

## **Information Literacy Empowerment To Rural PG Students Using Digital Library: A Case Study In Tumkur University Library**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Today the library have embraced the possibilities of exploring the digital environment, proactively. The University library is in leading way to adapt according to trends. The users are also exposed to multiple format and they try to locate, assess, organize and use the digital information to fill their knowledge gap. The digital library concept has provided more opportunity for the librarians to deliver the information. In this background this paper gives a bird- eye view of digital information literacy initiatives taken by Tumkur University Library to educate the students coming from the rural area and empower them in using the Digital Library

**Key Words:** Tumkur University, Digital Library, Techfocuz, Academic Library, Research

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Academic libraries have moved a long way from from early beginnings at institutions like Oxford University in the 1400s. The contents of libraries have diversified from hand crafted parchments and illuminated manuscripts, through a revolution brought about by the invention of the printing press and movable type, which resulted in the mass production of printed books. Today, academic libraries collect books, pamphlets, newspapers, journals, indexing and abstracting resources, multi-media resources on a range of technological platforms. The libraries seek to preserve and maintain collections of the past, while embracing the multiplicity of formats that information is published in today, with an increasing emphasis on creating digital versions of collections already held.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

Ajibola and Tihamiyu (2000) and Ogunsola (2005) among others, have emphasized the effect of the information explosion in the new information era. Digital technology, internet connectivity, and physical content can now be dovetailed, resulting in a digital library (Varatharajan and Chandrashekar, 2007). These authors state further that: [...] digital libraries and the digitization of print materials can preserve resources in art and culture, education, science and technology, literature and humanities, media and entertainment, and cultural heritage and history.

Waters (2004) defined a digital library as that which conjures up images of cutting-edge computer and information science research. It is a radically new kind of practices for the management and use of information, which are used to replace earlier references to electronic and virtual libraries. A case study on use of techfocuz digital library in engineering college Ningappa et. al (2010) stated that present digital technologies have made drastic impact on user's needs.

**TUMKUR UNIVERSITY:**

The Tumkur University established in 2004 is marching towards the spread of higher education, with its vision “**Sevastu Me Jnanavijnanadhara**”. The University blossomed in the era of globalization in which the economies of the world are being transformed from their original closed self sustaining structure to the globalized context, where they can expose themselves to the competitive world. This transition forced the arena of knowledge emphasizing itself to more of its application than of accumulation of facts. Tumkur University in order to cope with the present global environment, is attempting to the integrated and interdisciplinary approaches in the dissemination of knowledge with the aim of achieving overall human personality development.

By taking into consideration of inter-disciplinary approaches, the University has setup 29 Research Centre for giving more impetus for research and application aspects.

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARY:**

The Central Library of the University is located in Dr. V.S. Acharya Memorial Block. It has about 32398 books and 106 journals. The Library provides the stakeholders namely students, research scholars and teachers with several scholarly learning resources, including Book Bank facility and E-learning material. A large collection of books form part of Special Component Plan and Tribal Special Plan Grant. The Library also provides bibliographic and reprography services to the scholars. It is fully computerized with uninterrupted internet facility. And online access to several scholarly journals in the field of Science, Humanities and Social Sciences has been provided. In terms of infrastructure, the Library gives a congenial environment for the users.

### **ORGANIZATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES:**

- ✚ Books are arranged subject wise (DDC 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition for Classification)
- ✚ Journals are displayed alphabetically
- ✚ Reference books section forms a separate section
- ✚ Back volumes of journals maintained neatly

### **ON-LINE INTERNET SERVICES:**

- ✚ Library provides internet services to the faculty and students.
- ✚ Library provides E-Resources: **American Institute of Physics, Jstor, Springer, Emerald Insight(LIS), American Chemical Society, JCCC-Infonet, ( New name J-Gate plus, IBID, Economic and Political Weekly** on the Campus.
- ✚ Library has subscribed for **Indiastat.com database (Annual )**
- ✚ The **Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) can be accessed on the campus.**
- ✚ **SPECIAL COLLECTION:** Folklore Literature in Kannada, Imperial and State Gazettters and Chemical Abstracts are maintained in Archival Section.
- ✚ **TUMKUR BHANDARA:** We have a unique section comprising local history, literature, artists, art and architecture, folklore, publications etc.

The library took up computerisation of its collection during the year 2013. An Integrated Open Source Library software called KOHA supported by the then OSS Labs, Bangalore was used for in-house activities and Currently our database is working on the LINUX platform and it can be accessed over the Internet, with a Web-based OPAC, **On-Campus only**. So far 30, 000 bibliographic records been created.

As a technology upgrade, bar-coding was introduced for the books and the journals in the library during Jan 2014. This has made the process of circulation and stock-taking or inventory control faster and more accurate.

To provide cutting-edge research service to students and faculty through electronic environment and to popularize the Digital Library concept, the University Library digitized 40 Kannada title books.

### **Digitization Process:**

The infrastructure consisted of Separate hall for digital Library with 40 computers of latest version also with WI-FI Internet connection.

Commercial Software Techfocuz 4.0 provided by focuzinfotech, Cochin was installed in the Library. The unique feature of this platform is with multiple session CD-Mirroring option. It is an integrated system deals with the CD& Image administration, local and global access by users. Multiple accessibility of CDs, centralized data ware housing, easy retrieval, administrator managed options are the important advantages of the system. Core application areas are

CD Mirror Server Application, Network Storage Solutions, Digital Photo Library.

### The client part consists of creating collection

Under collection the following collections, Dissertations, E-Books, E-Journals, Lecturer series, Old Question Papers, PG Departments, UG Departments were created.

### Digitization Process:

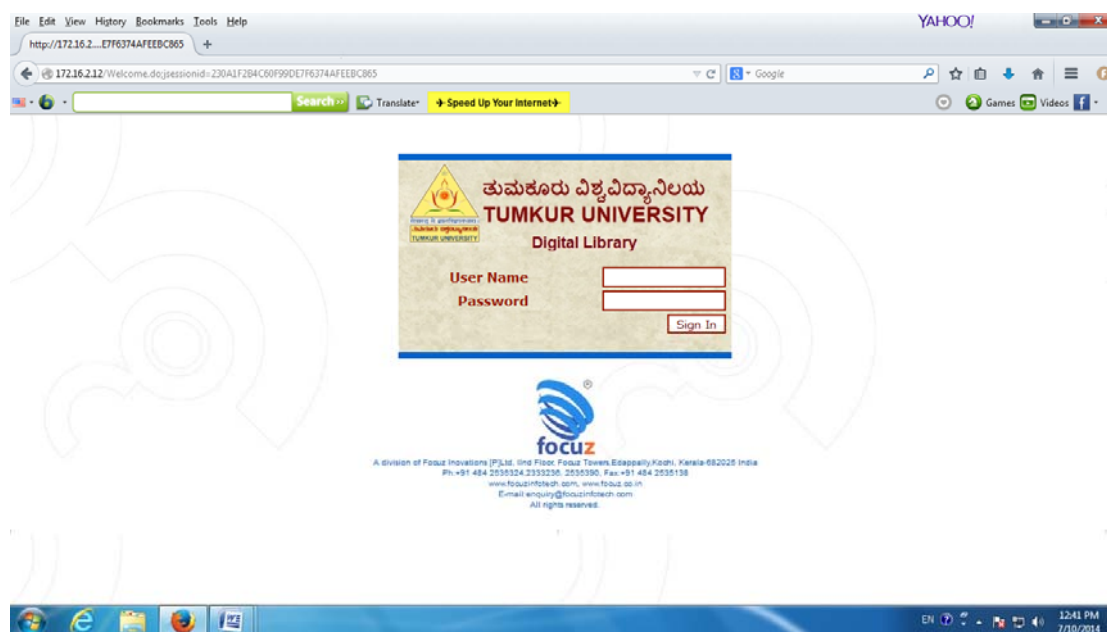
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Commercial Software Techfocuz 4.0 provided by focuzinfotech, Cochin was installed in the Library. The present software is used by 30 Institutions in India among them 12 institutions are situated in Karnataka. The unique feature of this platform is with multiple session CD-Mirroring option. It is an integrated system deals with the CD& Image administration, local and global access by users. Multiple accessibility of CDs, centralized data ware housing, easy retrieval, administrator managed options are the important advantages of the system. Core application areas are

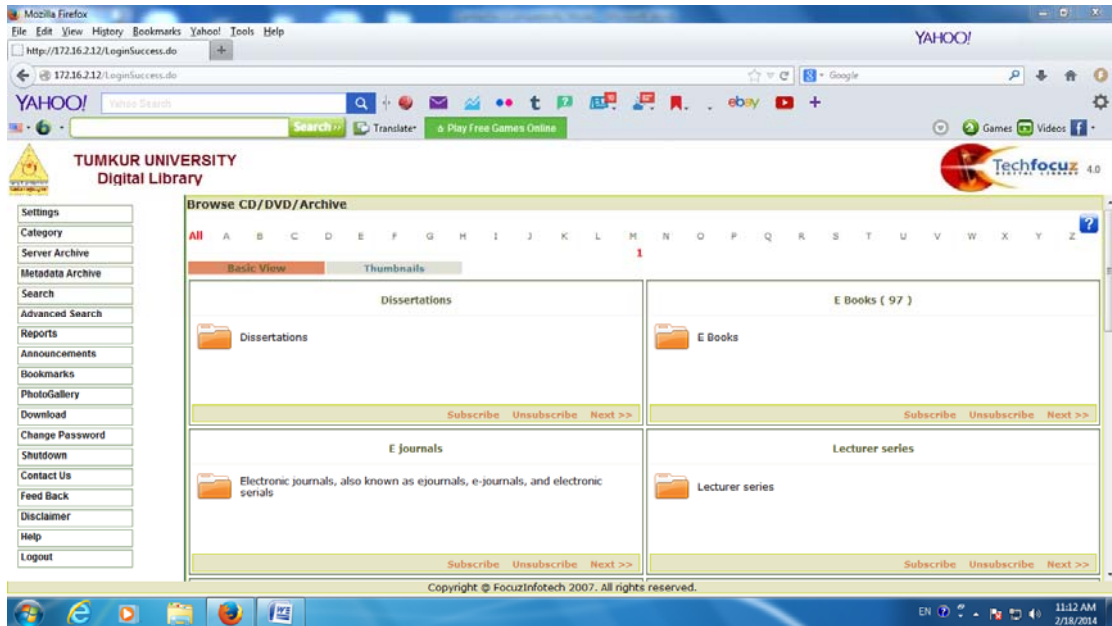
CD Mirror Server Application, Network Storage Solutions, Digital Photo Library.

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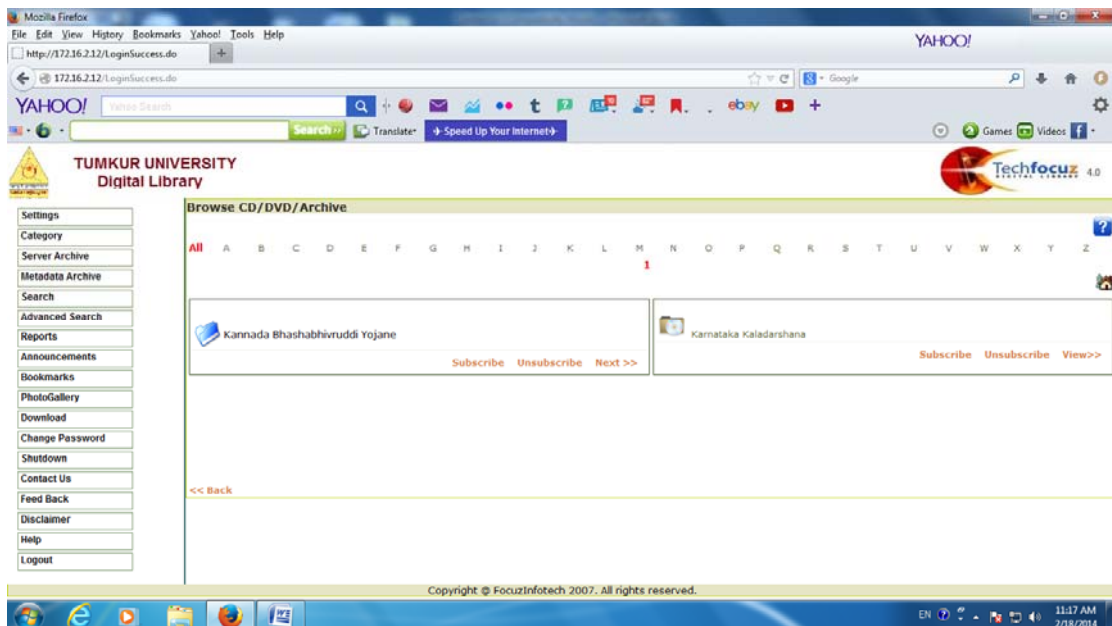
Under collection the following collections, Dissertations, E-Books, E-Journals, Lecturer series, Old Question Papers, PG Departments, UG Departments were created.



The Kannada Books were digitized under the PG Departments collection as shown in fig (2)



Under PG Department, 15 department were categorized among which Kannada is also one category as shown in fig (3)



Under Kannada category Kannada Bhashabhivruddi Yojane collection was created as shown in the fig (4)

The view consists of the following menu: Category, Server Archive, Metadata Archive, Advanced Search, E-Resources, Announcements, Photogallery, Download, Feedback, help etc.

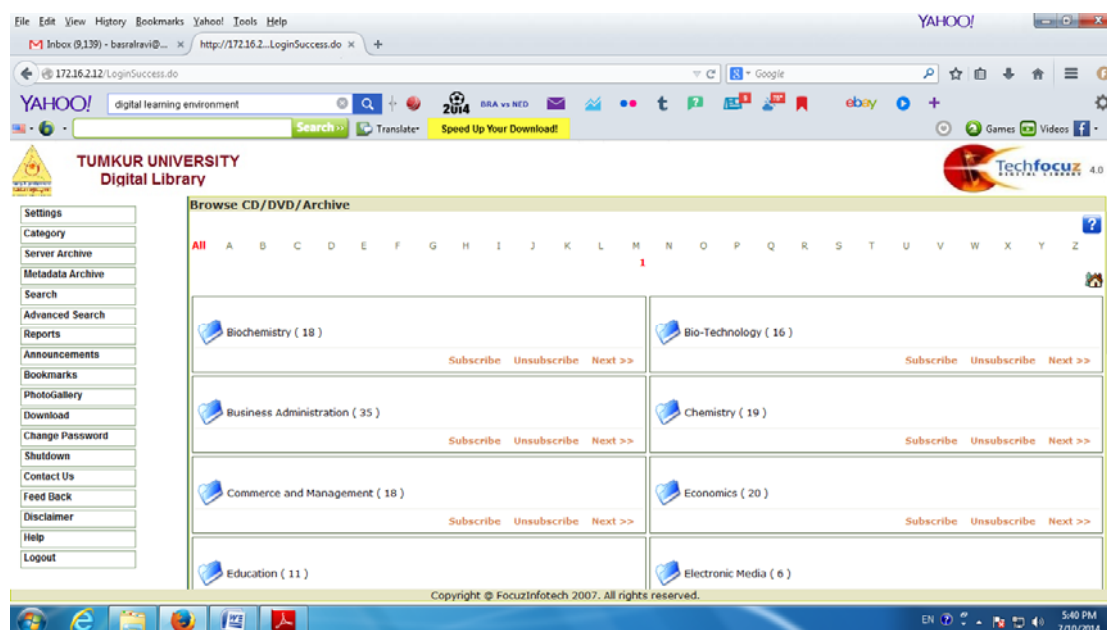
Category can be viewed as Basic View and Thumbnails. Browsing for the CD/DVD/Archive can be done either by clicking next >> or by pointing the A-Z which retrieves the particular category

At present the following category has been created Dissertations, E-Books, E-Journals, Lecture Series, Old question paper archives, PG Departments, Ph.D Scholars, Project Reports, Software Utilities, Tutorials, Thesis.

Under E-Books category uploaded books are 98. Recently we have uploaded 30 volumes of kannada translated Bharatiya Vidhya Bhawan Indian History books. Since the print book were out of print the e-platform book containing kannada content is uploaded.

Under E-Journals content further categorized into open access, UGC-Infonet and Subscribed

Under Old Question paper archives upload question papers are 329 in Number. The question paper are further categorized into department wise and further semester wise.



Under PG Department category, research papers of faculty has been uploaded. Under Tutorials for ex: audio tutorials related to spoken English, Sanskrit been uploaded.

Advanced Search for content can be done using CDROM search, Archive search, or content search. E-Resources consists of book marked publishers link and also in-house journal publications archive. In the download category CD emulator or

user manual can be downloaded. Feed- back related to Digital library linked to gmail has been created.

Reports, announcements and number of hits ; particular content used by the user is been provided.

**Students perception:**

To familiarize the usage of Digital Library even though orientation programme has been conducted but hands on experience plays major role and focusing particular type of user and their perception adds more value to further fill the gap in the existing environment.

To study closely the student usage of digital library 30 students from the first year of PG Kannada Dept was selected among them 16 students were already familiar with basic usage of computer and internet, the remaining 14 were not familiar. Since the number of e-content in Kannada language is less they were informed to use the existing resources available in open media and to use the uploaded resources in the digital library.

The department has assigned small project for the first year student to learn the digital content searching and submit report. The students approached the library personnel to find the information related to their assigned topic. It was found that many were not aware of Wikipedia in Kannada and how to locate the information in the web. They were trained for a week to use the Digital Library in general and in particular kannada content ex: finding website KANAJA a kannada portal developed by Karnataka Knowledge Commission, Govt. of Karnataka and book marking them in Digital Library so that each time they need not search the portal for the information and helping them to how to locate the information by moving to each category of up loaded content. The observation made by the library personnel found that among the students, the female students shown more interest in searching the content and downloading the articles and question paper. Earlier students used to prefer for borrowing print question bank. Now due to familiarization of using digital library they prefer for soft copy of question paper, down load articles and send as an attachment in e-mail or copy it to pen drive with permission of library authority. The digital library has helped this students to be familiar with digital library and also usage of available kannada e-resources. This observation has led to the faculty to recommend more e-resources and suggest the library authority to find way and means to procure, organize and repackage the information for the student benefit.

At present the University is offering PhD for only part-time research scholars, the part-time research scholars are able to use the Digital Library very effectively. The digitized above books are also cost-effective for users. They can download or take print the required information instead of seeing the whole book.

The Digital Library is in the initial phase, so at present it is only provided On-Campus only, once the collection building is over the same will be available Off-Campus also.

**CONCLUSION:**

We live in an ever-changing world, which means that we must remain vigilant to the needs and demands of our users. The format in which information is presented, continues to change at an alarming pace. Because of this, students need digital literacy training now more than ever. The proliferation of information that is available within the digital environment has generated a greater need for information skills. Librarians need to work harder than ever to ensure that students of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are equipped with the digital literacy skills to make the best of what the digital environment offers them.

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