



Analysis Of Digital Trends In Public Libraries Of Balochistan

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Abstract: *The current study investigated the user perception of digital trends and its challenges in public libraries of Balochistan. The main objectives of the study were to examine digital trends resources and to highlight the challenges using digital trends resources in public libraries of Balochistan. The study used survey design due to its suitability in the given circumstances. The population of the study comprised of 17953 permanent members in all the 17 public libraries in Balochistan. Sample of the study was randomly selected from the permanent members/users, of accessible population of public libraries in Balochistan. A sample of 510 permanent members /users (male/female) was selected randomly. Questionnaire was designed after a vast study of related literatures. A questionnaire was administered through mail and self-visits to the users randomly. To analyze the data, SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software was used to get results. Descriptive analysis was used to analyze the data. It was concluded that digital basic trends are the basic parts of any digital library. The data revealed that most of the public libraries are lacking with the facility of digital trends. Users are facing a number of challenges regarding digital trends in the Public libraries in Balochistan. The Government of Balochistan should endeavor to make an effort to upgrade the non-digital Public libraries into digital libraries in order to enable users effectively utilize and benefit from these new library technologies as most of the public libraries are running under the Government of Balochistan, Culture, Tourism & Archive Department. Training and workshops must be organized for the librarians and the supporting staff of the public libraries to update their knowledge according to the digital trends so that they would be able to run digital libraries effectively and assist their users proficiently.*

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1. Introduction

Education is known as the backbone of a society and fundamental right of human being. A society transmits its accumulated skills, knowledge from one to the next generation through a process. Beside schools, colleges and universities, libraries also play an important role to enhance education in society and create great scholars, quality leaders, teachers and government officials. Libraries, especially Public library is a social institution and understood as multipurpose informative, educative and cultural agency. Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan in term of land area. Its provincial capital is Quetta. There are 7 divisions and 35 districts. Total Population of Balochistan Province is 12,344,408. There are seventy (70) public libraries in Balochistan, out of seventy (70) only seventeen (17) public libraries are functional. Total collections of the public libraries are 141,000. There are sixty-four (64) professional and ninety-seven (97) nonprofessional staff. Four (4) public libraries namely Quid-e-Azam Public Library Quetta, Library and computer center Quetta, Sarawan Digital Library Mastung and Public Library Turbat, Kech have digital environment. In these libraries users are provided computer, internet/wifi and CDs facilities only.

A digital library can house journals, periodicals, articles, e-books, e-papers, images, audio files, and videos, among other things, and allow library patrons to access its collection through the internet 24 hour and seven days a week. This is accomplished through the use of digital library software (William, 2001). Digital libraries are internet-based information storage and retrieval systems that manipulate digital data (Rehmat, 2019). A digital library has holdings that are kept in digital formats and may be accessed via computers. Digital library, electronic library, and virtual library are all words for the same thing. A digital library is a collection of digital assets such as text, video, and audio, as well as access, retrieval, and selection, organizing, and maintenance methods (Jie & Bao-Zhong, 2012). digital library items can be accessed from anywhere on the planet, unlike traditional library services, where human labor is essential, computers are used to give digital services to users (Magaji, 2015). Digital libraries are made up of digital contents and software. A single, simple, stand-alone web page, in the same way that a simple, solitary, and distinct web page is unlikely to be a digital library in any meaningful sense, is unlikely to be a digital library in any meaningful sense (Michael & Elke, 2007).

2. Literature Review

Public libraries play an essential job for increasing knowledge of the general people for lifetime learning. Public libraries could provide access to individuals of the society in obtaining worth information for improving education, research and knowledge (Peter, 2015). The emergence of the social media and digital culture has fascinated to users to the public

libraries. New digital trend in the development of library combing users with social media application like blogs and social network sites (Carlsson, 2015). The environment of public libraries is also changing since presence of technology became important in every field of life. Digitalization of public libraries means most of the library services would be available online to its users and the demand for public libraries will be high (Mate, 2016). All over the globe, Public libraries are facing financial problems and issues. Pakistan which is a developing country failed to provide resources that a public library needed for its effective services. This is an alarming situation for which alternative sources should be searched, the use of digital technology in Pakistan, most of the libraries was limited to prepare book lists and typing data, other uses like verification of prices, inquiries, placing of orders, locating titles were not used because deficiency of professional capabilities and facilities of digital arrangements, internet facility etc (Faiza. et al., 2015). Condition of digital trends in pakistani libraries is not good, there is lack of government funds and policies. Pakistani libraries are far behind in the sense of digital technology. Hard work and contineous efforts are required to reach the destination. For getting better results libraries must be up to date with it projects (Humera , 2015).

3. Methodology of the study

I. Objectives of the study

To attain the goals, this study was focused on the following objectives:

1. To examine basic digital trends resources in Public Libraries of Balochistan.
2. To highlight the challenges using digital trends resources in public libraries of Balochistan.

II. Research Questions

Q. 1 What are the basic digital trends in public libraries of Balochistan?

Q.2 What challenges are faced by the users using digital trends resources in public libraries of Balochistan?

III. Population and sample of the study

All the members of 17 public libraries in Balochistan were the population of the study. There were 17953 permanent members in all the 17 public libraries in Balochistan. Sample of the study was randomly selected from the permanent members/users, of accessible population of public libraries in Balochistan. Thirty members (15 male and 15 female) were selected randomly from each library. A sample of 510 permanent members /users (male/female) was selected randomly.

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IV. Research Instrument

Questionnaire was designed after a vast study of related literatures. A five point Likert scale used, to evaluate the responses of user perception on digital trends. Users were asked to circle the number that related to their level of agreement, (1. Strongly Disagree, 2. Disagree, 3. Neutral, 4. Agree, 5.Strongly Agree).

V. Data Collection and data analysis

A questionnaire was administered through mail and self-visit to the users randomly to ascertain their perception and challenges faced on digital trends. Questionnaire was sent to randomly selected members (510) but 388 questionnaires were returned back to the researchers. Data were collected through a survey form from male/female permanent members/users of 17 public libraries in Balochistan. To analyze the data, SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software was used to get results. Descriptive analysis was used to analyze the data.

4. Results

1. It was concluded that digital basic trends are the basic parts of any digital library.

<i>Sr#</i>	<i>Statement</i>	<i>SDA</i> <i>f(%)</i>	<i>DA</i> <i>f(%)</i>	<i>N</i> <i>f(%)</i>	<i>A</i> <i>f(%)</i>	<i>SA</i> <i>f(%)</i>
1	Face book page	120(30.9)	134(34.5)	82(21.1)	10(2.6)	42(10.8)
2	Online database	96(24.7)	149(38.4)	86(22.2)	30(7.7)	27(7.0)
3	E-book	150(38.7)	100(25.8)	90(23.1)	20(5.1)	28(7.3)
4	E-journal	170(43.8)	114(29.3)	74(19.6)	12(3.0)	18(4.6)
5	Open Access resources	92(23.6)	170(44.0)	58(15.0)	38(9.8)	30(7.6)
6	E-manuscripts	130(33.5)	108(27.8)	98(25.3)	20(5.2)	32(8.2)
7	Digital bibliographic	140(36.1)	118(30.4)	80(20.6)	24(6.2)	26(6.7)
8	Online reference service	152(39.1)	134(34.6)	77(19.9)	15(3.8)	10(2.5)
9	Internet	16(4.1)	40(10.3)	66(17.0)	152(39.2)	114(29.4)
10	Wifi facility	132(34.0)	92(23.7)	80(20.6)	30(7.7)	54(13.9)
11	Computers facility	110(28.3)	118(30.4)	-----	48(12.4)	112(28.9)
12	E-newspaper	98(25.3)	38(9.8)	26(6.7)	124(32.0)	102(26.3)
13	Library website	182(46.91)	152(39.2)	24(6.2)	14(3.61)	16(4.12)

The availability of face book page in the public library was not present in most of the libraries and availability of web and online database was not also present. E-books and E-journals were not available in the library. In addition, the open access resources were not available in the public libraries and E-Manuscript was not also present. There was not presence of multimedia collection in the public library. Moreover,

digital bibliography was not present in most of the public libraries. There was not availability of online reference service in most of the public libraries. For the availability of internet, so internet is present in most of the libraries but without the availability of wifi facility. Regarding to the availability of computers for the use of the members in the public library, there was not enough computers according to the permanent members in most of the libraries. There was not presence of library websites in most of the libraries and social networking facility is not also available in the public libraries of Balochistan.

2. It was concluded about the challenges faced by the users using digital trends in public libraries of Balochistan.

<i>Sr#</i>	<i>Statement</i>	<i>SDA f(%)</i>	<i>DA f(%)</i>	<i>N f(%)</i>	<i>A f(%)</i>	<i>SA f(%)</i>
1	Ample space is available	134(34.5)	120(30.9)	10(2.6)	82(21.1)	42(10.8)
2	Adequate computers	150(38.7)	130(33.5)	8(2.1)	36(9.3)	64(16.5)
3	Enough Digital Collections	119(30.7)	57(14.7)	86(22.2)	50(12.9)	76(19.6)
4	High Internet facility for every user	110(28.4)	78(20.1)	36(9.3)	90(23.2)	74(19.1)
5	Wifi connection.	140(36.1)	92(23.7)	74(19.6)	32(8.2)	48(12.4)
6	Availability of digital material	170(43.8)	92(23.7)	58(14.9)	30(7.7)	38(9.8)
7	Skilled human resources for digital trends	150(38.7)	92(23.7)	22(5.7)	36(9.3)	68(22.7)
8	Sufficient librarians to help users using digital library.	170(43.8)	92(23.7)	30(7.7)	38(9.8)	58(14.9)
9	Valuable digital materials are available	150(38.7)	68(22.7)	22(5.7)	36(9.3)	92(23.7)
10	sufficient technical services	130(33.5)	74(19.1)	38(9.8)	64(16.5)	82(21.1)
11	Modern technical infrastructure	130(33.5)	108(27.8)	20(5.2)	32(8.2)	98(25.3)
12	High speed internet is available	134(34.5)	105(27.1)	22(5.7)	47(12.1)	80(20.6)
13	Online downloading and printing facility	141(36.3)	100(25.8)	24(6.2)	91(23.5)	32(8.2)
14	Audio video sharing	126(32.5)	96(24.7)	28(7.2)	44(11.3)	94(24.2)
15	Social Media accessibility	96(24.7)	134(34.5)	86(22.2)	56(14.4)	16(4.1)

Majority (65.4%) of the respondents were against the statement through disagreed and strongly disagreed that the ample space is available in the libraries for the usage of digital trends. Majority (72.2%) of the respondents were against the statement through disagreed and strongly disagreed that adequate computers are available in the public libraries of Balochistan. Majority (45.4%) of the respondents were against the statement that Enough Digital Collections are present in the public libraries of Balochistan. Majority (59.8%) of the respondents were against the statement through disagreed and strongly disagreed about the facility of Wifi connection in the library. Majority (48.5%) of the respondents were against the statement about high Internet facility for every user in the library. Majority (67.5%) of the respondents were against the statement about the availability of digital material. Majority (62.4%) of the respondents were against the statement about the presence of skilled human resources for digital trends. Majority (67.5%) of the respondents were against the statement that sufficient librarians are available to help

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users using digital library. Majority (61.4%) of the respondents were against the statement that valuable digital materials are available. Majority (52.6%) of the respondents were against the statement about the sufficient technical services. Majority (61.3%) of the respondents were against the statement through disagreed and strongly disagreed that modern technical infrastructure is available. Majority (61.6%) of the respondents were against the statement through disagreed and strongly disagreed about the availability of high speed availability. Majority (62.1%) of the respondents were against the statement through disagreed and strongly disagreed about the online downloading and printing facility. Majority (57.2%) of the respondents were against the statement through disagreed and strongly disagreed about the sharing of Audio video in the public libraries of Balochistan. Majority (59.2%) of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement about the social media accessibility in the public libraries of Balochistan.

5. 5. Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations are therefore made.

1. In Balochistan province digital libraries are in its infancy. It appeared that a large number of Public libraries in Balochistan are paper based (non-digital). The Government of Balochistan should endeavor to make an effort to upgrade the non-digital Public libraries into digital libraries in order to enable users effectively utilize and benefit from these new library technologies.
2. Training and workshops must be organized for the librarians and the supporting staff of the public libraries to update their knowledge according to the digital trends so that they would be able to run digital libraries effectively and assist their users proficiently.
3. Fast Internet and Wi-Fi facility should be provided in the Public libraries so that users avail this facility and get connected with informative world.
4. Library professionals should engage themselves to get informal online ICT based education regarding digital trends in librarianship on their desktop. This will improve their ability and become competent library professional, in this way they can serve their users diligently also.
5. Public libraries must develop their web page to promote library services and access to electronic services.
6. Building of digital libraries and digital culture is a big challenge in Balochistan but we can overcome on this if it is ensured by governmental and institutional support, library professionals commitment and role of community to support digital libraries.

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