Web – Resources in Assam Agricultural Library, Jorhat : A Case Study

Nitupan Sarma   Sanjay Kumar Singh

Prasanta Kumar Deka   Himadri Devi

The paper mainly discusses about the e-resourses as well as web-resources available in the Assam Agricultural University Library at Jorhat. It also highlights various services rendered by the library and brief history of AAUL.

Keywords: E-Resources, Web-Resources, Automation, Consortium, Assam Agricultural University Library.

1.   Introduction

The goal and the purpose of a library is to provide an effective and most efficient combination of print, non- print and e- resources and the integration of these resources to the user of the particular library. E resources generally pose the challenges in the areas like access, interface, technical support and licensing. Hence the libraries need to develop and formulate a separate e-resource acquisition policy to full fill the basic criteria of e-resources.

2.   Assam Agriculture University Library

The two libraries of erstwhile Assam Agricultural College, Jorhat and Assam Veterinary College, Khanapara campus at Guwahati were used as the springboard for shaping up the Assam Agricultural University Library when the university was established on 1st April 1969 by the act "The Assam Agricultural University Act, 1968" with its headquarters at Jorhat. Obviously the history of Assam Agricultural University Library lies embedded in the history of these two libraries only. Today Assam Agriculture University is popularly known as AAU and the library is renamed as Rev. B.M. Pugh Library.

Now the network of Assam Agricultural University Library has widened considerably with the addition of more colleges, research stations, etc. And all the libraries under the network provide excellent amenities to the users. The Rev. B.M. Pugh Library (i.e. university library) is located at Jorhat, which caters to the needs of the students, teachers and scientists of the faculty of Agriculture and Home Science. In addition, the librares at other college campuses and research stations such as Biswanath Chariali, Roha and North Lakhimpur are also growing satisfactorily. The university library is housed in a building of 2500 sq m in size. The total collection of the Library is about 90,000. The library is also rich with 179 no of journals out of them 24 are foreign and rest are national level journals.

Services:

The library provides the following services to its users.

- ➲ Lending
- ➲ Reference
- ➲ Displaying & Exhibition
- ➲ Reprography
- ➲ Current Awareness Service (CAS)
- ➲ CD-ROM Databases: CABCD (1990-2001), AGRIS (1975-2001)
- ➲ Internet (Cyber cafe)
- ➲ Inter -Library Loan
- ➲ Documentation
- ➲ Online journal access facility.

3.   Acquisition

The objectives of acquisition are selection, ordering and accessioning of books in Accession Register. The library procures those books which are recommended by teachers, scientists of the university. Further Chief Librarian also takes initiative in selecting books of general nature and text books.

The list of recommended books is placed before the primary purchase committee (PPC) exclusively for selection of books and periodicals order are placed when the PPC approves the list of books and journals.

4.   Automation in AAU

The library had been using SOUL 2.0 software till 2008, but now the library is using "Campus Dimen-sion" software which is developed by the AAU Experts since 2009 and the management has converted their database from SOUL to "Campus Dimension". The work for automation is going on in very smoothly.

5.   Library Committee

Recommendation of Library committee is very essential part for purchase of any Library materials. AAU is also having a library committee. The structure of the AAU library committee is like this way

Chairman: Dean
Secretary: Chief Librarian
Members':   Professional staff of the library and all Head of the Departments.

AAU is having a 15 member library committee. There is no separate library committee for the selection procedure of the web resources. The library committee headed by the dean is responsible for the selection and any related decision.

6.   Fund

Fund is a most vital element for achieving goal of a library. AAU receives financial assistance from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The state government only gives the monthly salary to its staff regularly. In the last academic session AAU Library receives a sum of 95 lakhs financial assistant from ICAR. The library management spends a huge amount of their total fund for procuring the web resources.

7.   What is e– resource?

E– Resource refers to those information which require computer access, and that may either be locally accessed or accessed remotely through the Internet. This policy covers both free Internet resources and electronic resources purchased or licensed by the Libraries from either a commercial source or from a non–profit making organization. These e–resources can also be purchased from a professional organization or any external institutions.
The available e– resource services in the library are:

- Indexing and abstracting databases
- Full-text (aggregated) databases
- E-journals
- E-books
- Reference databases (directories, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, etc.)
- Numeric and statistical databases

8.   Selection Aids of Web Resources

Selection of the right document and right web resources are the most challenging job in this era of information explosion. Because at the time of the selection the selectors have to study various points like the requirements of the students, teachers and the research scholars. It is not possible to purchase the entire requirement. So, the selectors should be well versed about the databases and the consortium. The selectors also notice the developer of the database. For selection of the web resources the selector has generally used these selection aids:

- ➲ Database listing of other universities.
- ➲ Minutes, trial pages and reviews of other libraries collection development policy.
- ➲ Consortia's reviews and listings.
- ➲ Mailing list.

The authority of AAU need not review all these selection aids as the university is the member of ICAR consortiums. AAU receives all the databases of ICAR consortium.

9. Web Resources

The various types of web resources like e- journals, abstracting, indexing, e- books etc. are procured by the library. But AAUL is only having the database of e- journals and the database of abstracting periodicals related to the agriculture field. It receives the database of Science Direct and the database of Cera publication. Moreover it has also purchased some abstracting periodicals. Earlier AAU has bought the abstracting periodicals of AGRIS database also, but presently the university has stopped the subscription of this database. At present AAU is having two more abstracting periodical databases viz CAPS abstract and the J- Gate database. The AAU authority is not interested for continuation of J- Gate database further. It may be mentioned that the AAU authority is fully satisfied with the CAPS abstract.

It is worth mentioning that the library of AAU is receiving all the current issues of the web resources. The University also receives the back volume of the web resources for last 5 years.

10. Consortium

Being Agriculture University a part of ICAR, the AAU has a tieup with the ICAR E-Journal Consortium. Presently the Agriculture University Library receives all the ICAR consortium based web resources and also getting all journals of Science Direct, Cera Pulisher.

11. Accessibility of the Web Resources in AAU Campus

The users of AAU i.e. the students, teachers and the research scholars access these web resources inside the cyber space in the library. The users can also avail the service in their respective work station like their office or even in the hostels. The mode of the accessibility is 24 x 7.

12. Conclusion

Today the E / Web- Resources are the need of the hour of any library irrespective of their categories. The Assam Agricultural University Library is providing these resources to the full satisfaction of its users. In

the era of explosion of literature these resources will be always on the driver's seat. Let the e/web resourses prosper in right direction for the betterment of the agricultural scientists of India in general and Assam in particular.

About Authors

Mr. Nitupan Sarma, Librarian, Army School, Jorhat.
E-mail : sarma.nitupan@gmail.com

Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Reader, Department of Library & Information Science, Guwahati
E-mail: sksgu1@gmail.com

Mr. Prasanta Kumar Deka, Librarian, K C Das Commerce College, Guwahati
E-mail: dekapk@gmail.com

Ms. Himadri Devi, Librarian, Disney Land High School. Guwahati
E-mail : devi.hima@gmail.com