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STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF M- LIBRARIES THAN THE TRADITIONAL LIBRARIES

Mallikarjun Biradar and Altaf Hussain

¹Faculty of Commerce Department Koppal University Koppal Main campus Talakal - 583231

²Faculty, Department of Studies and Research in Commerce Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Post-Graduation Centre, Yalburga-583236

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ABSTRACT

The 21st century has witnessed transformative advancements in technology across various sectors, including information dissemination. Libraries, as essential repositories of knowledge, have had to adapt their services to meet the evolving needs of modern users, who increasingly prefer digital and mobile resources over traditional print materials. The limited availability of physical books in many libraries has further necessitated a shift toward more dynamic, digital services. Mobile technology, in particular, offers faster access to information, presenting libraries with both opportunities and challenges to remodel their service delivery. With the ubiquity of smartphones, libraries can extend their reach to remote users and provide more personalized, user-friendly experiences. This study explores the impact of mobile technology on traditional libraries, emphasizing the effectiveness of mobile libraries (M-libraries) compared to their conventional counterparts in terms of accessibility, user engagement, and service delivery.

KEYWORDS: Students' perceptions, M-libraries, Traditional libraries, Effectiveness

I. INTRODUCTION

The role of libraries and librarians has undergone significant changes due to the rise of digital technology. Digital libraries are collections of digital documents, videos, images, and other resources that users can access online. These developments have revolutionized the way information is accessed, stored, and utilized. Digital libraries enable individuals to advance their knowledge, develop new skills, and connect with communities worldwide. However, these changes also pose challenges for library professionals regarding how they organize, manage, and distribute this information effectively. Today, books can take on many forms, such as networked books, which are created collaboratively by authors and readers online. Social networking and advanced algorithms have also transformed the way users find, process, and share information. The increasing capabilities of mobile phones, which now

function as MP3 players, cameras, video streamers, and more, have further changed how people interact with digital content. As smartphones become the primary device for internet browsing, reading, and social interaction, libraries must adapt their services to meet users' mobile needs.

Libraries, as social institutions that connect people to information, are no longer bound to physical spaces. With the vast majority of library users now owning smartphones, it is crucial for libraries to embrace mobile technology to stay relevant in today's increasingly digital and mobile-driven society. This shift will enable libraries to offer enhanced user services and engage both novice and experienced users in innovative ways.

II. Trends in Library and Information Services

1. **Electronic Resource Management:** Electronic resources, such as e-journals, e-books, and databases, are increasingly becoming essential components of modern libraries. By using e-resource management software, libraries can efficiently track their digital collections, manage access permissions, and evaluate usage. This technology also helps in selecting, reserving, and maintaining digital materials for users.
2. **RFID Implementation:** Radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology allows libraries to automate the tracking and management of physical materials through electromagnetic tags. This system improves library security, streamlines the borrowing and return process, and reduces human error and operational costs, ultimately saving time for both users and library staff.
3. **Cloud Computing:** Cloud computing is revolutionizing library services by enabling the creation of digital repositories and facilitating the automation of library management systems. This technology ensures that library resources are used efficiently and that infrastructure and data backups are managed by third-party services. Cloud-based systems also enable libraries to provide faster access to information while reducing operational costs.
4. **Internet of Things (IoT):** IoT technology is increasingly being integrated into library management systems to automate data transfers, monitor inventory, and enhance user services without human intervention. This technology improves circulation activities, facilitates book reservations, enhances library security, and streamlines digital library services.
5. **Big Data and Data Visualization:** With the rise of Big Data, libraries now have access to vast amounts of information. Data visualization tools allow libraries to present this data in user-friendly formats such as charts, graphs, and maps, making it easier to identify trends and patterns. These tools enable libraries to provide global access to large datasets and make the search for information more intuitive for users.

6. **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** AI technology, such as chatbots, is being used in libraries to provide users with automated assistance. These chatbots can answer common questions, send book return reminders, direct users to specific library resources, and even schedule appointments. AI enhances the user experience by offering real-time support and personalizing library services.
7. **Mobile-Based Library Services:** Mobile technology allows libraries to extend their services beyond physical locations. Through mobile apps, SMS, and messaging platforms like WhatsApp, libraries can offer remote users access to their collections, promote literacy, and support lifelong learning. Learning management systems (LMS), such as Moodle, further enable libraries to manage and track the educational content they provide. Mobile applications like the OPAC mobile app, powered by software like SLIM, convert traditional libraries into digital ones, making information more accessible to users anytime, anywhere.

III. Objective of the Study

- To understand the distinctions between traditional libraries and mobile technology-based libraries.
- To assess the benefits of mobile technology-based libraries.
- To analyze students' perceptions of both traditional and mobile technology-based libraries.

Hypothesis

H1: there is a significant difference in the services and resources provided by traditional libraries and mobile technology-based libraries.

H2: students have a more positive perception of mobile technology-based libraries compared to traditional libraries due to the convenience and accessibility of digital resources.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed a combination of primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through an online survey using a self-administered, structured questionnaire. The sample included 186 students from Hubballi and Dharwad City. The questionnaire aimed to gather relevant information to meet the objectives of the study. Secondary data was sourced from books, journals, newspapers, and online resources. By evaluating student responses, the study seeks to understand how mobile libraries compare to traditional libraries in terms of accessibility, convenience, and overall effectiveness. The findings will provide insights into how libraries can adapt to meet the evolving needs of a technology-driven society.

Table 1 Significant Differences between Traditional Library and E-Library/Modern Library

S. No	Traditional Library	E-Library/Modern Library
1	Direct searching for all texts is not possible.	Multiple search options are available, enhancing efficiency.
2	References are accessed through physical shelf searches.	Online or virtual references make accessing materials easier.
3	Library access is restricted to opening hours.	Available 24/7, every day of the year.
4	Only one user can access a resource at a time.	Supports a multi-user environment, allowing simultaneous access.
5	Access is limited to being physically present in the library.	Users can access materials from anywhere with an internet connection.
6	Not linked to the full text of documents.	Provides direct links to full-text records for easy access.
7	Reproduction of materials is done through photocopying, which is time-consuming.	Easy and quick reproduction through digital printing.
8	There is no provision for editing printed materials.	Users can easily edit or annotate digital texts.
9	Hard copies of articles must be accessed physically.	Articles can be downloaded from the internet with ease.
10	Searching is done through physical browsing of materials.	Searching is both on-screen and virtual, offering more convenience.
11	Document circulation and interlibrary loans can cause delays.	Immediate access and circulation are possible without the need for loans.
12	Physical retrieval can be time-consuming.	Visual and digital retrieval saves time, depending on network availability.
13	Delivery of materials can be delayed due to physical transportation.	Instant delivery of materials at a much lower cost.
14	No additional equipment is needed to access print resources.	Some devices (computers, e-readers) are necessary to access e-resources.
15	Centralized access at the library location.	Distributed access from multiple locations.
16	One-way search, often manual and time-consuming.	Automated and systematic searches improve speed and accuracy.

V. DATA ANALYSIS

Table-2 Students Perception about Effectiveness of Mobile Learning (M-Library)

SL No.	Indicator	1	2	3	4	5
1	M-Library can be an effective method of learning as it can provide immediate support.	49 (26.4)	53 (28.5)	36 (19.4)	27 (14.5)	21 (11.3)
2	M-Library will bring new opportunities for learning.	50 (26.9)	66 (35.5)	27 (14.5)	28 (15.1)	15 (8.1)
3	M-Library will be a more flexible method of learning as it can be done at any time. Anywhere.	74 (39.3)	73 (39.2)	16 (8.6)	18 (9.7)	5 (2.7)
4	M-Library will improve communication between students and teachers.	63 (33.9)	60 (32.3)	27 (14.5)	22 (11.8)	14 (7.5)
5	M-Library is a quicker method of getting feedback.	37 (19.9)	48 (25.8)	44 (23.7)	44 (23.7)	13 (7.0)

Note: 1- Strongly Agree 2-Agree 3- Neutral, 4- Disagree, 5-Strongly Disagree

The data in Table 2 presents students' perceptions of the effectiveness of mobile learning (M-Library) across several indicators. A significant portion of students seem to view M-Library positively. For example, a majority either strongly agree (26.4%) or agree (28.5%) that M-Library can provide immediate support, suggesting they see it as an effective method of learning. Similarly, 62.4% of students strongly agree or agree that M-Library brings new opportunities for learning, and an even larger group (78.5%) views it as a flexible method that can be used at any time or place.

The perception that M-Library improves communication between students and teachers is also favorable, with 66.2% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with this indicator. However, opinions are more divided regarding the effectiveness of M-Library in providing quicker feedback. While 45.7% strongly agree or agree, a considerable number remain neutral (23.7%) or disagree (30.7%). Overall, the majority of students perceive M-Library as a beneficial tool, particularly due to its flexibility, potential for enhanced communication, and ability to offer immediate support. However, there is some hesitation regarding its speed in delivering feedback, indicating room for improvement in this aspect.

Table-3 Students Perception about Effectiveness of Traditional Library

SL No.	Indicator	1	2	3	4	5
1	Traditional Library can be an effective method of learning as it can provide immediate support.	50 (26.8)	53 (28.5)	36 (19.4)	27 (14.5)	20 (10.7)
2	Traditional Library will bring new opportunities for learning.	53 (28.4)	66 (35.5)	27 (14.5)	25 (13.4)	15 (8.1)
3	Traditional Library will be a more flexible method of learning as it can be done at any time. Anywhere.	74 (39.3)	73 (39.2)	18 (9.7)	16 (8.6)	5 (2.7)
4	Traditional Library will improve communication between students and teachers.	64 (34.4)	60 (32.3)	27 (14.5)	22 (11.8)	13 (6.9)
5	Traditional Library is a quicker method of getting feedback.	37 (19.9)	50 (26.8)	44 (23.7)	44 (23.7)	11 (5.9)

Note: 1- Strongly Disagree 2-disagree 3- Neutral, 4- Agree, 5- Strongly Agree

The table presents students' perceptions of the effectiveness of traditional libraries across various indicators. For the first indicator, 55.3% of students either agreed or strongly agreed that traditional libraries provide immediate support for learning, while 26.8% strongly disagreed or disagreed. In terms of new learning opportunities, 63.9% of students felt that traditional libraries would bring such opportunities, though 21.5% expressed disagreement. Interestingly, the majority (78.5%) agreed that traditional libraries offer flexibility, with 39.3% strongly agreeing, though only 11.3% disagreed. On improving communication between students and teachers, 66.7% agreed that traditional libraries facilitate this, while 18.7% held a contrary opinion. Lastly, opinions on the speed of feedback were more divided, with only 26.8% strongly agreeing or agreeing, while a significant portion (47.4%) was neutral or disagreed.

Overall, the data suggest that students generally perceive traditional libraries as beneficial, particularly in offering support, flexibility, and new learning opportunities. However, opinions are more mixed when it comes to feedback and communication.

VI. CONCLUSION

The analysis of student perceptions regarding e-learning (M-library) points to the fact that mobile learning is widely embraced by the student community. The majority of students supported the notion that modern libraries increase the flexibility of access to resources in learning and that they could work independently of variable resources like laptops, mobile devices, or library PCs. The students were also extreme about using all sources of e-learning approaches through laptops and mobile phones so that access to information would be anytime and anywhere. As the date reveals, e-learning activities can much better engage students in the learning process. Students in this survey changed from passive learners to truly engaged learners who are behaviorally, intellectually, and emotionally involved in their learning tasks. Mobile technologies are perceived as an effective tool for improving communication and learning. In developing countries like India, where WAP and PDA-based mobile technologies are not yet popular due to the cost involved in owning and using such higher-end mobile technologies, less expensive SMS-based mobile technologies, such as mobile phones, do hold tremendous potential that can be strategically used to support and improve student relations. Then the traditional library

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