

**A Critical Review of the Studies focusing on the Design and Development of Online
Databases to Manage Resources in Various Chairs in the Universities –
A Case of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Chair**

P. M. Ingale

Dr. Sudhir Astunkar

Librarian

Vivekanand Mahavidyalaya, Bhadrawati

1.0 Introduction

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was one of the architects of the Indian Constitution. He was a great National Leader of Twentieth Century and well-known politician as well an eminent jurist. Ambedkar's efforts to eradicate the social evils like untouchables and caste restrictions were remarkable. The leader, throughout his life, fought for the rights of the dalits and other socially backward classes. He was an intellectual, scholar, statesman and contributed greatly in the nation building. He led a number of movements to emancipate the downtrodden masses and to secure human rights to millions of depressed classes. He has left an indelible imprint through his immense contribution in framing the Modern Constitution of India and also delivered many speeches on various platforms. However, the rich literature depicting his thoughts is not appropriately managed as made available to the world.

Therefore, setting up of Chairs in various Universities/Institutes in his memory is a Befitting tribute to this illustrious Son of India. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, New Delhi has setup a sub-committee on Education for centenary celebrations of Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, in the year 1992, suggested for setting up Dr. Ambedkar Chair in different disciplines of different institutions/ universities. In pursuance of the Recommendation and followed by the decision, Dr. Ambedkar Chairs were set up for Undertaking study and research programmes on various aspects of the philosophy, thoughts, ideologies, missions and ideals of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation. The prime object of setting up of Chair is to provide necessary facilities to undertake studies and research by intellectuals, academicians, scholars, researchers and students to understand, access, analyze and disseminate ideas, ideologies, thoughts and missions of Dr. Ambedkar, and also to provide opportunity to develop appropriate methodologies and strategies to translate them into practical propositions. Hence, in order to achieve this objective it is necessary that these Chairs have appropriate information delivery systems. For this matter, a vast body of literature has been reviewed to find out the best possible mechanism for management and access of these resources for the benefit of the users.

2.0 Methodology

In view of the aims and objectives of this study, a systematic review of literature was carried out to study the previous research efforts. The background for this review considered following aspects such as the research question posed; the theoretical background, methodology, previous findings, etc. moreover, the research gaps were identified on the basis of this review and it (literature) was used for synthesizing and gaining a new perspective of the issues concerning the management of resources in different libraries. Also, the discussion is presented in a chronological order, so that it also indicates the underlying pattern of evolution of thoughts and ideas in the focused domain. Similarly, to the extent possible, care was taken to reproduce the original terminology used by the authors, to preserve the originality of the views. The review is presented in the following section.

3.0 Discussion

Quality-controlled subject gateways are Internet services which apply a rich set of quality measures to support systematic resource discovery. This is especially important in case of the resources related to a specific Chair. Moreover, in case of traditional access to these library resources needs considerable manual effort to secure a selection of resources which meet specific criteria. In view of this Koch (2000) suggested that the main goal of new systems should be to provide a high quality of subject access through indexing resources using controlled vocabularies and by offering a deep classification structure for advanced searching and browsing. While in their study, England et al., (2000) have used two locally created databases for managing resources by using the Web. The technology consists of a microcomputer running UNIX to serve relational databases.

Vijayakumar et al., (2003) in their study gave an overview of activities carried out by INFLIBNET Centre for the development of Theses Database and its online access and stated that such a repository with additional flexibility and more features can help various Chairs to manage their resources. Authors expressed a need to look at various types of resources like audio, video and text while designing the web based systems. Singh and Gautam (2004) have reported that computer usage has become commonplace and there has been an increasing number of local efforts in organising indigenous information for individual and institutional utility. Information services/products of all kinds are being generated by various agencies in the government, public and private sectors and are emerging out into the Indian information marketplace with the university libraries being not an exception.

According to Sukula (2006), the information environment with emphasis on indigenous science & technology knowledge requirement in developing countries, particularly India is necessary for managing the valuable resources, such as those available at various libraries. Moreover, indigenous scientific/technical knowledge functions as a critical national resource for any developing country. Haridasan and Khan (2009) have stated that now a day electronic resources are a significant part of library collections. Also a large amount is invested in the development and management of e-resources in the libraries, however, there is a need for developing comprehensive online database for improving the accessibility of these resources. According to Sharma (2009), availability of e-resources in a university library is very common. But their proper and maximum use is a matter for discussion.

Also, the available literature reflects need and provision of database services that can cater to indigenous knowledge. In continuance to above, Kaul (2010) has suggested use of DELNET, the successful resource sharing and information provider in India for resources sharing. While Dhamdhare (2011) has advocated use of open source software in the functions of libraries, such as library automation, digitization, institutional repository, content management to name a few. Anuradha (2013) has stated that institutional repositories, which are digital collections that capture, collect, manage, disseminate, and preserve scholarly work created by the constituent members in individual institutions are very valuable entities. This is because, they are born out of problems with the current scholarly communication model developed by commercial publishers and vendors. Thus, establishment of an institutional repository in the developing country ensures that their national research becomes mainstream and contributes on an equal footing to the global knowledge pool.

Khaparde and Ambedkar (2014) have reported about the importance of managing electronic thesis and dissertations in India. Zupic and Čater (2015) in their investigation developed a single-source reference for management and organization scholars interested in using bibliometric methods for mapping research specialties. Ram and Paliwal (2016) have developed a database of university publication with the acronym 'JPubDB' (JUIT Publication Database: available at <http://juit.ac.in/jpubdb>), in order to collect, analyse and organised at one place and market the research publication with global community. They have made provisions to link each publication with each faculty profile and department in a standard citation style, assess the citation count through Google Scholar, sharing of publication through social networking tools, and if the full text of any publication is available, that can be downloadable in copyright free mode.

However, Charmaine (2016) examined the use of online resources in collection analysis for depository collections, using two libraries' projects as case studies and found that collection assessment shows how well the collection supports the needs of its users and/or the curriculum of an institution; collection evaluation examines or describes collections either in their own terms or relative to other collections or checklists. Winkelmann et al., (2017) presents a set of tools that strive to provide an all-in-one solution for generating, manipulating, querying, analyzing and managing speech databases. Hints et al., (2017) have suggested use of an online database for documenting and analysing the distribution of resources. Sahoo and Kumar (2018) have highlighted the importance of the electronic indexing and abstracting databases in the present scenario.

4.0 Conclusion:

The fast paced developments in the field of information and communication technologies have made changes to the way people are living and the professions that have seen work of different nature. This technological advancement has naturally affected the profession of library and information services. Today, libraries are changing their modes of information delivery at a very fast rate. The literature review showed that there are few attempts to study the role of online databases in the libraries in general but not very specifically for the resource management and utilization available in various Chairs run by universities. Hence, there appears to be a bonafide need to design and development an online database of Dr. Ambedkar chair's resources in Indian Universities.

5.0 References

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