AN EVALUATIONOF NATIONAL LIBRARIES WEBSITES:A STUDY

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Abstract: This study is an attempt to analyses the website of 37 National Libraries Website of worldwide at macro level using a fivecheckpoint indicator. The paper goes on to analyses the usability checkpoints, to identify the content Coverage of national library webpage, Currency, Authority, Contact detail,Easy of Navigation, on the webpage of national library. The checkpoint wise analyses show the most frequently sought after features viz. about us, contact details, copyright, services and collection, news and events,and feedback etc. For them the availability and access to required information on national library website is the most convenient and reliable source.Only five national libraries website have achieved average score for the presence of different checkpoint. From these observations the paper moves on to analyses and suggest ways to increase the visibility of the national libraries and the role libraries play in aiding the increase of visibility. The role of librarian is of utmost importance as they only can take initiative by convincing the administration about a full-fledged exclusive dynamic website where its services and resources are to be brought to the notice of all types of users besides their effective and efficient use.

Keywords:National Library, Library Website, World Wide Web (WWW)

Introduction :

Every nation has a natural Library, have ever big or small it is the function and purpose of National Library every from country to country. Basically it aim at passing a comprehensive collection of all the document product produced in the origin of the National Library. In some countries National Libraries has it is origin in royal Library, the ruler has started building of collection of document for their provide you some regarded Library as an armament to the place some developed fascination for book and manuscript. The ruler was result Library with a collection of rare and valuable document running into few hundred thousand volumes.Two important special feature of National Library –

➢ The comprehensive collection of not only National outputs but also of the document published outside the countries that are about the nation.
➢ The responsibility of preserving this document for posterity.

National Library has special responsibility, often define in law, Within Library and Information system. These responsibilities very form country to country but are likely to include.

- The collection via legal deposit of National imprint,(both print and electronic)
- Its cataloguing and preservation.
- The provision of central services to user both directly and through the other Library and information Centre.
- The preservation and promotion of the National cultural heritage.
- Acquisition of at least a representative collection of foreign publication.
- The promotion of National cultural policy.
- Leadership in National literacy.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Home page is very important & it plays major role in providing web based information services to the end of users. Home page consists of what the site contains similar to contents page of book. Websites are means of publicity for organization hosting the page. The home page of National Libraries web sites have been evaluated by applying set evaluation criteria these are following.

1. Content Coverage
2. Currency
3. Authority
4. Content Detail
5. Easy of Navigation

Content Coverage:

Table 6.1 show the information about the national library include on the home page in the form of hyperlinks web analyzed during the study. The home page observed to assess the presence of hyperlinks such as welcome, History, About us, Content, Site map, FAQ, Publication, Administration, News / Events, Exhibitions, Services & Collection, Key Word Search, Help, OPAC, Copy right, Feedback etc.

Table: - 6. 1 Content Coverage detail about the National Libraries webpage [Yes, No]

S. N o.	Name of library	Wel-come	History	About us	Contact	Site Map	FAQ	Publication	Administration	New & Event	Exhibition	Service & collection	Search	OPAC	Copyright	Feedback
1	National Library of Australia	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

2	Austrian National Library	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
3	Central Public Library Bangladesh	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
4	National Library Services of Beline	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
5	National Library of China	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
6	Library & Archive of Canada	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
7	Danish Royal Library	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
8	Egyptian National Library of Archive	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
9	National Library of Archive of Ethiopia	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
10	Bibliotheque of de-France	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
11	German National	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

	Library														
12	National Library Of Greece	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
13	National Szechenqi Library Hungry	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
14	National & University Library Of Iceland	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
15	National Library of India	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
16	Iraq National Library & Archive	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
17	National Library Ireland	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
18	National Library of Jamaica	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
19	National Diet Library Of Japan	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
20	National Library Kuwait	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
21	National Library	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

	Latvia															
22	National Library of Malaysia	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
23	National Library of Malta	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
24	National Library of Namibia	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
25	National Library of Nepal	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
26	National Library of New Zealand	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
27	National Library of Pakistan	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
28	National Library of Russia	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
29	National Library of Serbia	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
30	National Library of Singapore	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
31	National	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

		Welcome	History	About us	Contact	Site map	FAQ	Publication	Administration	News/Events	Exhibitions	Services	Search	OPAC	Copyright	Feedback
	Library of South Africa															
32	National Library Services of Swaziland	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
33	National Library of Sweden	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
34	National Library of Turkey	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
35	National Library of Uganda	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
36	British Library	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
37	Library of Congress	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No

Figure: - 6.1 Content Coverage detail about the National Libraries
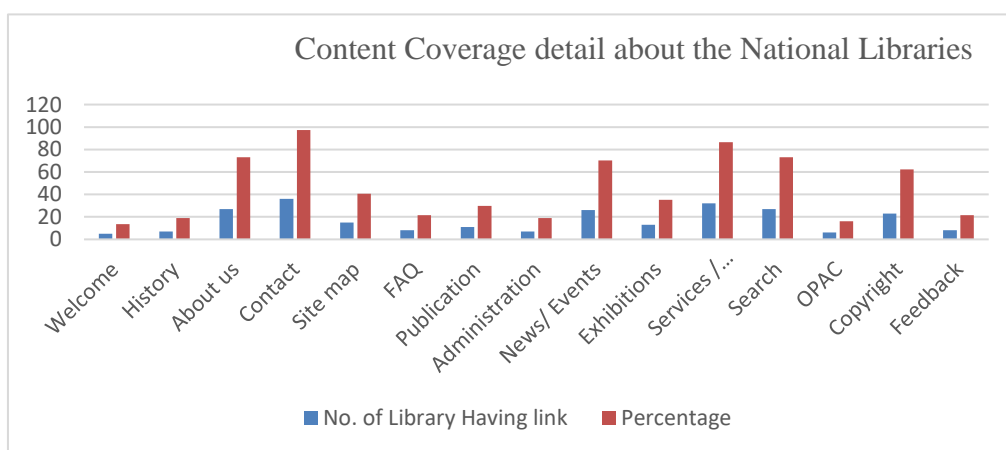
It is observed Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1 indicates that the information of content coverage national library webpage the highest percentage of contact link (97.30 %) national library webpage. 86.49 % Services and collection has been mentioned by national library

webpage, both about us and search link mentioned 72.97% by national library webpage. 62.16 % copyright, 70.27 % news/events, 40.54 % site map, 35.14 % Exhibition, 29.73 % Publication, etc

Currency:

Currency of the web page is another criteria of used evaluation of library web page / web sites. The mention of the date of last update & frequency of updating are two aspects from which the currency of any web pages cab be judged.

- Date of last update
- Update frequency

Table 8.2 Currency of National Library Web page

Sr. No.	Name of National Library	Date of Last Update
1	National Library of Australia	(Y) 27/03/2007(Y)
2	Austrian National Library	(Y) 2007
3	Central Public Library Bangladesh	(Y) 2009
4	National Library Services of Beline	(Y) 2010
5	National Library of China	No
6	Library & Archive of Canada	(Y) (10-06-10)
7	Danish Royal Library	No
8	Egyptian National Library of Archive	No
9	National Library of Archive of Ethiopia	No
10	Bibliotheque of de-France	Y (12/02/10)
11	German National Library	Y (26/03/10)
12	National Library Of Greece	No
13	National Szechenqi Library Hungry	No
14	National & University Library Of Iceland	No
15	National Library of India	(y) 7/01/2008
16	Iraq National Library & Archive	No
17	National Library Ireland	No
18	National Library of Jamaica	No
19	National Diet Library Of Japan	No
20	National Library Kuwait	No
21	National Library Latvia	No

22	National Library of Malaysia	Y (15/01/2010)
23	National Library of Malta	No
24	National Library of Namibia	No
25	National Library of Nepal	(Y) (08/03/2009)
26	National Library of New Zealand	No
27	National Library of Pakistan	No
28	National Library of Russia	No
29	National Library of Serbia	(Y) (15/06/2010)
30	National Library of Singapore	No
31	National Library of South Africa	No
32	National Library Services of Swaziland	No
33	National Library of Sweden	(Y) (28/01/2010)
34	National Library of Turkey	(Y) (15/06/2010)
35	National Library of Uganda	(Y) (15/06/2010)
36	British Library	No
37	Library of Congress	(Y) (09/06/2010)

Table 6.2. a Analysis of Currency detail of National Library Website

S. No.	Criteria	No. of N. Lib. Having the facility	Percentage
1	Date of last update	15	40.54

It is observed from Table 6.2.a that out of 37 national library website only 15 website (40.54%) have given the date of last update on the home page. No web site provide the frequency of updating site.

1.1 Authority

The detail of authority that is author/designer, maintenance, copyright have been studies National Library website these are following way

- Author / Designer
- Maintenance
- Copyright

**Table 6.3 Authority detail of N. Lib. Website [Yes, No]**

Sr. No.	Name of National Lib.	Author/ Designer	Maintenance	Copyright
1	National Library of Australia	Yes	No	Yes

2	Austrian National Library	No	No	Yes
3	Central Public Library Bangladesh	Yes	No	Yes
4	National Library Services of Beline	No	No	Yes
5	National Library of China	No	No	Yes
6	Library & Archive of Canada	No	No	No
7	Danish Royal Library	No	No	Yes
8	Egyptian National Library of Archive	No	No	No
9	National Library of Archive of Ethiopia	No	No	No
10	Bibliotheque of de-France	No	No	Yes
11	German National Library	No	No	No
12	National Library Of Greece	Yes	No	Yes
13	National Szechenqi Library Hungry	No	No	No
14	National & University Library Of Iceland	No	No	No
15	National Library of India	Yes	Yes	Yes
16	Iraq National Library & Archive	No	No	Yes
17	National Library Ireland	No	No	Yes
18	National Library of Jamaica	No	No	Yes
19	National Diet Library Of Japan	No	No	No
20	National Library Kuwait	No	No	Yes
21	National Library Latvia	No	No	Yes
22	National Library of Malaysia	No	No	No
23	National Library of Malta	No	No	Yes
24	National Library of Namibia	No	No	Yes
25	National Library of Nepal	No	No	Yes
26	National Library of New Zealand	No	No	No
27	National Library of Pakistan	No	No	Yes
28	National Library of Russia	No	No	Yes
29	National Library of Serbia	No	No	No
30	National Library of Singapore	No	No	Yes
31	National Library of South Africa	No	No	Yes
32	National Library Services of Swaziland	No	No	Yes
33	National Library of Sweden	No	No	Yes
34	National Library of Turkey	No	No	Yes
35	National Library of Uganda	No	No	Yes
36	British Library	No	No	Yes
37	Library of Congress	No	No	Yes

Table 6.3.a Analysis of the Authority detail of National Libraries webpage

Sr. No.	Criteria	No. of National Library	Percentage
1	Author / Designer	4	10.81
2	Maintenance	1	2.70
3	Copy right of Statement	27	72.97

Figure: -6.3 Analysis of the Authority detail of National Libraries webpage
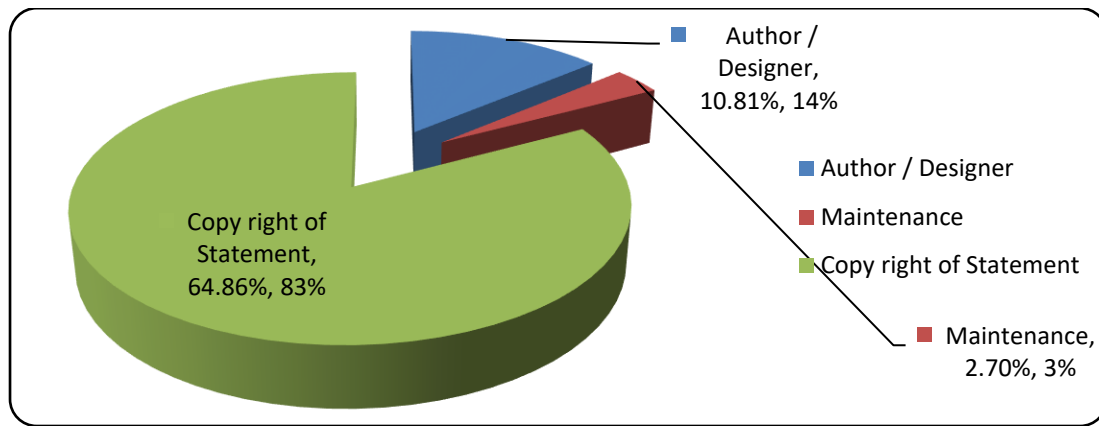
1.2 Contact Detail:

The home page of any organization/ institution or national libraries should include all the possible contact detail on the home page. The contact detail include the following

- Postal Address
- Phone No.
- Fax No.
- E-mail

Table 6.4 Contact detail of National Library Website [Yes, No]

Sr. No.	Name of National Lib.	Postal Add.	Phone no.	Fax No.	E-Mail
1	National Library of Australia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Austrian National Library	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Central Public Library Bangladesh	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	National Library Services of Beline	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	National Library of China	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
6	Library & Archive of Canada	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
7	Danish Royal Library	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	Egyptian National Library of Archive	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	National Library of Archive of Ethiopia	No	No	No	No
10	Bibliotheque of de-France	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	German National Library	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	National Library Of Greece	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
13	National Szechenqi Library Hungry	Yes	Yes	No	No
14	National & University Library Of Iceland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
15	National Library of India	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
16	Iraq National Library & Archive	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
17	National Library Ireland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
18	National Library of Jamaica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
19	National Diet Library Of Japan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
20	National Library Kuwait	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
21	National Library Latvia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
22	National Library of Malaysia	No	No	No	No
23	National Library of Malta	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
24	National Library of Namibia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
25	National Library of Nepal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
26	National Library of New Zealand	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
27	National Library of Pakistan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
28	National Library of Russia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

29	National Library of Serbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
30	National Library of Singapore	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
31	National Library of South Africa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
32	National Library Services of Swaziland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
33	National Library of Sweden	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
34	National Library of Turkey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
35	National Library of Uganda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
36	British Library	No	Yes	No	Yes
37	Library of Congress	Yes	Yes	No	No

Table 6.4.a Analysis of Contact detail of National Libraries Websites

Sr. No.	Criteria	No. of Libraries Facilities Unit	Percentage
1	Postal Address	33	89.19
2	Phone No.	35	94.59
3	Fax No.	31	83.78
4	E – Mail	32	86.49

Figure: -6.4 Analysis of the Contact detail of National Libraries webpage
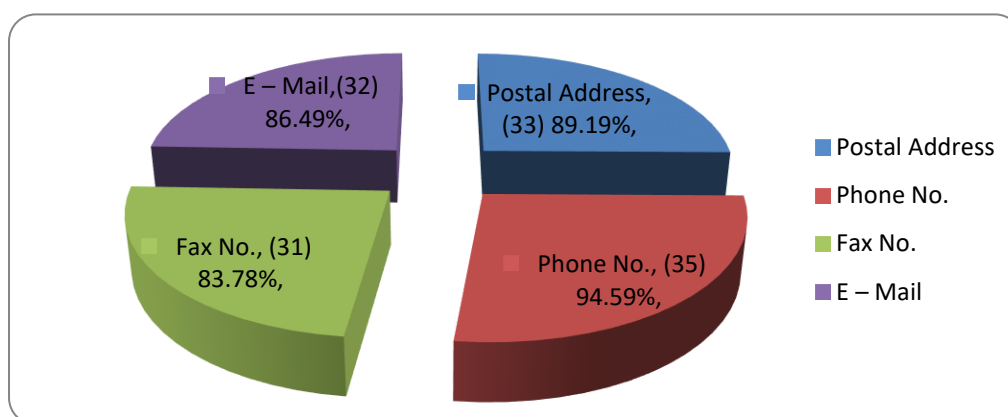
It has been observed from table 6.4.a and figure 8.4 that 33 out of 37 that is 89.19%website include the postal address of the national library webpage. Phone number is provided by (35) 94.59% having national library webpage. Fax number is given by only (31) 83.78% web page. And Email is provided by (32) 86.49% having national library webpage.

Ease Navigation:

The observation regarding ease of navigation are following type.

- Image used
- Back & forward links between page
- Webpage concise of scroll down
- Key word searching facility
- Index /site map
- Animation

Table 6.5 Ease Navigation detail about the National Libraries Websites [Yes, No]

Sr. No.	Name of National Library	Image Used	Back & Forward links	Scroll Down	Keyword search	Site map	Animation
1	National Library of	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

	Australia						
2	Austrian National Library	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
3	Central Public Library Bangladesh	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
4	National Library Services of Beline	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
5	National Library of China	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
6	Library & Archive of Canada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
7	Danish Royal Library	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
8	Egyptian National Library of Archive	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
9	National Library of Archive of Ethiopia	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
10	Bibliotheque of de-France	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
11	German National Library	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
12	National Library Of Greece	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
13	National Szechenqi Library Hungry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
14	National & University Library Of Iceland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
15	National Library of India	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
16	Iraq National Library & Archive	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
17	National Library Ireland	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
18	National Library of Jamaica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
19	National Diet Library Of Japan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
20	National Library Kuwait	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
21	National Library Latvia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
22	National Library of Malaysia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
23	National Library of Malta	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
24	National Library of Namibia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
25	National Library of Nepal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
26	National Library of New Zealand	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
27	National Library of Pakistan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
28	National Library of Russia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
29	National Library of Serbia	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
30	National Library of Singapore	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
31	National Library of South Africa	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
32	National Library Services of Swaziland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
33	National Library of Sweden	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
34	National Library of Turkey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
35	National Library of Uganda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
36	British Library	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
37	Library of Congress	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 6.5.a Analysis of Ease Navigation of National Libraries Websites

Sr. No.	Criteria	No. of library Having the links	Percentage
1	Image used	33	89.19
2	Back & Forward	37	100
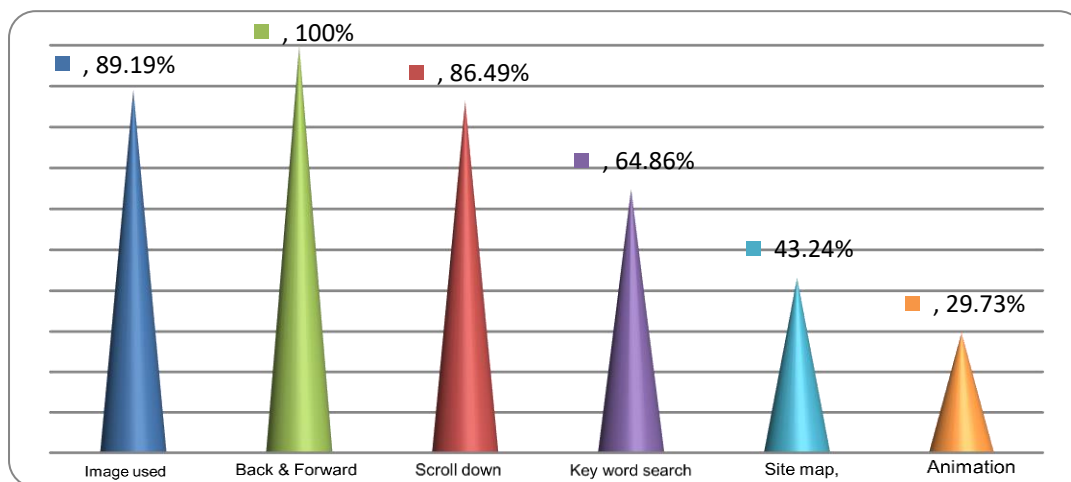
3	Scroll down	32	86.49
4	Key word search	24	64.86
5	Site map	16	43.24
6	Animation	11	29.73

Figure: - 6.5Analysis of Ease Navigation of National Libraries Websites

It has been observed from table 6.5.a and figure 6.5 that 33 out of 37 that is 89.19% website include the image of the national library webpage. Back and forward is provided by (37) 100% having national library webpage. Scroll down is given by only (32) 86.49% web page. Key word search is provided by (24) 64.86% having national library webpage. Site Map is provided (16) 43.24 %, and animation (11) 29.73 % having national library webpage.

Conclusions :

The national libraries website/webpage were evaluated by using the criteria site access, contact detail, authority, currency, content coverage and easy of navigation.The total no. 37 national libraries were selected for the study. The conclusions drawn from the study are.

1. The authenticity of the website is decided from the statement of authority provided in the home page of national libraries, authority statement include following criteria author, designer, maintenance and copy right.
2. The home page should serve of an excellent menu page for the visitor; it should help the visitor to move quickly to what they need. The national libraries home page of the provided the criteria of the content coverage, welcome, History, About us, Content, Site map, FAQ, Publication, Administration, News / Events, Exhibitions, Services & Collection, Key Word Search, Help, OPAC, Copy right, Feedback etc.
3. Easy of navigation is the important criteria for evaluation of the website.

4. Date of the last updating of the website decides the currency of the information included in the webpage of the national libraries, also frequency should be mentioned on the home page.

5. Provision of the contact details on national libraries home pages in the form of separate contact link is commonly observed.

6. The national libraries home page should also covered other link to related website.

7. A good national libraries webpage should be cover the latest information about the library.

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