-value
Effectiveness Perception	Male	120	3.85	0.45	2.15	0.032
	Female	100	3.65	0.48		
Usability Perception	Male	120	3.75	0.5	1.95	0.053
	Female	100	3.55	0.52		

Management students' opinions on the usefulness and efficiency of digital library services are shed light on by the t-test findings shown in Table 2. Male students (N = 120) reported an average score of 3.85 on the efficacy perception scale, with a standard deviation of 0.45; female students (N = 100) reported an average score of 3.65, with a standard deviation of 0.48. Male students had a higher positive impression of the usefulness of digital library services than female students do, according to the computed t-value of 2.15 and p-value of 0.032, which indicates a statistically significant difference.

The average score for male students was 3.75 (SD=0.52) on the usability perception scale, whereas the average score for female students was 3.55 (SD= 0.52). There is a tendency towards significance, as the t-value for usability is 1.95 and the p-value is 0.053, which is close to the traditional significance criterion of 0.05. Although the gender gap in usability ratings does not approach statistical significance, it does raise the possibility that male students have a more positive impression of digital library services than female students do.

Taken together, these results stress the need to account for gender variations in how people see digital library services. This disparity in how successful things seem could guide efforts to improve usability for all users, but especially female students.

Discussion

The results of this study give a broad picture of the status of managing student's perception towards digital library service in central India along with the positive and negatives sides. The variation observed in the comparative perceptive measure of service effectiveness between the male and female students imply that gender could be a reason as to how these services may be received and utilized. It is possible that the difference in rating result from male students' better understanding of digital tools or more positive experience with the required instruments.

In the context of the usability perception, the available trend is not significant yet quantitatively; however, it suggests a very important direction for future research. The small p-value shown indicates that there is sufficient grounds to further investigate the manner in which students of different genders perceive usability, perhaps using other methods like focus

group discussions or interviews. Knowledge of why these perceptions existed could help design digital library services that welcome and accommodate every user.

Also, the research discusses the importance of digital literacy when improving students' experience of the digital library services. An increased use of technology in education calls for guarantee that all students will have the ability to use these technologies efficiently. Encouraging knowledge exchange through presentation meetings, training seminars, and empowered tutoring services can assist in reducing the presently seen disparity in experience — or digital literacy — between learners.

Last, this study's findings may help policymakers and library administrators understand the relevance and potential of continuously evaluating and adjusting digital library services. It is also seen that when institutions proactively try to determine users needs and update their systems according to it then the utility of these important academic tools can be improved upon. This innovative process of constant growth not only promotes students' academic achievements but also fosters the formation of the permanent learning practice as a required skill for future professionals in a world based on technological advancements.

Conclusion

The goal of this research was focused on Central Indian management students' views on efficiency and usefulness of the digital library service. The research shows that a good percentage of the students believe in these services as efficient especially male students who were more efficient in rating the services than the female students. The usability perception also showed an increasing trend corresponding to male students, though the difference was not statistically significant The study therefore indicated that the usability could greatly benefit the female students as well as all the students in general by being made more better. This underscores the need for financial institutions and educational bodies, to increase their efforts at improving the digital library services by coping with these accessibility and usability issues. In addition, increased awareness of the students on current technology could improve their use of the above resources. In totality, the study forms part of the empirical literature on digital library services and thus sheds light on the importance of practicing interventions beyond general polices, as this can go a long way in optimizing students' study experiences during their management course study in the region.

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