



Use of Digital talking books by visually impaired peoples at Public library: Ahmedabad

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ABSTRACT

The development of the internet is a platform of information storage and delivery denotes a revolution, which will have a long-lasting effect on the e-publication and distribution of information in the 21st century. The growths of IT have brought e-resources as a boon to research community, are a main source for scholarly communication. As e-resources are available online or offline including papers, review articles, scholarly communications. In the e-environment teaching, learning and research are being maintained by e-resources, are emerging as new prevailing tool. The present study aims to find out the use of digital talking books (DTB) for visually impaired peoples, M.J. Library, Ahmedabad. A well-structured questionnaire was administered to collect the primary data via Google form from respondents. The main aim of this paper is to investigate to the awareness, satisfaction level of visually impaired peoples and suitable recommendations to improve facilities and services related to the use of digital talking books for the blind peoples.

Keywords: Digital Talking books, visually impaired peoples User Study, special services of Library, Public library

INTRODUCTION

The digital talking books have led to a new era of scholarly communication and information distribution at a comparatively faster rate for the visually impairment. Over the last few years there has been a rapid rise in e-resources on web and services offering to access them also. The E-resources are often available free. E-resources are available online or offline containing general paper, research paper, review articles, scholarly communications etc. In the e- environment, the teaching, learning and research are maintained by e-resources which are emerging as new powerful tools for the any users. E-resources have effect on not only on libraries but on authors and publishers too. Any e-resources available on internet can be called an electronic resource. It may or may not have a print equivalent.

There is standard definition available for digital talking books are in the process of becoming digital files on CDs or another device. These books allow users to skip directly to specific places in the book and insert bookmarks also. As a result they have been called by various names such as e-resources, paperless books, virtual books, online books, scholarly books, networked books, and online books; is one which is available electronically to be used with the help of computer and other communication technologies available on internet. Majority of public and special libraries spend major part of their budget on the acquisition of digital talking books for the visually impaired users. Due to the advent of IT, a paradigm shift from print resources to e-resources has taken place in past one decade. Accesses to e-resources have enormous benefits to the users, so that the libraries and research institutions are subscribing e-resources both directly from the publishers or forming the part of e-resources.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION:

Digital talking books represent a significant and growing part of public library's offerings. Big amount is invested on accessing digital books but without conducting a study of users' attitude towards digital talking books so that the present study offers a way to identify the acceptance of digital talking books, advantages and obstacles encountered while accessing digital talking books. The present study aims to find out the use of digital talking books by visually impaired users at MJ Library, Ahmedabad.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Related to this research study, various studies have been carried out on the use and effect of digital talking books by visually impaired library users of various institutes and libraries in India and abroad. The literatures on the use of digital talking books were studied and constructed a questionnaire for this survey. The objectives of the present study are as under:

- To find out the purpose of visit library and use of digital talking books
- To explore the awareness of the users for the digital talking books.
- To study the purpose of access digital talking books.
- To study the satisfaction level of users about availability of digital talking books.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is conducted on one sample for the visually impaired users of the MJ Library. The questionnaires were distributed through simple random sampling in the May 2020 via Google docs. The total 80 questionnaires were distributed to users with visually impaired of MJ Library. The data collected through Google docs questionnaires were organized and tabulated by using SPSS statistical method and percentages.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Descriptive statistics of users

The frequency distribution of status of the visually impaired respondents is presented that 40(50%) of population studied were male and only 25(31.25%) of total were female, who use library for digital talking book purposes. M.J. Library 50(62.5%) of respondents were school students and 15(18.33%) of respondents were graduate.

Awareness of Digital talking books:

Awareness	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	40	61.54%
No	18	27.69%
Not answered	07	10.77%

In MJ Library 40 (61.54%) of respondents were aware of digital talking books and 18 (27.69%) of respondents were not aware for the digital talking books whereas 07 (10.77%) respondents were not answered.

Purpose of Visiting Library:

Purpose of Visiting the Library	Respondents	Percentage
To collect Reading talking books	45	69.23%
For Consulting digital talking books	52	80%
To Know the new arrivals in the library	20	30.77%
For Study Purpose	35	53.84%
For Accessing Internet	23	35.38%

(Multiple answers were permitted)

The above table obviously shows that in MJ Library 45 (69.23%) visit the library for collecting reading materials, followed by 52(80%) of respondents visit library for consulting the digital talking books, 20(20.77%) of respondents visit library for knowing the latest arrivals in the library. Meanwhile 35(53.84%) of respondents visit library for study purpose and 23(35.38%) of respondents visit to the library for accessing Internet.

Purpose of using digital talking books:

Purpose of Using digital talking books	JMI
For Research Work	48 (73.84%)
For preparation of UGC-NET Exam	20 (30.76%)
For Up-to date Knowledge	30 (46.15%)
For publishing Articles	10 (15.38%)

(Multiple answers were permitted)

The above table explained that most of the respondents 48(73.84%) in MJ Library use digital talking books for their research work. 20 (30.76%) of respondents use digital talking books for preparation of UGC-NET

Exam. 30 (46.15%) of respondents use digital books for recent or latest knowledge whereas 10 (15.38%) of respondents use digital talking books for publishing articles.

Usage of digital talking books:

When respondents were asked that they use digital talking books or not, majority of respondents replied 'yes', 40 (61.54%) of respondents are used digital talking books whereas 18 (27.69%) of respondents not use digital talking books.

Frequency	JMI
Daily	11 (27.5%)
Once in a week	23 (57.5%)
Once in a Month	4 (10%)
Occasionally	2 (5%)

The most important aspect of usefulness of digital talking books is depends of frequency of usages. It is experiential from the above shows table that 11 (27.5%) of respondents access digital talking books daily, whereas 23 (57.5%) of respondents access digital talking books once in a week followed by 4 (10%) of respondents in MJ Library access digital talking books once in a month and 2 (5%) of respondents access digital talking books occasionally.

FINDINGS:

There were some findings found from the data collection are as under:

- Majority male visually impaired users are using MJ library for the digital talking books while few female users are using digital talking books.
- In MJ Library majority of respondents were aware of digital talking books and few respondents were not aware for the digital talking books.
- Majority of visually impaired users visit library for consulting the digital talking books.
- Maximum visually impaired users in MJ Library use digital talking books for their research work while very less visually impaired users use digital talking books for publishing articles.
- The majority of visually impaired users of MJ library are using digital talking books once in a week. Whereas very few respondents access digital talking books for occasionally.

SUGGESTIONS:

There are few suggestions for the MJ public library to improve the services related to the visually impaired users. So that the special peoples or users can access library more and more and users can achieve latest and updated information for their bright carrier or future. The few suggestions are as follow:

- Public library has to purchase more digital talking books.
- Public library has to improve services for the blind or visually impaired users.
- The library has to circulate talking books for maximum days for the home.
- The library should offer internet classes or any workshop for the visually impaired registered users.
- Create a forum for the special users or visually impaired users for the improve their advanced knowledge related to technology.
- The library should train their staff and so that trained staff can manage blind users and fulfill their need.

CONCLUSION:

The existence of public libraries mainly depends upon the utility of its collection and services in relation to the public for the visually impaired users. From this study it is examined and resulted to digital talking books are the most important for the visually impaired users of the public library for their research. These digital talking books and services need to be bound and utilized properly. The visually impaired users are suggesting that purchase and procure more digital talking books and talking newspapers for the advanced learning. The lack of training among the staff and appropriate infrastructure in the library are the demotivating issues in the use of digital talking books. From the analysis of data approve that, most of the objectives have been skillful in this study for the knowledge of visually impaired respondents and derived conclusions. This study also informs that the users of the MJ Public library are quite fulfilled with the access of digital talking books for the visually impaired users of MJ Public Library. In accumulation, this study helps to expand the facilities and special services related to digital talking books for the visually impaired users of the MJ Public library.

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