



## Library user's preferences towards Digital Libraries and Virtual Libraries in Jaipur City

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**Abstract:** *In present scenario, the study of user's preferences has become essential. This paper deals mainly with studying the user's preferences towards library utilization with special focus on digital and virtual library.*

*The explosion in internet usage by young generation has drawn attention to research on digital libraries and virtual libraries. The present study proposes to understand the growing demand pattern of digital libraries and virtual libraries. Rapid advances in information technologies have revolutionized the role of libraries. As a result, libraries face flux in digital technologies, challenges, alternatives, difficulties, demands and opportunities. Libraries are redesigning services and information products to add value to their services and to satisfy the changing information needs of the user community.*

**Keywords –** *Users' perception, preferences, digital and virtual library*

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries are at the forefront of providing information services to their respective users which comprises of students, lecturers, and researchers in order to support their teaching, learning and research needs. Studies have emphasized on the crucial role of academic libraries in research and also as the heart or nerve centers of institutions of higher learning where all academic activities revolved. A library is a treasure house of information. It not only collect, stores and disseminates information but also serves as an effective mechanism for creation of fresh ideas and new knowledge.

A well-equipped library is necessary for all teaching, study and research. A systematically developed library collection serves as a major academic facility to the faculty as well as to the scholars and enables them to attain better results in their respective fields.

As the world is fastest growing towards the digitalization and automation there is a need to do automation of libraries.

As the generation has become techno savvy there is a need to study the users' preferences towards the digital and virtual library.

### II. GENESIS OF THE STUDY

Libraries have changed over time with technology as recently, traditional libraries holding a large number of printed documents are being converted to paperless libraries, with the capacity for boundless volumes of information to be contained in digitized formats. Digital libraries are increasingly becoming part of systems in many countries. The rapid expansion of the information technology, internet and the World Wide Web (WWW) has a great impact on how libraries are managing their collections and providing services.

Virtual libraries can offer resources from many sources and in many formats, including audio and video. The items in these virtual collections do not have to reside on one server, but they share a common interface to assist the user in accessing the collection. The emphasis in virtual libraries is on organization and access, not on physical collections (Baldwin & Mitchell, 1996)

A digital library is a library in which collections are stored in digital formats (as opposed to print, microform, or other media) and accessible by computers. The content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely. The first published use of the term may have been in a 1988 report to the Corporation for National Research Initiatives. The term was first popularized by the NSF/DARPA/NASA Digital Libraries Initiative in 1994. Bush (1945) created a vision based on experience ("Digital library.")

### III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To understand users' preferences for digital and virtual library in Jaipur city.
2. To study the factors influencing on the digital and virtual library preferences in Jaipur city.



### Hypothesis:

Hypothesis 1 H0: Age and preference for digital and virtual library are independent.

Hypothesis 2 H0: Gender and preference for digital and virtual library are independent.

## IV. RESEARCH DESIGN

Methodology selected in order to realize the research objectives of present study. The study conducted is micro and empirical in nature. It involves a survey of users' preference for digital and virtual library.

## V. SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION

### Primary source:

The data for this research has been collected through structured interview schedule. Moreover respondents prefer to give direct answers. In Interview schedule open ended and closed ended, both the types of questions have been used.

### b) Secondary source:

Secondary data has been collected through internet, library books, journals, magazines and research articles.

## VI. SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

The simple random sampling technique was used for selection of respondents from the total population of Jaipur city.

## VII. SAMPLE SIZE

Sample sizes of 100 respondents were selected randomly from the total population. 100 library users were randomly selected from different colleges of Jaipur region.

After the survey was over the data were processed, classified and tabulated in accordance with the requirement of the above set objectives.

## VIII. STUDY AREA

For the study on, users' preferences towards digital and virtual libraries the researcher selected Jaipur region as a study area

## IX. STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

The statistical techniques were used using percentage analysis, Chi-Square test at appropriate places for processing and analysis of the data.

## X. DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data which was collected has been presented in the following table:

**Table 1**  
**Preferences for digital and virtual libraries gender wise**

Preference		Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
Not preferred	count	30	24	54
	% within gender	56.6%	51.1%	54%
Preferred	count	23	23	46
	% within gender	43.4%	48.9%	46%
Total	count	53	47	100
	% within gender	100%	100%	100%

It is observed that out of 53 male respondents, 30 have no preferences for digital and virtual libraries, whereas 23 prefer digital and virtual libraries. This means 56.6% of male do not prefer digital and virtual libraries.



Similarly female respondents, 51.1% do not prefer digital and virtual libraries, whereas 48.9% prefer the same.

**Table 2**  
**Preferences for digital and virtual libraries Age-wise**

Preference		Age		Total
		Less than 30 years	More than 30 years	
Not preferred	count	24	30	54
	%	40.7%	73.2%	54%
Preferred	count	35	11	46
	%	59.3%	26.8%	46%
Total	count	59	41	100
	%	100%	100%	100%

It indicates that there are 59 respondents less than 30 age group and 41 respondents are from the age group of more than 30 years. Researchers, lecturers and staff members are 26.8% who prefer digital and virtual libraries, whereas 73.2% have no preference for digital and virtual libraries.

In case of younger respondents (less than 30 years) 59.3% have preference for digital and virtual libraries and 40.7% of them do not prefer digital and virtual libraries.

**Table 3**  
**Preferences for digital and virtual libraries users wise**

Preference		Users			Total
		UG students	PG students	Researchers, Teachers & others	
Not preferred	Count	21	19	14	54
	% within users	84%	55.88%	34.15%	54%
Preferred	Count	4	15	27	46
	% within users	16%	44.12%	65.85%	46%
Total	Count	25	34	41	100
	% within users	100%	100%	100%	100%

The analysis from table 3 shows that out of those belonging to UG classes, only 16% prefer digital and virtual libraries of the 34 belonging to PG classes, 44.12% prefer digital and virtual libraries, whereas out of 41 those belonging to research, teaching and others 65.85% prefer digital and virtual libraries.

**Possible reasons for this could be:**

- ✓ Occupational changes in service industry
- ✓ Working condition and work culture are highly influential
- ✓ Digital virtual library helped in better research and teaching process.

Although digital libraries are more helpful but they are expensive and it is people with low income cannot afford it. Making information more accessible is now paramount in the library sector. The content should be available to anyone who has access to the Internet.

**Chi Square test**

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
<b>Pearson Chi-Square</b>	20.000a	99	.001
<b>Likelihood Ratio</b>	16.094	99	.446
<b>N of Valid Cases</b>	100		



5 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .100.

The sample Chi Square value is 0.001 which is less than 0.05. Hence null hypothesis is rejected.

From the above analysis it is clear that there is no enough incidences to conclude that age and the preferences of digital and virtual libraries are related. Since the Chi Square value is significant it means that we can reject the null hypothesis.

Gender and preference for digital and virtual library are independent.

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	20.000a	99	.000
Likelihood Ratio	16.094	99	.446
N of Valid Cases	100		

25 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .100.

The sample Chi Square value is 0.000 which is less than 0.05. Hence null hypothesis is rejected.

From the above analysis it is clear that there is no enough incidences to conclude that gender and the preferences of digital and virtual libraries are related. Since the Chi Square value is significant it means that we can reject the null hypothesis.

The other major consideration is how computer and information technology will change library spaces. Library planners will develop new designs to carry libraries into the 21st century. Digital libraries don't have to remain without walls. They can operate under the same directives and perform the same functions, and become integrated in traditional library settings.

### XI. CONCLUSION

It therefore, is evident that there are a number of possible measures which can be improve the quality of libraries. As related by the study, the following are areas in which special remedial measures are required. Our exhaustive research in the field of library automation threw up some interesting trends which can be seen in the above analysis. A general impression that we gathered during Data collection was the immense awareness and knowledge among people about various ICT like digital and virtual library. Our study concludes that preferences for digital and virtual library are changing age wise. Mostly researchers and teachers prefers digital and virtual library more than the youngsters from UG and PG standard prefer. Users' preferences for digital and virtual library are dependents variable, male users are more than female. However, initiatives had been taken such as digital and virtual library is most essential now a days and its need of 21st century. Furthermore, government took initiatives for betterment of library quality.

### XII. FUTURE WORK

Libraries will find their niche, if they remain flexible and continue to provide exemplary service in whatever format users' desire. The reality is that there will always be people who prefer to walk into a library to borrow a book, rather than download every book they want to read. As well, there will be many who can never hope to have the technology at home to access a truly virtual universal library. What will happen to those people? Now universal library is within our grasp, and it can only be a good thing to tap into previously valuable and unavailable digital collections. The downside is that libraries and individuals will need the proper technological equipment and training, and some will not be able to afford them.

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