

**ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOGUE USAGE AT NORTH MAHARASTRA UNIVERSITY  
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**ABSTRACT:** - *The aim of the present study is to investigate the use of Online Public Access Catalogue by the users at North Maharashtra University Library, Jalgaon, Maharashtra. A sample of 150 users was taken from various categories of users covering different disciplines such as Basic Sciences, Applied Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities. A questionnaire was designed and distributed among the users to collect the primary data. The paper focuses on various aspects of OPAC such as awareness, frequency of use, frequently used access points, satisfaction level, etc*

**KEYWORDS:** **Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), Library Automation, University libraries, NMU, Jalgaon University.**

**INTRODUCTION**

Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is one of the automated services being provided in libraries. OPAC is an important retrieval tool and supports search and retrieval of bibliographic records through several approaches. OPAC provides basic search, advanced search, browsing search, Boolean search, and search through access points such as author, title, subject, keyword, call number, etc. It also supports additional functions

such as providing loan status, location and reservation. It has more search capabilities and facilities than the traditional catalogue. Today, the OPAC has been adopted widely in Indian libraries. It is important to know how effectively the users are utilizing this service. In this study, an attempt is made to examine the perception and satisfaction of users regarding the OPAC in North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Gohain, A., & Saikia Dr, M. (2013)** has suggested providing right information at right time and in right manner is one of the most important activities of any library to satisfy user's information need. In order to satisfy user's community's each library provide different types services to make users aware and better utilization of its resources. OPAC is one of these services which help library users to locate and access its resources easily. We can expect the better utilization of available library resources if users can make fully aware about OPAC and motivate users to use it.

**Narang Asha and Singh Sukhdev (2013)** attempted to ascertain the use and opinion about OPAC in Bhai Gurdas Library, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar by the research scholars. Information technology has played a crucial and constructive role in the modernization of information services. Findings revealed that OPAC significantly helped the users in speedily finding their required documents.

**Shiv Kumar and Ranjana Vohra (2013),** concluded in their study that useful information for improving OPAC services for developing nations as well as for developed nations. It can be further concluded that the time has come to overhaul the algorithms of OPAC systems worldwide taking into account the problems, preferences and expectation of users. Decadal studies apart it is interesting to note that certain problems continue to persist and it is high time

that such issues be ironed out through adopting the previous finding as policy indications.

**Hilal Ahmad (2014)** Surveyed that libraries are still maintaining card catalogue, though in very less use. This phenomenon is also witnessed in many libraries of other developing countries primarily due to the erratic electricity. It is notable to state here that these libraries have also revealed that sometimes there is a problem in library software like security of the database or data loss, etc., and during the trouble-shooting they cannot shut the doors of the library. Card catalogue comes as a rescue during these emergency situations. Furthermore, the library staff also showed apprehensions regarding the loss of data due to virus or other problems in the soft version of the data. Therefore, they maintain the hard copy of data in form of the card catalogue. The results clearly point out that there is further improvement required on part of the select libraries particularly of Allama Iqbal Library to take appropriate measures for enhancing the library software awareness and subsequently the usage of OPAC. It is also hoped that other libraries in general will also find this study useful in selecting the appropriate software for enhancing the usage of OPAC and other operations and services of their library.

**Emiri (2015)** studied that It is pertinent to note that age, gender and level of study as demographic factors has significant influence on

the use of OPAC. This may have implications at long run on the academic performance the library of students it is necessary for interventions to be made at all level of study, age group and gender as revealed in the analysis and recommended that Students should be oriented on entrance to institution on the use of library and OPAC and be told the relevance of these OPAC to academic achievement. All age groups should be trained or taught on the use of OPAC and other digital library resources to that they can benefit from the services provided. Library use should be encouraged if not made compulsory by university authorities. Library management should ensure that OPAC user interface should be complicated.

## OBJECTIVES

The study was carried out with the following Aims & Objectives

- 1.To find out the user's user awareness about Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).
- 2.To know the frequency of use.
- 3.To ascertain the user's type of searches from Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).
- 4.To know the **Discovery of Documents from** Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

## SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is confined to the faculty members, research scholars and postgraduate student members of North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon

The main Aim of the study was to assess the purpose, knowledge and frequency of using Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and problems found by users.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Following Research Methodology was used in the present study

The tools of investigation utilize in the present study, was **Survey Method which included a Structured Questionnaire**, which was meticulously prepared to gather information on various parameters along with secondary data and in-depth discussions with respondents.

## DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The questionnaire was administer to stratified sample for which users were selected randomly and from among different categories, viz., Library Professionals, Faculty Members, Research Scholars and Postgraduate Students utilizing the University Library services of North Maharashtra University Library from Maharashtra State.

Other tools which included observation and informal interview methods which was adopted as and when required for data collection. The data collected was analyzed with the help of Statistical Software of which the percentage and averages was employed as statistical tools to determine the resultants.

**DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

**Responses Received**

Questionnaires were distributed among Teaching Faculties, Research Scholars and Post Graduate Students.

**Table No. 01– Questionnaire Distributed and Response Received**

Sr. No.	University	Faculty/ Teaching		Research Scholars		Post Graduates		Total	
		Ques. Distru.	Resp. Reciv.	Ques. Distru.	Resp. Reciv.	Ques. Distru.	Resp. Reciv.	Ques. Distru.	Resp. Reciv.
01	NMU, Jalgaon	25	12 (48.00%)	25	18 (72.00%)	100	91 (91.00%)	150	121 (80.66%)

Table No 01, shows the questionnaires distributed among the users and the Number of Responses received from them. 150 Questionnaire were distributed among the Users of the Four University Libraries. In all 12 (48.00%) out of 25 Faculty Members, 18 (72.00 %) out of 25 Research Scholar, 91(91.00%) out of 100 Post Graduate Students responses were received. Over all 121(80.66%).

**FACULTY- WISE DISTRIBUTIONS**

Questionnaires were distributed among Library users of all the Faculties in each University.

**Table No. 02 – Faculty- Wise Distribution of Respondents**

Particulars	NMU, Jalgaon
Social Sciences	58 (47.93%)
Sciences	21 (17.35%)
Humanities	29 (23.96%)
Commerce & Management Science	13 (10.74%)
Total	121 (100%)

Table 02, shows the Faculty-Wise Distribution of Respondents, Four various disciplines are grouped .i.e. Social Science, Sciences, Humanities, Commerce & Management Science.

58 (47.93%) from Social Sciences, 21 (17.35%) from Sciences, 29 (23.96%) from Humanities &13 (10.24%) from Commerce & Management Science.

**Gender- Wise Distributions**

Questionnaires were distributed to both Male and Female Users.

**Table No. 03 – Gender- Wise Distribution of Respondents**

Particulars	NMU, Jalgaon
Male	63 (52.06%)
Female	58 (47.94%)
Total	121 (100%)

The Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents is represented in Table No. 03. The responses received from Male & Female respondent.

NMU, Jalgaon 63(52.06%) are Male whereas 58 (47.94%) respondents are Female.

**AWARENESS OF OPAC FACILITY**

Respondents were asked about awareness of OPAC facility in their Library. The responses received are as follows.

**Table No. 04 – Awareness about OPAC facility available in Library**

Particulars	NMU, Jalgaon
Yes	117 (96.70%)
No	4 (3.30%)
Total	121 (100%)

Table no 04, shows that awareness about the existence of OPAC service in their libraries.

111 (96.70%) out of 121 users are aware of OPAC facility, whereas 02 (1.95%) users are not aware of the OPAC facility.

It can be concluded by observing the Table No. 04 That 117 (96. 70%) users are aware of the existence of OPAC facility in all the University Library.

**FREQUENCY OF USE**

To know how frequent the users use OPAC in Libraries to search documents. The responses received are as follows.

**Table No. 05 - Frequency of Use of OPAC Facility**

Particulars	NMU, Jalgaon
Very Frequently	67 (57.26%)
Frequently	29 (24.78%)
Occasionally	11 (9.40%)
Rarely	08 (6.83%)
Never	02 (1.70%)
Total	117 (100%)

Table No. 05, highlights the frequency of OPAC use among the users.

NMU, Jalgaon 67 (57.26%) use OPAC very frequently 29 (24.78%) users use OPAC, 11(9.40%) users use OPAC occasionally, 08 (6.85%) use OPAC rarely & 02 (1.70%) never use OPAC at all.

Thus majority of the respondents are found to be using OPAC Very Frequently & Frequently.

### TYPES OF SEARCHES

OPAC systems offer various types of searches to find out the documents. Therefore, the responses are received from the users regarding the use of type of searches.

**Table No. 06 - Type of Search Used**

Particulars	NMU, Jalgaon
<b>Simple</b>	101 (86.32%)
<b>Advanced</b>	11 (9.40%)
<b>Boolean</b>	02 (1.70%)
<b>Truncation</b>	03 (2.56%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b> <b>(100%)</b>

Table No. 4.10, Shows the type of Search used in Library. There are 101 (89.16%) who uses Simple type of Search followed by 11 (9.40%) Advanced Search 02 (1.70%) Boolean & 03 (3.33%) Truncation Search out of 117 users users of NMU, Jalgaon

We can analyse from Table No 06 that “Simple search” is preferred by user for Searching documents in OPAC.

### DISCOVERY OF DOCUMENTS FROM OPAC

Below table shows that whether the users were able to locate the documents of interest in their libraries through OPAC.

**Table No. 07 – Discovery of documents of Interest from Library OPAC**

Particulars	NMU, Jalgaon
<b>Yes</b>	107 (91.45%)
<b>No</b>	10 (8.55%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b> <b>(100%)</b>

Out of 117 (100%) users 107(91.45%) gave Positive response whereas 10(8.55%) gave negative response.

From the Table No. 06 we can conclude that maximum numbers of users are able to locate the documents of their interest from their library OPAC.

### MJOR FINDINGS

1. It can be concluded by observing the Table No. 04 That 117 (96. 70%) users are aware of the existence of OPAC facility in all the University Library.
2. Majority of the respondents are found to be using OPAC Very Frequently & Frequently.

3. We can analyse from Table No 06 that “Simple search” is preferred by user for Searching documents in OPAC.
4. From the Table No. 06 we can conclude that maximum numbers of users are able to locate the documents of their interest from their library OPAC.

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