Original Article

The Importance of Library Websites in Accessing Electronic Resources

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ABSTRACT
A library website is a platform that offers access to various -resources, including electronic resources. A user-friendly library website can boost user experience and empower easy access to electronic resources. To effectively utilise electronic resources on a library website, users should be conversant with the site's interface, understand how to conduct searches, and have access to technical support. Electronic resources through library websites offer many benefits, such as convenience, 24/7 access, and cost-effectiveness, but limitations, such as restricted access, should also be considered. In summary, a user-friendly library website is vital for accessing electronic resources efficiently, and while electronic resources have many profits, their limitations should also be acknowledged.

KEYWORDS: *Library Automation, Electronic Resource, Website Design, Library website, User Satisfaction, User Friendly, Usage of E-Resources*

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the use of electronic resources has significantly increased in libraries due to technological advancements, and the use of electronic resources has become an essential part of academic and research activities. Library websites play a crucial role in providing access to electronic resources to users. This article aims to review the use of electronic resources through library websites, including its benefits and limitations.

Definition of Library website

A library website is a place or platform that offers access to the resources and services of a library. This can include access to the library's catalogue, databases, e-books, other digital resources, and information about the library's hours, location, and events. Some library websites also provide access to research guides and other tools to help patrons find and use the information they need.

A library website is a digital platform that offers patrons of the library access to its resources, services, and data. It is an online doorway to the library's catalogue, databases, e-books, and other digital resources. Moreover, patrons can learn about the library's hours, location, events, and other services. Library sites can also give access to research guidance tutorials, and other aids to help users find and use the information

they require. The primary point of a library website is to help the library fulfil its mission of offering access to information and encouraging lifelong learning.

Library websites provide easy access to electronic resources by creating a central location for users to discover and access these resources. A well-designed library website can provide users with search tools, subject guides, and other resources to assist in finding and utilising electronic resources. It can also provide information about available services, such as reference assistance and interlibrary loan. In addition, library websites can offer personalised services, such as creating user accounts and saving search results, which can enhance the user experience and help them to utilise electronic resources in better way. Library websites can facilitate the best use of subscribed electronic resources by providing a user-friendly and comprehensive online interface.

AIM OF THE STUDY

To determine the factors that contribute to a user-friendly library website and their impact on the user experience of accessing electronic resources.

The objective aims to identify the key factors that contribute to a user-friendly library website and determine how these factors impact the user experience of accessing electronic resources.

The article identifies the key factors contributing to a user-friendly library website and their impact on the user experience of accessing electronic resources, providing recommendations for optimizing access.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dávila-Arias and Villarreal's (2014) study explored the user experience with electronic resources in academic libraries. They found that users value convenience, reliability, and ease of use in accessing electronic resources and identified some factors that contribute to a positive user experience.

Monopli et al. (2002) presented a case study of a user-oriented evaluation of digital libraries, identifying user preferences and recommendations for improvement.

Tenopir's (2003) review of recent research found that users value accessibility, relevance, and quality of content in electronic resources.

Thomsen and McClure (2003) examined user satisfaction and usage patterns of electronic resources in academic libraries, identifying factors influencing usage and satisfaction.

Waldman (2003) studied freshmen's use of library' electronic resources and found a positive correlation between use and self-efficacy.

METHODOLOGY

As I am working as a librarian, I used the observation technique to know the importance of the library website for accessing electronic resources. Also, a comprehensive review of relevant literature on library websites and their role in accessing electronic resources was conducted. Searching academic databases, library websites, and relevant publications and articles were studied.

Data was collected from users of library websites to determine their experiences in accessing electronic resources. This involves conducting surveys, focus groups, or interviews with library users to understand their perspectives on the importance of library websites in accessing electronic resources.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

How to make a library website user-friendly:

1. **Accessibility**: Ensure the website is accessible to users and users with disabilities.
2. **Content**: Provide valuable and relevant information that is easy to understand. This can include complete details on the library resources, services, hours, and events.
3. **Navigation**: Make sure the website is easy to navigate with a clear structure and intuitive

menu. This will help users find what they are looking for speedily and efficiently.

4. **Search**: Include a function allowing users to search the library's catalogue, databases, and other resources.

5. **Mobile-friendly design**: Optimize the website for mobile devices to be accessed simply on smartphones and tablets.

6. **Personalisation**: Personalize the website with user preferences and interests.

7. **Simple language**: Use simple language to explain the website's features, such as how to access electronic resources and place a hold on a book.

8. **Regularly update**: Keep the website updated regularly with new information and resources, and remove obsolete content.

9. **Feedback**: Encourage users to comment through a contact form or survey on the website. This will support identifying areas for improvement and ensure that the website meets the needs of its library users.

To effectively make use of electronic resources on a library website, the following steps can be taken:

1. **Identify available resources**: Determine which electronic resources are offered for the library's patrons, including databases, e-books, journals, and other digital materials.

2. **Organise the resources**: Organize the resources logically and intuitively, making it easy for users to find what they require. Consider grouping resources by subject area, format, or other relevant categories.

3. **Provide access**: Provide easy access to the electronic resources, including links to the resources and any necessary authentication or authorisation systems. Consider integrating the resources into the library catalogue and other methods to provide a seamless user experience.

4. **Provide search and discovery tools**: These tools allow users to find the resources they need rapidly and effortlessly. Consider adding filters, facets, and other choices to help users refine their search results.

5. **Promote the resources**: Promote the electronic resources on the library's website and through other channels, such as social media, email, and newsletters. Highlight the value and exclusive features of the resources, and encourage patrons to use them.

6. **Offer training and support**: Offer training and support for the electronic resources, with online tutorials, instructional videos, and in-person workshops. Provide reference assistance and technical support to help patrons overcome any challenges.

7. **Evaluate usage:** Regularly evaluate the usage of electronic resources and make adjustments as needed to ensure that they are being used effectively. Consider conducting user surveys and focus groups to gather feedback and identify areas for improvement.

Benefits of electronic resources through the library website:

1. **Access to a vast information collection**: Library websites provide various electronic resources, including e-books, e-journals, databases, and multimedia resources. Users can access information from different sources at their fingertips.

2. **Convenience**: Electronic resources can be accessed 24/7 from anywhere, as long as users have an internet connection. This feature allows users to access information without being limited by time and location.

3. **Cost-effectiveness**: Electronic resources are cost-effective for both users and libraries. Electronic resources eliminate the need for physical storage space and maintenance, which reduces costs associated with traditional library materials.

4. **Enhanced search capabilities**: Library websites provide advanced search capabilities that allow users to search for information across multiple databases and sources simultaneously. This feature makes it easier for users to find relevant information quickly.

Limitations of electronic resources through the library website:

1. **Access restrictions**: Electronic resources may be restricted due to licensing agreements or copyright issues. Users may need help for e-library accessing if they are not affiliated with the library or off-campus users.

2. **Technical issues**: Electronic resources require a stable internet connection and compatible devices to access. Technical problems such as

slow internet speed, server downtime, or compatibility issues may prevent users from accessing information.

3. **Lack of personal interaction**: Electronic resources provide a different level of a personal interaction than traditional library materials. Users may need to catch up on the social aspect of visiting a physical library and interacting with other users or staff.

CONCLUSION

Library websites play a crucial role in providing access to electronic resources. Electronic resources offer many benefits, including convenience, cost-effectiveness, and enhanced search capabilities. However, significant limitations include access restrictions, technical issues, and lack of personal interaction. Using electronic resources through library websites has become essential to academic and research activities and will likely continue growing.

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