Usage of Kelaniya University Digital Repository contents by the undergraduates: a case study based on Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya.

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Abstract

Digital libraries can be introduced as a gateway to easily access information needed in the quest for knowledge. Everyone can access digital library using computer networks. Since the turn of the twenty-first century, there has been a phenomenal increase in the number of digital libraries and repositories the world over. This library concept is famous in the world therefore every University and education institution should have a digital library and many intuitions maintain them. However, students face many challenges when finding information in the covid 19 situation. This paper provides an overview of awareness of the student's usage of their digital e-repository and services conducted by the library of University of Kelaniya. The main objectives of the study were to identify usage of e-repository, to examine services, to offer under digital repository and to study problems in using digital repository. The sample of the study was 108 students of the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya (DLIS). A case study research approach was used for this study purpose. Primary data was collected by administering an online questionnaire circulated among the DLIS students. The study found that Research has revealed that the readers' understanding of the use of the digital repository of the University of Kelaniya is minimal, the tendency towards the traditional library rather than the use of a digital repository, it has been identified that there are connectivity issues as well as device issues that arise when using digital repository and that the for a significant amount of time each day. However, that retrieving from a digital from a digital repository is easy

for rrader and provides a successful service and many readers found that they had problems accessing the digital repository of the University of Kelaniya.

Keyword: *Digital Repository, University of Kelaniya, Department of Library and Information Science, Digital Library, E-repository*

Introduction

"Digital libraries are an important part of modern information management, along with the development and extensive application of information technologies and networks, digital libraries are the booming development in the world." (Zhou, 2005) The digital content may be stored locally or accessed remotely via computer networks. A digital library is a type of information revival system. The concept of the digital library is diffused with different people meaning different things, as well as various phrases such as digital repositories, digital archives, and institutional repositories; institutional archives etc. appearing in the literature.

Institutional repository is a new method for capturing, collecting, managing, disseminating, and preserving scholarly works created in digital form by the constituent members of an institution. For the present study, the term 'digital libraries and repositories' include digital collections, institutional repositories and digital archives developed using the digital library and IR software packages. (Chang,2003)

Most libraries and institutions are closed for Covid 19 pandemic; therefore, not every learner could find information. The Library of the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka has a Digital library, which is called E-repository. It is open access for university internal students.

Currently, many Universities maintain a digital library or digital repository. However, the students face many challenges when finding

sources of information in the Covid 19 situation. Even though the Kelaniya University library maintains a digital repository, it is much beneficial to study the use of this repository by the users specially the student groups. This study was conducted based on the following objectives.

- To examine services to offer under digital repository

- To study problems in using the digital repository

Materials and Methods

A case study method was used for the study. Students currently offering BA honors in Library and Information Science in 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year at the Department of Library and Information Science were the sample of this study. Accordingly, a finite sample totaling 108 students were used for collecting data by administering an online questionnaire. The questionnaire was the principal data collection instrument. The percentage of the respondents is 88%. The data were analyzed by using frequency counts and simple percentages.

Results and Discussion

Use of the digital repository of the University of Kelaniya

This study examined the extent to which digital repositories at the University of Kelaniya are used by users. Accordingly, 94.3% of the respondents revealed that they use the digital repository of the University of Kelaniya. This graph (fig.1) below demonstrates the data.

Figure 1: Orientation of users' digital repository

The chart below shows how successful the use of digital repositories is, especially in the traditional library. Accordingly, the majority stated that the digital libraries were more successful in obtaining information than the traditional library information service. That percentage is 73.3%.
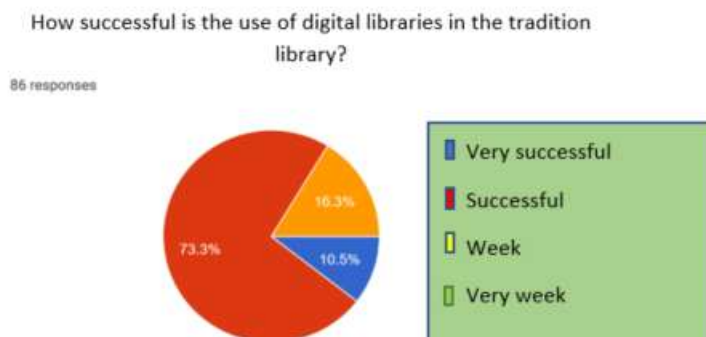

Figure 2: Use of publication in the digital repository

The study examined the nature of the publications and reading materials reserved for the digital repository service. The most widely used sources of publication in the collection of this digital repository is the periodicals. Following chart confirmed that the percentage is 43%.

What are the publications used in the digital repository of the University of Kelaniya?
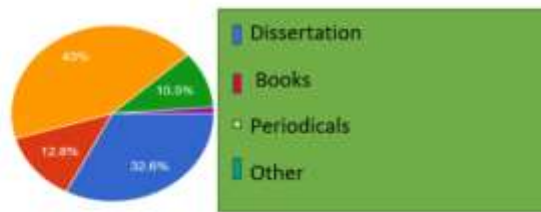
Figure 3: Evaluation of the service of the digital repository

This graph shows the study of whether the service provided by the digital repository of the University of Kelaniya is satisfactory. The majority said the service was a success. It is 72.1% as a percentage.
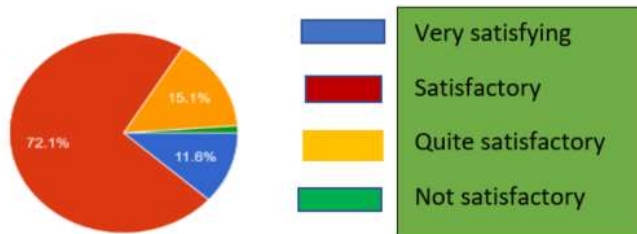
Are you satisfied with the university of Kelaniya

Figure 04 Digital library Services of Kelaniya university

- Research has revealed that readers' understanding of the use of the digital repository of the University of Kelaniya is minimal.

- The tendency towards the traditional library rather than the use of a digital repository.

- It has been identified that there are connectivity issues as well as device issues that arise when using the digital repository.

- The digital repository is used to retrieve information for a significant amount of time each day.

- However, research has shown that retrieving information from a digital repository is easy for readers and provides a successful service.

- Many readers found that they had problems accessing the digital repository of the University of Kelaniya.

Discussion and Conclusion

This study conducted on how the contents of the Digital Library of the University of Kelaniya are being used by undergraduates. The sample for this research was 108 students pursuing a Bachelors' Honors Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Kelaniya. Eighty-eight percent of all students responded to this research. The total number of students is 12% from first-year students, 34% from second-year students and 52.9% from third-year students studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Library and Information Science. 87.4% of the students are female and 12.6% are male. Out of the total number of students who responded, 2.3% are aware that the University of Kelaniya has a digital library. Of these, 94.3% have used the digital library and 5.7% have not used the digital library. 76.1% of the subjects used mobile phones and 22.7% used computers at the University of Kelaniya Digital Library. 73.3% of subordinates indicated that the digital library was more effective in obtaining information in stock than the traditional library, with 16.3% of the total responding against it. 10.5% of the total volume showed that the digital library was more successful in obtaining information than a traditional library.

72.1% said that they are happy with the digital library service at the University of Kelaniya, 11.6% are very happy with the digital library service at the University of Kelaniya, 15.1% are a little satisfied with the digital library service and 1.2% show that they are unhappy with the digital library service. Only 12% of the people have identified the digital library of the University of Kelaniya as a digital library. 86.7% identified as a digital repository. Only 1.3% identify it as a scholar bank. Considering the above, it is evident that the knowledge of the undergraduates regarding the use of the Digital Library of the University of Kelaniya is minimal. This shows that undergraduates prefer to use a traditional library rather than a digital library. In this research, undergraduates were asked about the problems they face in using digital libraries at the University of Kelaniya and identified the problem of signals and devices as the main problems. Undergraduates to gain access to digital libraries often use mobile phones. Undergraduates of the University of Kelaniya spend a significant amount of time per day using the digital library.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- The library should start user orientation programs for the digital repository.

- Presenting a guide on how to use a digital repository

- More practical sessions should be given as demonstrations on how to use digital repositories specially the students at their first year in the University of Kelaniya during they learn in classrooms or in online classes.

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