

LIBRARY WEB PORTAL: A WEAPON OF ICT

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ABSTRACT

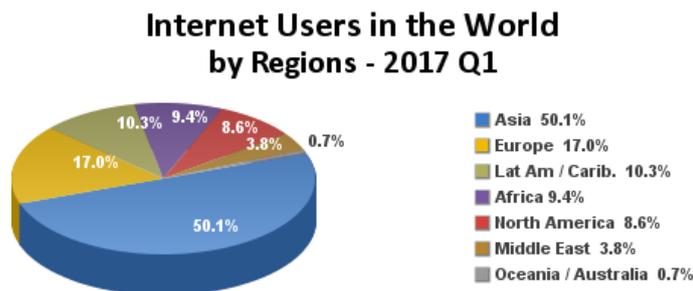
The present era is characterized with innovative online tools; with the advent and the innovation of ICT, libraries are facing so many new challenges in order to provide exact information at a quick rate. Websites are working on this, to solve all of these problems. Websites can be considered as a new weapon of ICT, which is encountering all the time taking services and transforming them into rapid services. In order to promote the services, libraries are using this weapon and delivering their services in a smooth manner. This paper is prompting on various technologies and the required software for website development. There are many slight mistakes noticed in the development of websites. Here, the paper is focusing on them and providing some guidelines to develop the pages.

KEYWORDS: Wwww, Library Websites, Web Server, Frameworks, Mistakes, Guidelines etc

INTRODUCTION

Information and communication technology (ICT) has transformed the way of learning and teaching practice. The impact of ICT can be seen in every field, since the application of ICT is being widely used in the library and the websites are the gateway to access this digital world of knowledge. The Digital world comprises all the e-Resources. The scenario of the library has completely changed from the past due to the applications of ICT, libraries are serving the user at the very faster rate and in the easier way, where as in the past, this was very complicated to fulfill the needs of patrons. Services are being provided to the user at the remarkable faster speed within, and also beyond the working time of the library through the library web portal. No matter what are the working hours of library, through web portals patrons can gather their information 24x7. Library web portals are also being used as a platform to promote the library and the services provided by the library. Now-a-days, the first approach of users to seek information that shows their interest in internet services. We can say that, library web portal is essential to implement the five laws of library science.

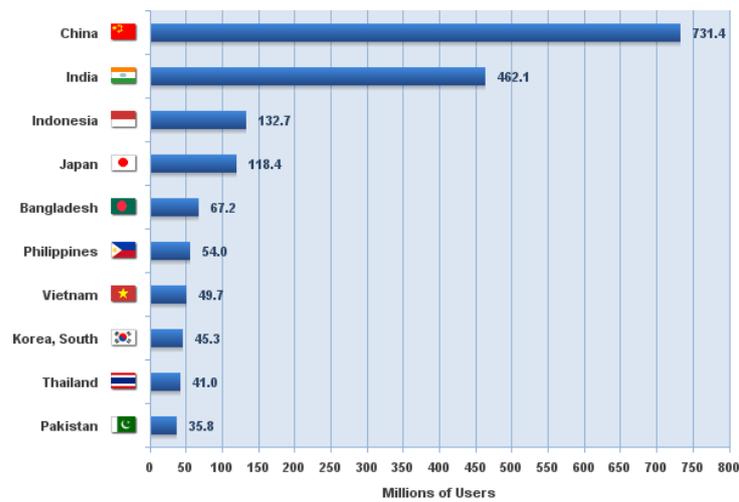
Figure 1 are 2: Showing the Accessibility of Internet and this shows the Popularity and the wide Scope of Internet over the Globe



Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm

Figure 1

**Top Ten Internet Countries in Asia
March 31, 2017**



Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats3.htm
1,874,136,654 Internet users in Asia estimated in March 31, 2017

Figure 2

What is a Website?

A website or a webpage is a documentation page, which is typically written in Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML). These HTML pages can be accessed through the internet or offline on a local area network. HTML pages may incorporate various elements from others' website using anchor tag `<a>` and their attributes helps in hyper linking. A typical or standard both websites are developed by using various tags and their attributes of HTML, PHP and other languages. Now-A-Days developers are using various different scripts to make a web page elegant. A web page may contain various hyperlinks to other websites, audio, videos and other digital stuffs. Every website has their own uniform resource locator (URL) e.g. <https://bujhansi.org> and this url is unique for every website. Any institution that hosts a website can also be used; their internet protocol address (IP) to locate their page, but it is very complicated to remember it. So, using domain service, it will be very easy to remember the domains and sub domains. It also indicates the type of websites.

There is a list of domains and their indication

- comcommercial websites
- edueducational websites
- InIndian websites
- Asacademic websites
- Orgorganizational websites
- Govgovernmental websites, etc.

Web Server

A website is hosted by a computer system, and this computer system is known as a server and who access the webpage through the computer is known as a client. A typical web page can be run on client server architecture. To transform a computer into a server, it is very important to have web server software on the same computer that allowed creation managing and reorganization of the data.

Some of the most common web servers are

- Apache
- Microsoft's internet information server
- Cherokee
- Tornado
- CERN httpd
- Yaws etc.

Framework

When we are going to develop a webpage, then after installing a web server, another major requirement is to install a framework, on which, you will work to develop a webpage. You can also create a database, but for creating database external software e.g. MySQL installation will be required. You can assign login credential and authorities to various users and give them right to access the database using framework following are some popular frameworks

Drupal

Drupal is free and open source software (OSS) that allows content management of the webpage and also enables publishing, managing and organizing the content. Drupal has a general public license and build on.php based environment. Due to its easiness, this is being very popular among developers; Drupal consists of all the common modules in web developing.

CodeIgniter

CodeIgniter is an application development framework; this can be considered as a toolkit for the developers who develop their web pages on.php. CodeIgniter enables transforming of the webpage into a web app. In simple words, we can say CodeIgniter is a platform to create web apps.

- JQuery
- Laravel
- Flask
- Cakephp etc.

LIBRARY WEB PORTALS

The internet, or we can say information communication technology, is now-a-days growing tremendously being increased over the globe and in almost every field. The E-material of library is rapidly being increased due to the high growth in literature in electronic form, since these forms of material are very fast, reliable and easy to maintain to the library. The e-publication has given scope for more efficient means of storage, retrieval through remote access and to maintenance. This rapid growth in electronic form of literature is increasing the possibilities of the virtual library. To access the virtual library web portals are the gateways.

A library website can be considered as a gateway to toward the e-material on library, these gateways also provide access to the library's stock, and also to display the information about the library to the user and to locate the resource. A library website may be very helpful to the user since it saves the time instead of visiting library, users can get the access of resources through the webpages and they can easily locate the resources on their fingertips. Now-a-days, everyone is busy in their own works, and it is very hard to make some free time and however they get free time, they like to spend it on the internet. Every marketing organization, even the educational and governmental institutions are serving their users through this weapon of ICT, so, like other organization, libraries should have to develop their portals.

Figure 2 represents the traffic on website of national library of India www.nationallibrary.gov.in observed by Alexa traffic rank.

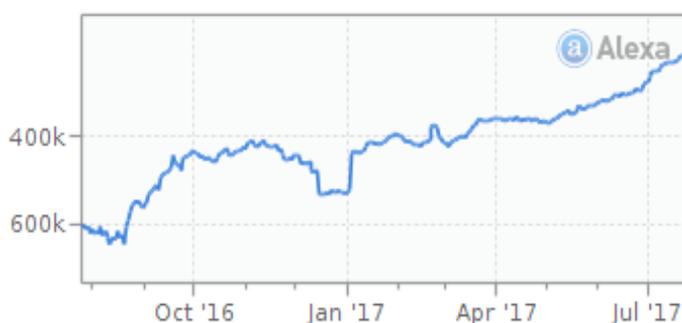


Figure 2: Source Alexa site traffic tracker

Guidelines to the Library Portal

There are a lot of webpages are created every day, but only some of them got the attention of the patrons and increase their number of followers. Following are some guidelines for creating a web page-

- The first important thing to be set up a library website is the content, since content is the king. The content which is going to be published should be relevant and does not have any confusing material, it should be clear.
- The content and the publishing material should be in the user friendly manner. It is better, if the website support multilingual environment, specially regional language
- The color scheme of the page should be very good and elegant
- Use different tools to develop the page that makes it ultra useable
- The post should be short well enough to describe

- The page should have the home page very informative that clearly indicates toward the users' primary need.
- If the library's OPAC (online public access catalogue) is online available, then it is best that to provide OPAC searching on the home page
- A brief history and the introduction of the library should be given on the website
- A web portal should also have information about rules and regulations, working time, collection, list of events, e-resources and the facilities which are being provided by the library
- If the book requisition, membership and feedback are also taken out by the library portal, then the page will be very useful for both the library and the user.
- A link to the social media channels should also include in the web portals.

TOP MISTAKES IN WEBSITE CREATION

- **Lack of consistency:** It is noticeable that the library, which does not post their activities and the content at regular interval loses their followers
- **Overuse of technology:** Overuse of the technology can also consume the user and create a bothering environment, so the technology should be based on users approach
- **Hit counter:** Sometimes, developers use site hitcounter, if the no. of hits are bigger than it very good, but if hits are lesser than in number, it make a bad impact on the user
- **Lack of team:** There should be a team to maintain the site and content, but lack of them may lead it to failure.
- **Irregularity in compilation of pages**
- **Lack of security**
- **Non mobile friendly website:** If the website is not mobile friendly, then it will lose the users because, most of the users surf the internet through a mobile phone.

CONCLUSIONS

Now-a-days, a huge amount of innovation and development takes place in the field of ICT, and to go with the main stream of innovation and to provide multiple accesses to the resource at a single platform, libraries are creating web portals. Through these portals, libraries are promoting their services and disseminating information to the user with 24x7 connectivity. Success/failure of a website depends on the content and their organizing methodology. Now, almost every library is adopting the web portal technology, some are using core programming to build it, and some are building through pre given templates.

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