

An Evaluation of e-References in Maharashtra State Universities' Knowledge and Resource Centres A Study

Dr. Kolambikar A. L.¹ and Kamble S. S.²

Swatantraya Sainik Suryabhanji Pawar College, Purna (JN), Prabhani, Maharashtra, India¹
Sundarrao More Arts, Commerce & Science College, Poladpur, Raigad, Maharashtra, India²
ashokkolambikar@gmail.com¹ and srksudha19@gmail.com²

Abstract: *This paper underlines the Important of evaluation especially electronic reference sources related to KRC websites of universities in Maharashtra state. To understand the online e-reference sources evaluation and stated why these sources should be evaluated. This article also highlights the benefits of evaluation of sources for users, librarians, and libraries. Criteria of evaluation plays vital role in the context of evaluation process. Evaluation may be helpful to information managers foe selection and management of e-reference sources.*

Keywords: library, electronic, online, digital, resource, University, information. Website, evaluation, and knowledge, Research process

I. INTRODUCTION

"The library is the heart of the university," wrote Charles W. Eliot, long-time president of Harvard, in 1873. Libraries are the mirror of higher education's development. The promotion of qualitative education and research in various sectors is the ultimate aim of universities. These higher education institutes know the challenges and possibilities in their fields. Universities should be aware of the online education revolution worldwide. The university administration is responsible for raising awareness of and disseminating all available types of reading sources among the learning community. The generation coming into higher education is more comfortable with digital information sources as compared to traditional library sources. Google Books, Kindle readers, websites, and various apps are online platforms that are becoming increasingly popular. Today is the age of the internet, and Google is the true heart of learners. All types of libraries and information users are highly affected by the IT revolution. Nowadays, users expect to be able to find all the information they need online. Universities in Western countries first established online libraries in 1956, when the Ford Foundation created an online book catalogue. An early example of a digital library is ERIC, the Education Resources, and Information Canter, founded in 1969. In the year 1994, digital libraries became widely visible all over the world because of the ICT revolution.

In India, the government and other organizations are developing a mission mode for digital India. In the last 25 years, the origin and development of online education platforms have rapidly increased. In our country, higher education institutes such as IIT, NIT, and IIM launched the first online certificate, diploma, and degree courses. These institutes run many types of training and other activities with the help of digital communication techniques. Virtual teachers and guides are available. The institutes create various types of content for online courses. The NPTEL is core example of this content bank. Digital Libraries, institutional repositories and consortiums Plays vital role. State and central universities, as well as deemed and private universities, are working to develop and design online courses. The higher education department of the Indian government also creates online digital libraries for medical, engineering, and health education. In India, library networks have also been established to facilitate the expansion of higher education. From 2023, the Indian government will implement a new higher education policy. This policy makes it mandatory for institutes to create and run their own online courses. The creation and dissemination of digital references are now critical components of university education. Infrastructure, trained staff, and a special budget for digital resources are very essential and important.

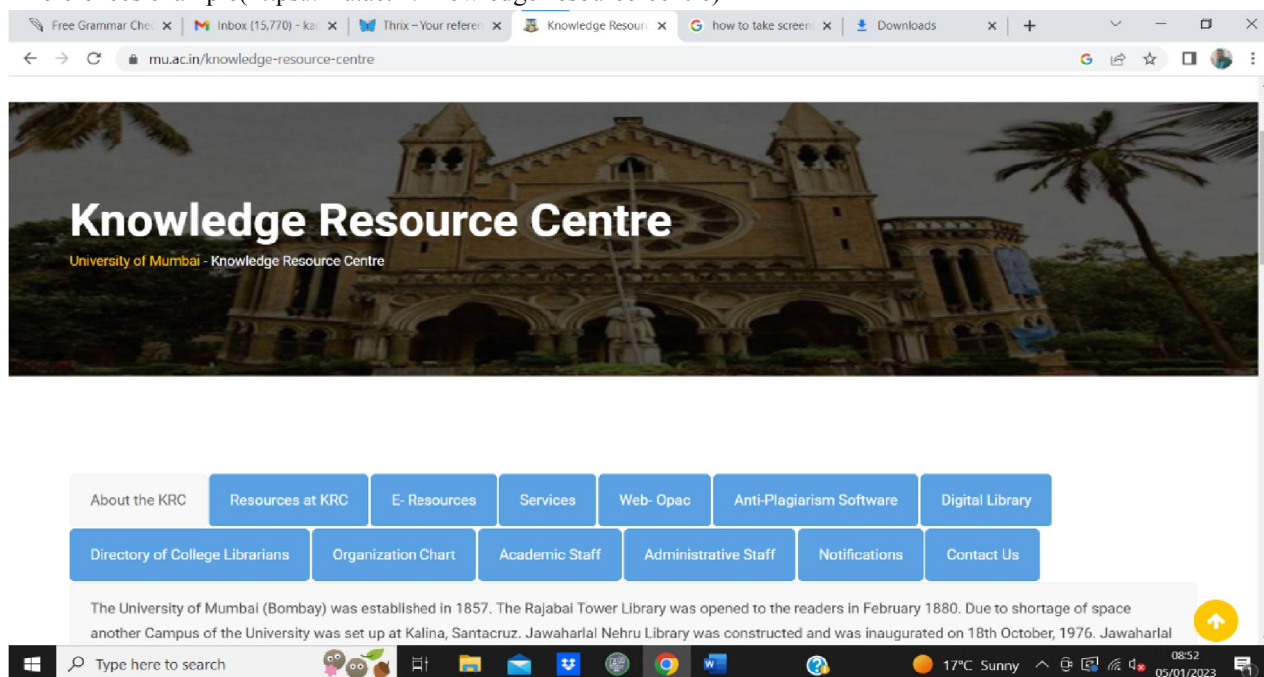
1.1 Definition of E-Reference

A reference source is usually a physical or digital document that you would refer to for more information about a topic. Examples include dictionaries and encyclopaedias. These documents are referred to rather than read cover to cover. They are typically information-dense and factual, written as unbiasedly as possible. Each library usually has a reference section, where reference sources are kept for in-library use. Digital reference sources are generally defined as online information sources like online encyclopaedias, dictionaries, handbooks, journals, etc. Digital reference sources are available remotely through the internet, but access is limited or permitted by a login ID and password because of copyright and licencing issues. These sources can be updated immediately, and full text, download, and sharing facilities are available to users. Online open reference sources are also providing the option of editing to their users. The following are some definitions:

According to Dictionary.com, "digital reference sources" mean those available in electronic form and readable and manipulable by computer.

According to Reitz (2004), electronic information resources (EIR) are materials consisting of data and computer programmes encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer through a peripheral device directly connected to the computer or remotely via a network such as the Internet.

E-References example(<https://mu.ac.in/knowledge-resource-centre>)



II. AN OVERVIEW OF THE RELATED ARTICLES

Using the keywords in this revived information technology article—digital library, digital sources, digital reference framework, digital technology evaluation study, online virtual education, etc.—the primary purpose of a literature review is to assist readers in understanding the whole body of available research on a topic and inform them of the strengths and weaknesses of studies within that body.

Birger Hjørland, 2012, The article briefly presents and discusses 12 different approaches to the evaluation of information sources. (1) the checklist approach; (2) classical peer review; (3) modified peer review; (4) evaluation based on examining the coverage of controversial views; (5) evidence-based evaluation; (6) comparative studies; (7) Author credentials; 8 Reputation of the Publisher (9) Journal Impact Factor (10) Sponsoring: Tracing the Influence of Economic, Political, and Ideological Interests All of the methods discussed here are steps toward learning how to read, comprehend, and critique texts.

Peter Hennon, 2010 This article identifies how digital library research has developed over the past decade, but little has been done on the identification of evaluation criteria, especially from users' perspectives. users' criteria and applies them

to the evaluation of existing digital libraries. Forty-eight subjects were instructed to develop and justify a set of essential criteria for the evaluation of digital libraries. At the same time, they were requested to evaluate existing digital libraries by applying the criteria that they were developing

Sharma A. K., 2018 This article focuses on the evaluation of e-resources, one of the important tasks of the librarian, because before subscribing to a database or e-journal, a librarian has to make sure many basic requirements about the database or e-journal are met. He has to go through the content of the database, its reliability, the publisher's reputation, authenticity, accuracy, and competency, the search options, whether the article is available in full text or not, and its document options as PDF, DOC, and HTML. Its licensing, vendor support, and, above all, whether it has an archiving facility, A user can access previous issues; if yes, what is the time limit for being in the archive? or they will provide previous issues on demand.

S. D. Machndrnath, 2021; the author elaborated on the significance of the user as the focus of any library, and the satisfaction level of the users with information sources and services justifies the existence and relevance of the library. As libraries play an important role in the teaching, research, and extension development activities of the university, it is necessary to assess to what extent the users are satisfied with the different information services offered by the library and the kinds of information sources the library is equipped with, as well as to measure the extent of their utility.

T. Kellaghan, 2010, In this article, the author stated that "evaluation research" is defined as a form of disciplined and systematic inquiry that is carried out on an object, program, practice, activity, or system with the purpose of providing information that will be of use in decision-making. Disciplined and systematic inquiry is described in terms of the quantitative and qualitative methods of the behavioural and social sciences

III. NEED OF E-REFERENCES EVALUATION

Education, research, and training systems have been transformed by the rapid development and diffusion of information and communication technology. the explosion of information sources, with plenty of digital reference sources easily available for access nowadays. These developments have an impact on university library systems such as ILMS, digital libraries, portals, open sources, library websites, online sources, and so on.

A variety of digital reference sources are available on university KRC websites. Online source evaluation must include any libraries in its digital collection in this digital age. The process of identifying and selecting digital reference sources becomes complex. It is critical to provide the right online references in real-time.

3.1 The Importance of E-References Analysis

In recent years, e-resources have become very popular in libraries and information centres. This research study deals with the concept of e-resources, their features, and types, as well as the challenges and prospects of e-resources in libraries and the selection and evaluation of e-resources. It also reveals the significance of e-resources. The current evolution in information technology brings plenty of advantages to organizations as well as users. Millions of pages can be saved digitally on small disks. Users can also access it remotely. The increased production and speed of electronic publications make many things complex, so it is needed to conduct research on these digital or online information resources. Reliability, access, publication, availability, cost, standards, maintenance, etc. are the key factors in these e-references.

3.2 Purpose of the Research

The broad purpose of this study is to evaluate online reference sources on university library websites. The allied objectives are as follows:

- To search the appearance, coverage, and accuracy of the references,
- To know the available digital information sources in selected universities' knowledge and resource centres.
- To study the types of digital reference sources acquired by universities' knowledge and resource centres.
- To study the structure and design of these digital reference sources in a given environment.
- To conduct the online search to analyse these digital references.
- To study the standards and protocols for digital references adopted by university knowledge and resource centres.

- To investigate the nature of digital resources.

3.3 Research Hypothesis

A hypothesis is a statement that is based on an assumption but cannot be proven. The hypothesis guides the proposed research process: it works with samples, variables, and various types of source relationships. A hypothesis is a research-based prediction that gives an idea of what the outcome will be. It is helpful for future research in selected subjects.

Are E-References standards maintained?

The online management of e-references is satisfactory. The barriers and issues in acquiring and processing digital references are discussed in Section

It is very accessible in every way. These are some well-supported research hypotheses.

3.4 Research Method and Data Analysis

Research is the process of expanding the entire field of knowledge available or discovering new information. Precision is achieved in the problem statement by using specific research methods and techniques. Primary and secondary data required for research are collected and analysed scientifically. The case study research method was used in this study. This research method is more commonly used in descriptive and historical research. In this method, it is expected to study specific social institutions, organizations, individuals, and departments in their actual situations. Case study methods are defined as follows:

Young, P.V. (1984) describes the clinical study of the lives of social groups, groups of individuals, families, and cultural units as a "person study."

Baxter et al. (2008): The case study method is a learning technique in which the student is faced with a particular problem, the case. The case study facilitates the exploration of a real issue within a defined context, using a variety of data sources.

3.5 Evaluation Criteria: Some of evaluation Criteria as follows,

Sr. No.	Criteria	Description
1	Accuracy	Details of publishers. Authors' information, Publication date, Content, etc.
2	Authority	Credibility and reliability of Links and domains. Editors and Reviews
3	Objectivity	User-friendly and accurate Information with minimum obstacles. Provide information with status and suggestions.
4	Currency	Update Information timely and neatly. Links and access monitor regularly.
5	Coverage	Widely cover the specific topic or subject. Easy to be surfing and download
6.	Relevance	The online texts are not guiding the users properly. Sometimes unwanted items are downloading while searching the websites
7.	Details	Author qualification, Publisher Standard and Website Details.

3.6 Scope of the Study

The proposed research mainly focuses on evaluating available digital reference sources. Specifically, university libraries in the state of Maharashtra What types of digital resources exist, and how do their structures and characteristics differ? This study analyses e-resource in state-ruled universities' knowledge resource centres in Maharashtra state. The proposed research work is constrained by digital reference sources, particularly those available online. The research will analyse and evaluate digital reference sources as they are displayed or made available on the internet.

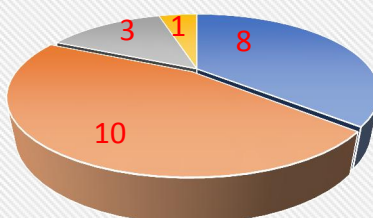
KRC's websites. The study only looks at university libraries and ignores all other types of libraries. The proposed study is a case study of 11 state-ruled university libraries with available digital reference sources. It is the proposed research work's limitation and scope.

An Overview of KRC'S Websites

University Name	Establi. Year	KRC'S URL Link	Institutional Repository	Open Sources Link	Social Media Sharing Links	Online Feedback Link
			Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Mumbai University	1857	https://mu.ac.in/knowledge-resource-centre	Yes	YES	Yes	No
Pune University	1949	http://lib.unipune.ac.in:8002/	Yes	Yes	No	No
Nagpur University	1923	https://nagpuruniversity.ac.in/index.php	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Aurangabad University	1958	http://www.bamu.ac.in/krc/Home.aspx	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shivaji University	1962	https://www.unishivaji.ac.in/library	Yes	Yes	No	No
Amravati University	1983	https://www.sgbaukrc.ac.in/	Yes	Yes	No	No
Nanded University	1994	https://www.srtmun.ac.in/mr/library-2.html	Yes	Yes	No	No
Jalgaon University	1990	https://nmu.ac.in/knowledge_resource_center/en-us/	Yes	Yes	No	No
Solapur University	2004	http://www.sus.ac.in/library/	No	Yes	Yes	No
Gondwana University	2011	https://unigug.ac.in/dept/index.php	No	Yes	No	Not

An overview of e-Reference sources on Libray websites

- Institutional Repositories
- Open Educational Resources
- Social Media Sharing Options
- Online Feedback



IV. CONCLUSION

On the account of information users and librarians evaluation is important aspects, and it will help to increases new ways of development in e-references selection and management. With the help of evaluation both Users and managers will find new techniques in the context of e-references effective use. Evaluation is a continuous process, and it will set an ideal model for serious users and researchers. Fruitfulness of evaluation isto set a new policy and plan to improve the effective selection and management of e-references on library websites.

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