

A Website analysis of Selected State University Library Portals of Assam

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Abstract: Library websites are a reflection of the institution; they showcase its mission, programmes, services, and all other aspects of the institution and its staff. Any type of library, whether it is an academic library, a public library, or a special library, must now take this into account. This study attempts to analyse the library portals of 10 selected state govt. University library portals of Assam. The selected universities are the oldest to newest from the year of establishment. The main objective of the study is to learn about the library portals and what information they provide through these portals. The study found that the contents of the library portals differ from each other. It was also found that some of the library portals do not provide the basic information about the library.

Keywords: Information; Library; Library Portal; Library Website; University

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1. Introduction

A well-equipped library is crucial for academic institutions because it serves as a hub for teaching, learning, and research. Libraries must utilize modern technologies and web services to provide efficient, user-friendly systems. Library websites should provide quick access to authentic information about the organization and its resources, both physical and digital. Web-based services such as e-CAS, e-SDI, Virtual Reference Desk, and Web-OPAC are examples of tools that enhance the user experience. The content and presentation of library websites have a direct impact on usability; good content attracts more users. To ensure user satisfaction, the website should be well-maintained, interactive, and regularly updated with accurate and current information. Periodic evaluation and analysis of the library website are crucial for improvements and continued effectiveness.

Content analysis is a systematic approach to studying texts, images, and symbols, focusing on recorded information rather than collecting data from people. It sets itself apart from other social science research methods and shares similarities with documentary research.

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- a. To evaluate the Structure and content of selected state University library portals of Assam
- b. To find out the information about library services, collection, rules etc.
- c. To know about the libraries.

2. Review of Related Literature

Numerous content analyses have been performed on library websites, primarily focusing on academic libraries. Indira (2022) conducted a study analyzing the content of library websites of 68 colleges affiliated with Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala, India. The research focused on the significance assigned to libraries on the institutions' websites, assessing e-resources and web-based services provided. Findings revealed that only 50% of colleges had active websites with Web OPAC and access to online resources. The study suggests implementing remote access to e-resources, web OPAC, and utility-based value-added services in college library websites.

Arandhara (2021) conducted a comparative study analyzing the content of four university library websites in Assam: Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library of Gauhati University, Central Library of Tezpur University, Lakshminath Bezbaroa Library of Dibrugarh University, and Dr. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan Library of Cotton University. The paper focuses on understanding the libraries' collections and services as displayed on their websites.

Devi & Verma (2017) studied the web content of NIT libraries in North-Eastern India, finding that only NIT Sikkim has a library website, while others have web pages. They recommend including contact information, library collections, and highlighting services on these sites, as well as ensuring all links are accessible.

3. Methodology

This study is based on primary and secondary literature, including books, journals, documents, seminar papers, and some good websites and articles that were accessed using a checklist created to examine the websites of the selected libraries. The information was collected using survey methods and observation methods on the website of the prestigious portals of the state university library. Microsoft Excel was used to analyse the data. The websites of the selected libraries were examined at different points.

4. OVERVIEW OF STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OF ASSAM:

A university is a higher education and research centre that awards degrees in a number of academic fields. Assam, a northeastern state, is a land of natural beauty, cultures, education and faith. There are numerous government and private universities in Assam. Out of these, 10 selected state universities were chosen to study and analyse the contents of these university library portals. The following list shows the universities and library portals –

Table 1: Status of University and the Library Portals

Sl.No	Name of the University	District	Year	University Portal	Library Portal
1	Assam Agricultural University (AAU)	Jorhat	1968	www.aau.ac.in	http://www.aau.ac.in/academics/library
2	Assam Women's University (AWU)	Jorhat	2013	www.awu.ac.in	https://www.awu.ac.in/library.html
3	Bodoland University(BoU)	Kokrajhar	2009	https://buniv.edu.in/	https://bulibrary.in/
4	Bhattadev University(BU)	Bajali	2017	www.bhattadevuniversity.ac.in	https://www.bhattadevuniversity.ac.in/library.jsp
5	Cotton University(CU)	Kamrup	2017	www.cottonuniversity.ac.in	https://cottonuniversity.ac.in/library/
6	Dibrugarh University(DU)	Dibrugarh	1965	www.dibru.ac.in	https://dibru.ac.in/portals/Inblibrary/temp/index.htm
7	Gauhati University(GU)	Kamrup	1948	www.gauhati.ac.in	https://gauhati.ac.in/academic/library/kk-handiqui-library
8	Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit & Ancient Studies University(KBSASU)	Nalbari	2011	www.kbvsasun.ac.in	https://kbvsasun.ac.in/library/
9	Madhabdev University(MU)	Lakhimpur	2018	https://madhabdevuniversity.ac.in/frontend/page/homepage	https://library.madhabdevcollege.org.in/
10	Majuli University of Culture(MUC)	Majuli	2018	www.muoc.ac.in	https://library.muoc.ac.in/

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Information of the Libraries and Librarians:

Table 2 shows the information about the libraries, i.e., the name of the libraries, the year of establishment, and the names of the librarians, as found on the library websites. It shows that out of the 10 libraries, 3 library portals (AWU, KBSASU and MU) have no information about the librarians. It also shows that KBSASU and MU have no information about the library name and others.

Table 2: About The library and the name of Librarian

SL.No	University	Name of the Library	Year of Establishment	Librarian
1	AAU	B.M. Pugh Library	1969	Dr. Chandan Hazarika i/c
2	AWU	Central Library AWU	2015	N/A
3	BoU	Padma Shri Madaram Brahma Central Library	2009	Sangrang Brahma
4	BU	Central Library BU	2017	Arjun Medhi
5	CU	Surya Kumar Bhuyan Library	1901	Dr. sureshy kr Nath i/c
6	DU	Lakshminath Bezbaroa Library	1967	Utpal Das
7	GU	KK Handiqui Library	1948	Dr. Prasanta Kr. Dekka
8	KBSASU	N/A	2011	N/A
9	MU	N/A	2018	N/A
10	MUC	Central Liobrary MUC	2023	Sekharjyoti Neog (Asstn Lib)

5.2 Basic information:

Library portals need to provide basic information about the library, such as history, mission statement, various rules, library hours, library staff, library collections, library committee etc. Table 3 shows that 80% of library portals include a brief introduction and history of the library. 70% of library portals contain information about different sections. 50% of library portals include information about collections and library rules. 40% of library portals provide information about

the mission and library committees. It was also found that 2 university library portals (KBSASU & MU) do not contain any information.

Table 3: Basic information about Library portals.

	About The Library	Mission Statement	Different Sections	Library Collection	Library Rules	Library Timings	Library Staffs	Library Committee
AAU	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
AWU	Yes	Yes						yes
BoU	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
BU	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	
CU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
DU	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes		
GU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
KBSASU								
MU								
MUC	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

5.3: Information on library Collection

The strength of a library can be determined by its collection. Libraries can showcase their collections through library portals to attract users. Table 4 shows that seven university libraries (70%) have provided statistical information about the collection and three libraries (30%) have no information about the collection. 60% of the libraries have information about the collection of books, newspapers and magazines and 5 libraries have a collection of audiovisual documents. 60% libraries has a collection of dissertation. It is also noted that only Gauhati University (GU) has information about manuscript collection. KBSASU and MU do not have any information.

Table 4: Information on library collection (Print Material)

	Statistics of Collection	Books	Newspaper	Magazine	Dissertation/Theses	Audio Visual	manuscript
AAU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
AWU							

BoU	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		
BU							
CU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
DU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
GU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
KBSASU	Yes	Yes					
MU							
MUC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

In the digital age, electronic collections are also needed to serve users so that people can find and use this information anywhere in the world. Table 5 shows the information about electronic resources available in library portals. 6 out of 10 university libraries have a collection of electronic books. 4 libraries have a collection of electronic journals and databases. 5 libraries have links to other resources and a collection of consortia.

Table 5: Information on Library Collection (E-resources; Non-Print material)

	E-books	E-Journals	Databases	Consortium	Link to Other Reseources
AAU	Yes		Yes	Yes	
AWU					
BoU	Yes			Yes	Yes
BU					Yes
CU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
DU	Yes	Yes	Yes		
GU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
KBSASU					
MU					
MUC	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes

5.4: Information on Library services:

Table 6 shows that all the libraries except KBSASU and MU has the circulation services as information provided by the library portals. There’s no information on any library portals on repository and ask a librarian service. 70% libraries

provide OPAC service & 50 libraries have reference service. Only two libraries namely AAU & MUC has book bank service. 40% libraries have Current awareness service.

Table 6: Information on Library Services

	Circulation	Reference	Repository	Reprographic	Book Bank	OPAC	Ask A Librarian	User Education	CAS
AAU	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
AWU	Yes	Yes							
BoU	Yes					Yes			
BU	Yes					Yes			
CU	Yes	Yes				Yes			Yes
DU	Yes	Yes				Yes			Yes
GU	Yes	Yes				Yes		Yes	Yes
KBSASU									
MU									
MUC	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes

6. Conclusion

Libraries are the heart of a university and library portals are the gateway to the library. This study is based on the content analysis of 10 selected govt. Assam state university libraries. From the study it is found that all the university libraries have library portals. Out of them only two library portals do not have any details on library website namely KBSASU and MU. It is also found that 80% of libraries have information about their history. 5 university libraries have a name and the other 5 have no name. The information about printed and non-printed document collections is also available on the library websites. All libraries have a book collection and 60% of the libraries have a collection of e-resources, all libraries offer various services as indicated in the library portals.

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