Library Microsite : An E-Resource Search

Anantha Rao K R

Abstract

User is the key person in any library. The success of any library depends considerably on how best the system design is based on a close and accurate understanding of the users. The user is not only the important aspect but is also paradoxically a dynamic component of the library. The internet is a highly complex network that interconnects millions of computers around the world. In a medical college hospital campus, all the doctors and students are not able to come to the library to search the library resources, which are available; it may be print materials or online materials or non book materials. So, it is necessary to design/develop their own Intranet microsite or Campus network of the library, which could be connected to the LAN (Local Area Network) and make available to all the network computer terminals of the campus/hospital; this microsite should deliver/give all the facilities available in their library. The Manipal University Health Sciences Library also developed/designed and made access of library microsite for their users. Our study showed that 96.7% of respondents have awareness of Microsite developed by the library; 66.7% of the respondents were accessing the Internet resources through the library microsite and they are satisfied with the library resources.

Keywords: Internet, Intranet, Health Sciences Library, Microsite

1. Introduction

It is certainly true to say that any research normally requires the use of a wide variety of printed literature and electronic sources. The proliferation of medical websites is good news for the researcher. It is fortunate that the Internet provides free access to a great deal of the medical literature, either in full text or citation/abstract format, and that it offers search capabilities good enough to fulfill most information needs. Through the library microsite link can be given to access different websites in a single platform.

The evolution of the "information age" in medicine is mirrored in the exponential growth of medical web pages, increasing numbers of databases accessible on line, and expanding services and publications available on the internet. The handful of computers linked by the predecessor of the internet in 1969 has grown to more than 5 million websites today. In spring 1998, the world wide web had at least 320 million web pages of general content.[1]

Electronic resources have exploded in popularity and use. They can and do enable innovation in teaching, and they increase timeliness in research as well as increase discovery and creation of new fields of inquiry.[2]

1.1 Internet

Internet is a very popular term used in every walk of life in these days. The Internet is computer network that connect millions of computer around the world and provide worldwide communication to business, homes, schools and government. It is a tool that libraries can use for communication and accessing of information globally. It is a global collection of people and computers all linked together by many miles of cables and telephone lines, all able to communicate.[3]

1.2 Intranet

Intranet is an in-house Web site that serves the employees of the enterprise. Although intranet pages may link to the Internet, an intranet is not a site accessed by the general public. Intranets use the same HTTP server (Web server) technology, communications protocols and HTML hypertext links as the public Web. It thus provides a standard way of disseminating internal information to employees locally and in remote offices worldwide. An intranet has many other different applications that can be

utilized by the Institution. These include the Web publishing of corporate documents, Web forms, and Web-to-database links that allow users to access information.[4]

2. Library Microsite

Users visit the library a lot less, and, as such, discovery through serendipity is reduced. Library microsite can be used as a reference tool as it provides a wealth of up-to-date library resources. It can be used as a communication device to communicate with professional colleagues around the campus. Resource on the microsite allow libraries to provide better services to clientele by

giving access to information that would be difficult to locate in any other manner. Many libraries can share their resources with other libraries of the same institution, with the help of Intranet.

It is difficult to access Online databases / e-journals like Proquest, MD Consult, CINAHL Plus, Science Direct, Ovid SP, Cochrane Library, etc to a user without having a membership. To get membership, they have to pay some amount to access the databases. Therefore, if the institution library get a membership of such databases by paying some amount and allow their users to access through IP address or user name-password through their library microsite, it can be used by many users in a single platform.

2.1 Other Library Microsites

The following are the microsites developed for information by the different organizations / institutions:

2.1.1 Cook Medical, announced the launch of www.MensHealthPD.com, an informational microsite dedicated to educating physicians, men and their partners about the symptoms, treatment options and latest researches. MensHealthPD.com will serve as a single source where physicians from around the world can access the latest peer-reviewed researches.[5]

2.1.2 Pantethine (www.pantethine.org): A microsite that was designed to provide medical professionals and clinical researchers with easy access to the clinical science from human and animal studies in which pantethine was administered.[6]

2.1.3 Pantesin (www.pantesin.org): A microsite for Pantesin, a high-quality pharmaceutical-grade brand of pantethine. Pantesin is manufactured by

Daiichi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and has been recently introduced as an ingredient to the North American dietary supplement market through its subsidiary company, Daiichi Fine Chemicals, Inc.[7]

2.1.4 Medical Library Association Encyclopedic Guide to Searching and Finding Health, Hemlock Society (USA): Through this, people often seek information at two different levels. One, tell me everything I need to know; or two, just give me one quick answer. Because they expect people to use the book for both of these types of searching, the links are organized in two ways. For the person who is working through a topic in depth, the web site has the links arranged by chapter, with all links from that entire chapter arranged alphabetically on that web page. As we work through that chapter, we can find any link which interests us from any section of the chapter, simply by browsing the alphabetical listing on that one page. For the person who just wants one link, but does not want to type it in or work from the CD-ROM, there is a master alphabetical list provided of all the web sites listed in the book. These are arranged alphabetically, not by the URL or web site address, but by the site description as it was given in the book.[8]

3. Manipal University

Manipal is tucked away in the rocky hinterland of the fabled Malabar Coast of southwest India. A Mecca of education and health services, also the centre of a comprehensive network of community health services and of numerous rural development projects. Manipal University, formerly known as Manipal Academy of Higher Education or MAHE for short, is a deemed university in Manipal, Karnataka, India and is ISO 9001:2000 certified. It has over 96,000 students from 51 countries in the main campus located in Manipal as well as sister campuses in Sikkim (India), Nepal and Melaka

(Malaysia). It has several constituent colleges. Manipal offers programs in medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, biotechnology, allied health sciences, architecture, engineering, management, hospitality, jewellery design and management and mass communication.

3.1 Manipal University Health Sciences Library

Manipal University has an excellent Health Sciences library, perhaps the best among all Health Sciences Libraries in India. The state of the art library stretching over 1.5 lakh square feet, on six floors is a domain for information seekers; be it students, faculty or researchers. It has the capacity to accommodate 1300 students at a time. The library is fully air-conditioned. The library is kept open from 8:30 am to 11:30 pm on all week days. Besides comfortable seating and reading environment, facilities such as photocopying, fax, word processing, internet kiosks, color laser printing, color scanning, CDs/DVDs, audio and video cassettes have been provided. There is a separate audio-visual room, computer lab, e-Learning centre, study cubicles, group study area, private study area in the library.

The Mission of the library is to acquire, manage, provide and disseminate all health sciences information to students, faculty and research scholars of the constituent health science colleges of the Manipal University at Manipal.

There is a vast amount of Health Science information available in electronic databases. Many health science journals are now published online. There are different types of electronic databases available in the world today, including bibliographic databases, full text databases, statistical databases, image databases, and others. Bibliographic

databases contain citations and/or abstracts (a short summary of the article). The full-text databases contain complete articles. The Library is providing access to both CDs and Online databases to its users. Pubmed, Proquest Medical Library, Cochrane Library, DELNET are some of the important electronic databases available in the library microsite for literature search.

Library has their own building and is functioning in five floors, each floor have different discipline of subject materials. The library has actively participated in the orientation programs organized for new undergraduate and postgraduate students and made presentations about library facilities, resources and services.

3.1.1 Manipal University Health Sciences Library Microsite

The Manipal University Health Sciences Library Microsite have been developed and published in the year 2005 August. Before developing library microsite, the users were used to visit library for solving their problems regarding information on diseases, treatment, diagnosis etc. At the time of the visit to the ward/department, if the clinicians would like obtain information about the particular illness/disease it was difficult them to come each time to library and get solution for their queries on patient illness etc. Therefore, the library developed a web site called Library Microsite, which deliver all the in-house facilities of the library for 24x7 hours to the college campus users.

3.1.1.1 Modules of Library Microsite

The microsite is composed of the following modules at the Health Sciences Library, Manipal. Most of the databases can be searched using library microsite http://www.maheinfo.edu/lib/ index.asp.

Users could access the following by clicking on the respective links.

3.1.1.2 Library access

♦ Catalogue: Catalogue is a most essential tool in the library to search library resources, e.g. books, journal, non-book materials etc.

♦ Back volumes of journals: By clicking this icon, users can view the list of back volume journals available in the library.

♦ Print journals: In this, users can see the current subscribed journals of the library. The total number of current journals for the year 2008 is 645.

♦ New acquisitions: Users can get information on newly accessioned books by month wise.

♦ CDs: Through this, users can see the list of available CDs/DVDs in the library.

3.1.1.3 Important links: Users can get the information on Manipal University news, Link to e-learning, Kasturba Hospital, Manipal to see the patient reports of different disciplines and hospital information, HR Manipal to check leave statement etc.

3.1.1.4 Other links: This gives information on Health Sciences Libraries, Health Sciences Publishers, important web sites for Librarians, WHO, Clinical Trials, Useful Websites, Herbal sites and Online Survey software to get the user data.

3.1.1.5 Search engines: Users can go to different useful search engines like Google, Yahoo, Khoj, Askjeevees, Lycos, Altavista, Amazon etc by clicking on related icons to search information.

3.1.1.5 Online databases / e-journals: Our library have access to Proquest online journals, MD Consult, MD

Consult – The Clinics, CINAHL Plus with Full Text, Full text online journals for print version subscription, Science Direct, Ovid SP, Cochrane Library, IDIS/Web, NetAnatomy, DELNET, British Council Online, etc. online databases / e-journals.

3.1.1.6 e-Books: Like journals, our library have also activated/accessed some e-books like: MD Consult published books, Full text e-books for print version acquisition, Dictionaries and Encyclopedias.

3.1.1.7. Bibliographic databases: This icon gives link to PubMed/MEDLINE; PubMed Search – Online Training; Medline Plus; Other Bibliographical Databases like HighWire Press Journals/Articles Search, MetaPress Journals/Articles Search, Ingentaconnect Journals/Articles Search, SpringerLink Journals/Articles Search, Cambridge Journals Online, Union Catalogue & Gateway to library catalogues; IndMED; OpenMED, etc.

A view of library microsite of Health Sciences Library, KMC, MU, Manipal

3.2 EPAC (Electronic Public Access Catalogue)

Through EPAC, the users can search the availability of library materials like books, current journals, back volumes of journals, CD-ROMs, DVDs

purchased and available in the library through library's online catalog – library microsite.

4. Methodology

The study was conducted in the Health Sciences Library, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal University, Manipal. The survey participants were selected randomly and questionnaire was distributed to medical science professionals of clinical and non-clinical sciences (MD, MS, DM, MCh, MSc, Interns, Research Scholars).

The following tools and techniques were employed in this study.

1. A questionnaire Survey to elicit information from the users.

2. Observations: Besides the questionnaire the actual usage was observed for a period of time.

3. An examination of the following records maintained by the library to assess the use made of the resources.

a. Analysis of records maintained by the Internet Browsing Centre of the Library.

b. Analysis of records of the usage of Library Microsite.

5. Results And Analysis

The data were collected through questionnaire method, of the 200 questionnaire distributed, a total number of 150 (75%) filled questionnaire were returned back from the users. The required data collected were supplemented by observation and informal discussions with library staff and users.
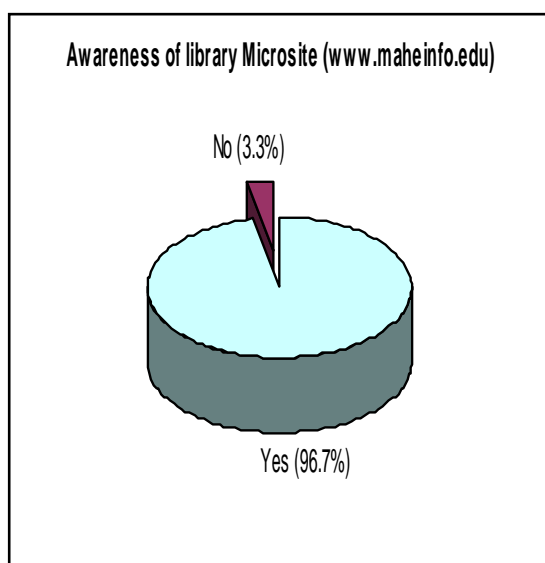
Table-1: Sex distribution

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	85	56.7
Female	65	43.3

In our study, the majority of the respondents are male (56.7%) than the female respondents (43.3%) (Table-1).

Table-2: Awareness of library Microsite (www.maheinfo.edu)

Awareness	Number of Users	Percentage
Yes	145	96.7
No	05	3.3

Awareness of library Microsite (www.maheinfo.edu)

No (3.3%)

Yes (96.7%)

Table-3: Method of access the Internet resources

Method of access	Number	
Percentage	of Users	
Through Library Microsite	100	66.7
Directly through the Web Browsers	50	33.3

From the study, it is showed that the very high percentage of respondents (96.7%) were aware of Microsite developed by the library (Table-2). Further, majority of the respondents (66.7%) were accessing the Internet resources through the library microsite (Table-3).

Table-6: User satisfaction on collection of library Internet resources

Resources	User Satisfaction			
	Excellent	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Full text journal databases	30 (20%)	75 (50%)	05 (3.3%)	-
Bibliographical databases	10 (6.7%)	45 (30%)	20 (13.3%)	-
Full text e-books	15 (10%)	40 (26.7%)	15 (10%)	05 (3.3%)

Majority of the respondents reported that they are satisfied with the collection of full text journal databases (50%) and bibliographical databases (30%) subscribed by the library. Only 3.3% of the respondents are very dissatisfied on the collection of full text e-books (Table-6).

6.   Conclusion

Technology will undoubtedly continue to transform the ways in which we communicate and think about medical information. Microsite is a tool for professional development by providing access to resources of the library. Users will find the library resources easily through microsite and to keep themselves up-to-date.

7.   References

1. **Lawrence S, Giles CL. Searching the world wide web**. Science 1998, 280, pp.98–100.

2. **Henderson T, MacEwan B**. Electronic collections and wired faculty. Libr Trends 1997, 45(3), pp.488-498.

3. **Singh P and Bharti SK. Internet:** A boon for library. In Digital Library: Proceeding of the

National Conference on Digital Library, edited by Singh VP, Sood RK, Suman AK and Niwas R. Central Govt. Library Association, Dehra Dun, 2006; pp.118-123.

4. http://www.naswer.com

5. http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/95867.php

6. http://www.netconcepts.com/tag/microsites

7. http://www.netconcepts.com/ tag/microsites

8. www-personal.umich.edu/~pfa/mlaguide/urlsubj/mh22.html

About Author

Mr. Anantha Rao K R, Librarian, Kasturba Medical College, Light House Hill Road.Mangalore-575 001, Karnataka, India.
E-mail: krarao@gmail.com