Sri Venkateswara University Library and Its Best Practices for User Community

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ABSTRACT

The S.V.University Library was started in the year 1955 with a small collection of 6,700 books taken from the Sri Venkateswara College, Tirupati. Moreover the number of visitors visiting the library is increasing every year. On an average, 1,36,522 visitors visit the library every year and 31,231 books are issued every year. The SVU Library is total automation of its in-house operations of the library pertaining to different Sections like Acquisitions, Catalogue Card generation, Circulation Control, Serials Control etc. to provide best services to the users.

Keywords: SVU University Library, Digital Library, UGC-INFONET, OPAC, Institutional Repositories.

1. Historical Background

Sri Venkateswara University, named after the Lord of the Seven Hills, came into existence as a teaching and affiliating University on the 2nd September 1954 for the encouragement of higher education and research in all the branches of learning. It was intended to fulfill the long felt need of the people of Rayalaseema for their educational advancement.

2. The University Library

The University Library was started in the year 1955 with a small collection of 6,700 books taken from the Sri Venkateswara College, Tirupati, administered by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. Initially the library was housed in one portion of the College main building. Later, it was shifted to the present building which was declared open in July 1964, by Late Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then President of India. He described it as '***Taj Mahal of the South***'. The University Library, centrally situated and easily accessible to all the departments on the campus has grown by leaps and bounds and it has 3,70,305 documents as on today. It includes textbooks, reference books, reports, general books, back volumes of journals, e-documents, M.Phil. and Ph.D. dissertations. The library subscribes about 330 Indian journals and spending around   Rs.4. lakhs per year. The SVU library serves the information needs of the Students, Research Scholars, Teaching Faculty, Non-Teaching Staff and the Deposit Borrowers are numbering around 8,000. It is the central facility for 4 constituent colleges of S.V.University including University College of Engineering. As on today, 7 professionals, 2 semi-professionals and 48 supporting staff are working in the library.

2.1. Collection Arrangement

In order to provide better service to the users of the library, the collection has been arranged in such a manner that books and back volumes of journals on Science and Technology are housed in newly constructed extension building and books and back volumes of journals on

Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities are housed in three floors of the stack area of the library building, so that readers may not find any difficulty in locating the documents of their choice.

2.2. Sections

In order to achieve functional efficiency, the library is organized into 11 different sections. They are Circulation Section, Book Acquisitions Section, Periodicals Section, Technical Section, Binding Section, Stack Area (Science & Technology), Stack Area (Arts, Humanities &Social Sciences), Reference - cum - Documentation Section, Competitive Examinations Cell and Text Book Section, Data Processing Section and Administrative Section

2.3. Working hours

The library is kept open for readers between 8-00 a.m. and 8-00 p.m. on all the working days with the transactions at the circulation counter except on Sundays and holidays, on which days the library will function from 10-00 a.m. to 5-00 p.m. for study and consultation purpose only. The library follows Open Access System in all the wings of the library.

2.4. Services

The library offers Book lending service, Readers Advisory service, Inter-library loan facility, Reference service and Photocopying service.

2.5. Competitive Examinations Cell

The novel feature of S.V.University Library is the establishment of Competitive Examinations Cell in the year 2000 with the main objective of providing reading material for student community preparing for various competitive examinations. The cell provides books and journals relating to Civil Services, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, TOEFL, GATE, GRE, GMAT, CAT, UGC-NET and other competitive examinations. Hitherto, the SVU Library procured about 18000 documents relating to various Competitive Examinations.

2.6. Library Computerisation

The S.V.University Library is a participating member in the INFLIBNET Programme of UGC. The UGC has provided Rs. 6.5 lakhs (Non-Recurring grant) and Rs.1.72 Lakhs (Recurring Grant) for computerisation of SVU Library under INFLIBNET Programme. The computer systems were installed in July 1996. About 15 professionals at various levels were trained in DOS, CDS/ISIS and ILMS in November 1996. The creation of Database for Books is in progress and so far 1,80,000 records were created. SVU Library started the generation and pasting of Barcode Labels and work relating to books in the Stack Area (Science & Technology) and Stack Area (Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences) has been completed. At present SOUL 2.0 software is using for the library. SVU Library is introduced Automated Circulation System on Trial basis from this academic year.

3. BEST PRACTICES OF SVU LIBRARY

The Best Practices followed by SVU Library in order to provide efficient and effective information services to the users are given below:

3.1. SVU Digital Library

S.V.University has signed MOU with UGC-INFLIBNET regarding UGC INFONET Programme. Under this programme, the V-Sat facility to have access to Internet was installed in SVU Computer Centre. The INFLIBNET has provided 10mbps connectivity to S.V. University. The Computer Centre has provided Internet connectivity to all the Departments/Institutions in the Campus.   In order to provide access to full-text e-Journals available under UGC-INFONET Programme, SVU Library has established a Digital Library by spending Rs.30 lakhs in phased manner. It has the facility to accommodate 42 users at a time. At present, there are 32 computer systems for this purpose in this library. The time allocated for using the digital library for various categories of users is shown below:

Category		Time
Students	:	One hour
Research scholars	:	Two hour
Faculty members	:	No restriction

3.2. SVU Library Home Page

SVU Library created a Home Page. It can be accessed from any where over the Internet. It provides an overview of the Library covering brief history, services provided, working hours, general rules, basic statistics regarding collection, different sections of the library and details of Professional Staff working. It also provides link to access online journals under UGC-INFONET Programme, Online Open Access journals, Digital Library of Ph.D. theses, Harvester of Digital Documents on Chemistry, OAister Digital Depository, UGC-INFONET Journal Publisher-Wise, JGATE Plus and SVU Library OPAC. The Website address is **http://lib.svuniversity.ac.in**

Fig. 1

3.3. Online journals under UGC-INFONET Programme

Access is provided to about 6500+ full-text e-journals published across the globe covering 42 broad subject areas starting from Agriculture to Zoology under   UGC-INFONET Programme.
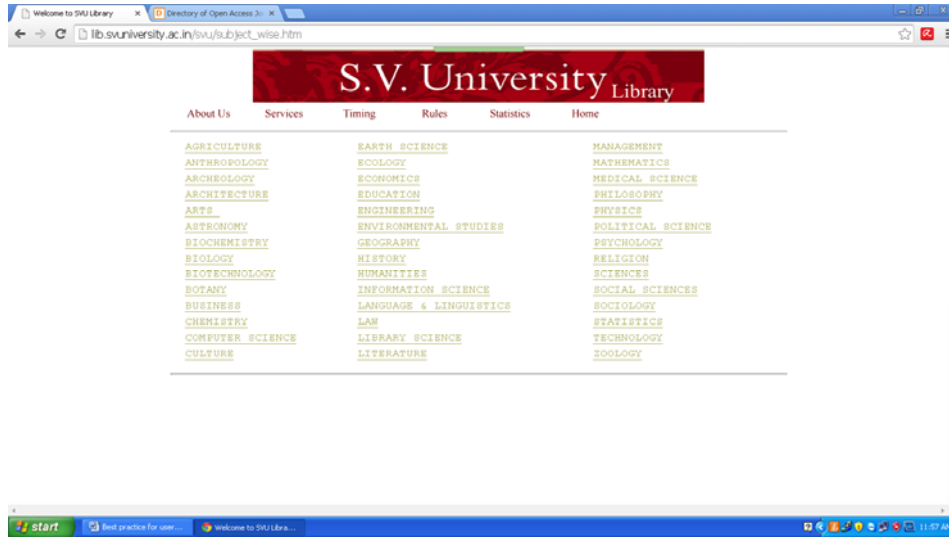

Fig. 2

3.4. Online Open Access journals

About 10,028 Open Access journals are being published in electronic form over the Net by different societies and non-profit organizations. Any one can access the full text at free of cost. It provides a link all these journals.

Fig. 3

3.5. Digital Library of Ph.D. theses

SVU Library designed and developed a Digital Library using Dspace for Ph.D. theses submitted to the University. At present, 1,201 Ph.D. theses were digitized.
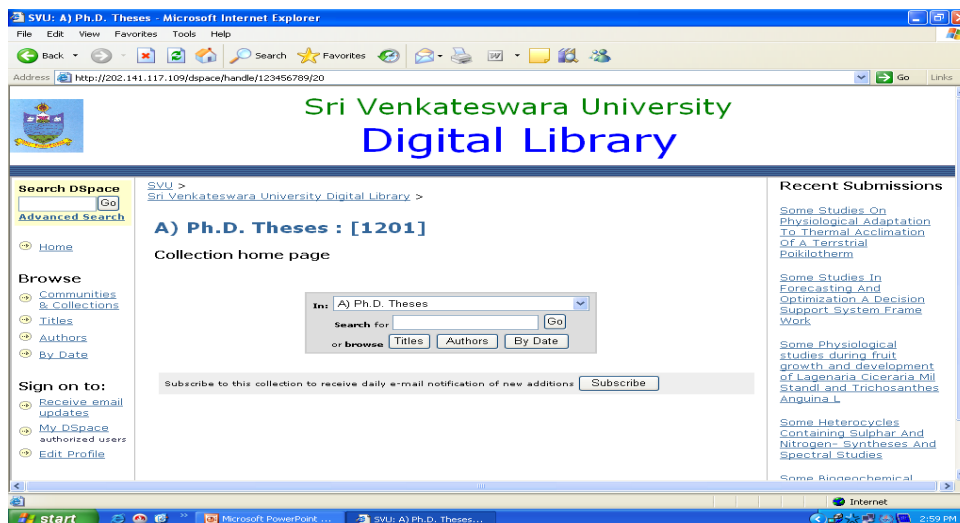
Fig. 4

3.6. Harvester of Digital Documents (HDD) on Chemistry

HDD harvests metadata from various digital depositories on Chemistry across the world. One can access full text of all the documents retrieved. In a way, HDD provides a Single Stop Search Engine for full text Chemistry documents available on the Internet.
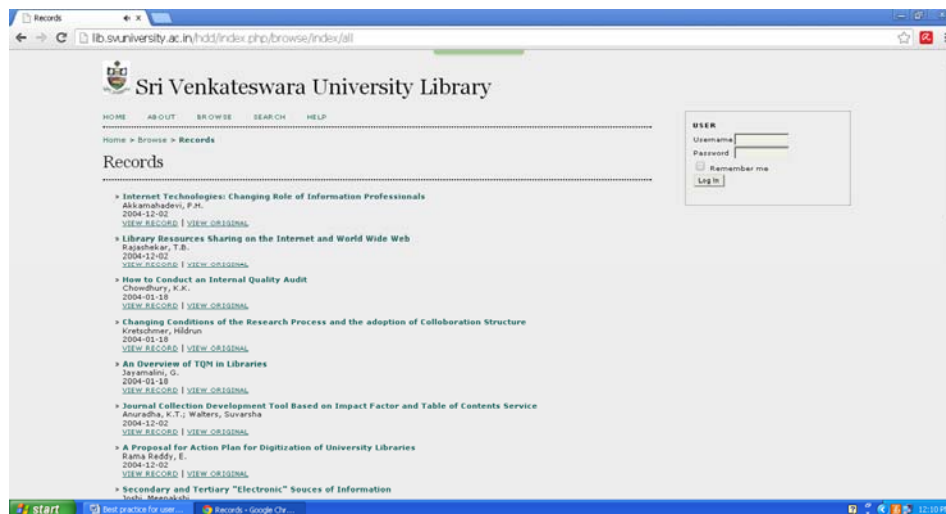

Fig. 5

3.7. OAister Digital Repository

OAister is union catalog of millions of records representing open access resources that was built by harvesting from open access collections worldwide using the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH). As on today, it contains 30 million records representing digital resources from more than 1,500 contributors. SVU Library home page provided a link to OAister Database.
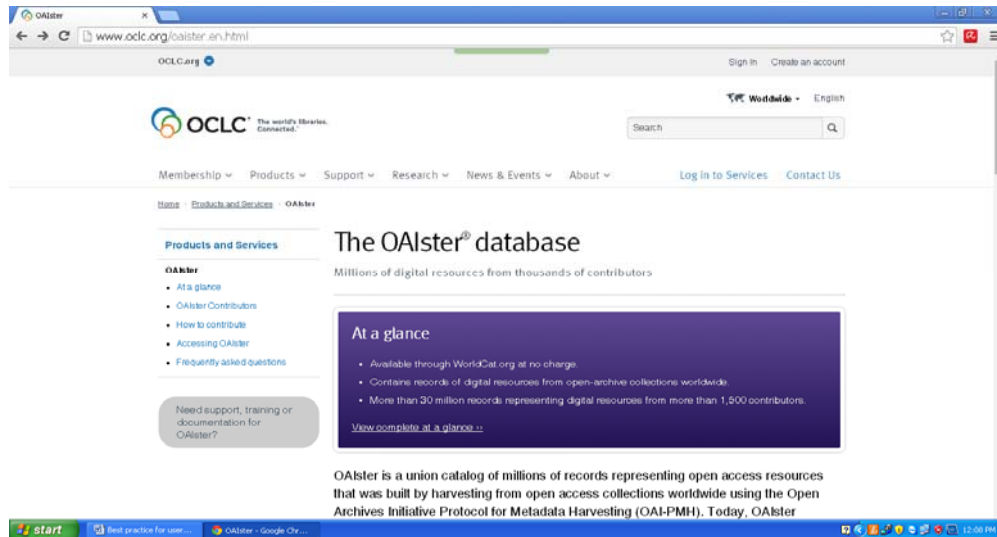
Fig. 6

3.8. OPAC

SVU Library provided a link in its Home Page to SVUL OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue). It can be accessed from any where through Internet. Readers can sit in their respective libraries and departments and they can search the Library Database to find out the availability of documents of their choice.
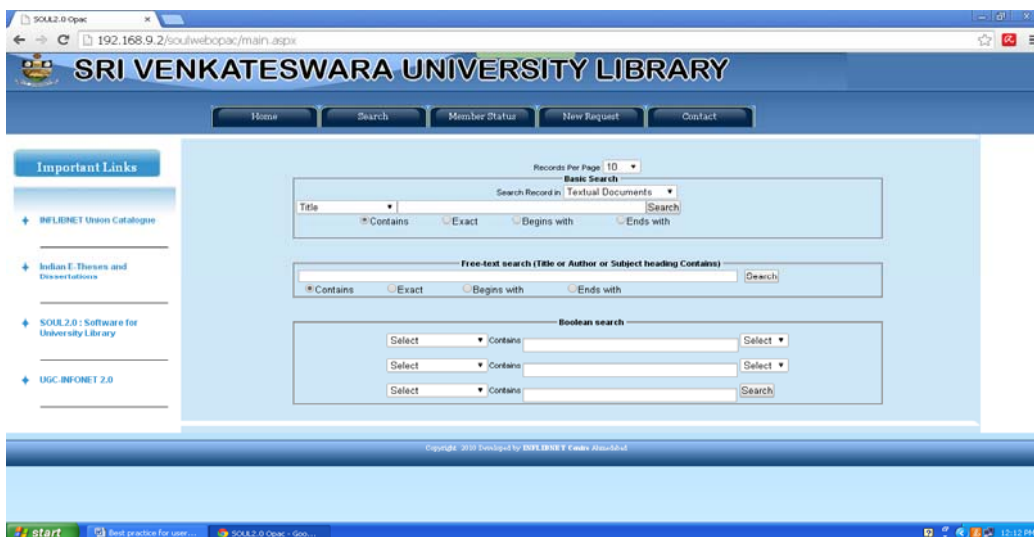

Fig. 7

4. Training Programmes

Four Users Awareness Training Programmes were conducted in 2006, 2008, 2011 and 2013 for creating awareness about e-resources available in the library and also to provide practical training about searching the databases, formulating search query and downloading the search results. Users are benefited by knowing the various e-resources available in the library and also hands-on training in using and searching of e-journals and databases. Three training Programmes for library professionals in using Library Automation Software were organized in 2007, 2011 and 2014 in order to provide hands-on experience in using various modules of the software in the library.

5. Seminars and Conferences Organised

Sri Venkateswara University Library has organised National Seminars and Conferences as mentioned below:
1. XVIII All India Library Conference of Indian Library Association (ILA) in 1969.
2. Second National Conference of Indian Association of Academic Librarians in1980
3. XVI IASLIC National Conference in the year 1987.
4. UGC National Seminar on Library Automation and Networking in the year 1996.
5. Seminar on Status of Printed Books in the Internet Era in the year 2002
6. UGC National Seminar on Digital Libraries and Establishment of Institutional Repositories during March 2007
7. National Seminar on Electronic Resources in Academic and Research Libraries 26-27th, March, 2012.

6. Conclusion

Sri Venkateswara University Library serves the information needs of the Students, Research Scholars, Teaching Faculty, Non-Teaching Staff and the Deposit Borrowers. The SVU Library total automated all the section like Acquisition section, Technical Section, Circulation Section, Periodical Section etc. and also digital library developed with CD-ROM database and electronic information resources to provide information to the research community. SVU Library conducting ongoing training programmes about using OPAC facility, e-journals and databases, and Internet resources to their users.

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