A STUDY ON WEB ENABLED SERVICES OF FASHION AND APPAREL INSTITUTE RESOURCE CENTRES IN INDIA

Girish Rathod M.S.[1] **and DR. S. Padmamma**[2]
1. Research Scholar, Department of Studies and Research in Library and Information Science Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta – 581 401.Shimoga, Karnataka (India). girishrathodms@gmail.com
2. Professor & Chairperson,Department of Studies and Research in Library and Information Science, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta – 581 401. Shimoga, Karnataka (India). spadmamma.2010@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The study investigated about the web portals and web enabled services provided by the Fashion, Apparel and allied subject institute resource centres/libraries in India. However in this study analysed the web portals, components of web portals, web servers, websites, web enabled interfaces of Fashion and Apparel institues resource centres to provide information resources and services to the users in the vast country like India.

Keywords: Web Portal, Fashion, Apparel, Desisgn, Textiles, Resource Centres, Web server, web enabled interfaces.

1. INTRODUCTION

Web enabled refers to a product or service that can be used through, or in conjunction with, the World Wide Web. A Web-enabled product may be accessed through a Web browser or be able to connect to other Web-based applications in order to synchronize data.

In the modern digital information environment, a well-defined mechanism is needed to organise, store, and access information. A library portal is highly beneficial for this as well as for web-enabled information services. Most of the libraries are adding e-resources to their collection. The utility of these e-resources will be limited in the absence of a functional website

that facilitates the users to exploit these to the maximum extent. Web portals are the tools that enhance access to the e-resources by providing visibility to these. However, in this study anysised web portals and web enabled services in fashion and apparel institutions library/Resource centres under study.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature review is an important process where a researcher reviews the literature not only to compare the results with the previous results but also to present them in new and perhaps with unique dimensions. The review of literature revealed that a number of studies have been reported. *Rathod and Padmmamma (2015)* the study investigated the present information resources and services practiced by Fashion, Apparel and allied subject institute resource centres/libraries in India. The study highlighted the lacuna in information resources and services to the users in the vast country like India. *Kannappanavar and Prakash (2011)* evaluate the present situation of fashion technology institute libraries in Bangalore city. The study is intended to elicit opinion from the students of fashion technology institutes in Bangalore city regarding the resources and services of their respective libraries. *Dutta, (2010)* deals with the impact of the changing nature of information needs of fashion educators and their usage of fashion periodicals at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Delhi. *Gopalakrishnan; Ramesh Babu and Gopalakrishna (2008)* discussed that the information use pattern by the academicians of fashion technology has been taken into consideration. In India, education in fashion technology has been given due importance at the national level. *Bandi (2004)* discussed the role of the seven centers of National Institute of Fashion technology (NIFT) in India. This work unfolds the problem of the different user community concerned to fashion designers in fashion design technology.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

i. To know the availablity of webportals in fashion, apparel and allied subject institute Libraries/Resource centres in India; and

ii. To identify the web enabled services in fashion, apparel and allied subject institute Libraries/Resource centres.

A study on web enabled services of fashion and apparel institute resource centres in India

4. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

Geographically it is extended to India. The scope of the present study is limited. The method of purposive sampling used to information resources and services in fashion and apparel leading institute libraries in India. In order to achieve the objectives of this study, the research adopted a survey method with a design instrument (questionnaire) with which data was collected from library staff of the following institute libraries. It is confined to the leading Fashion, Apparel, Design and Textile training and research centers in India. viz.;

- ✓ Textile Research Association's, (TRA's)
- ✓ National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT),
- ✓ National Institute of Design (NID),
- ✓ Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC),
- ✓ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International School of Textiles & Management (SVPITM).
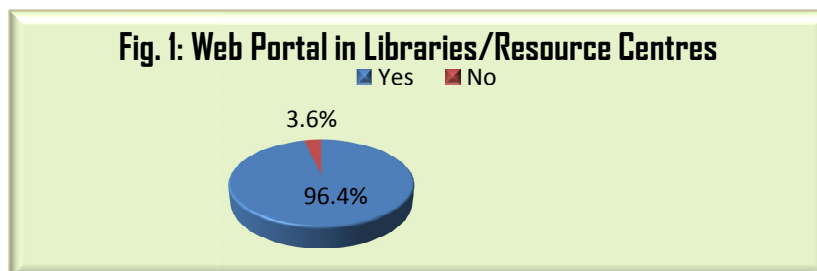
4. DATA ANALYSIS

The collected data were tabulated and analysed systematically using the SPSS software. The data from the survey of 28 selected Fashion and Apparel Institutions and Organisations in India is presented broadly mainly the web portals and web enabled services.

The data are presented in Graphical form for clarity and visibility. The results of the study analysed and assessed the existing ICT status of Fashion and Apparel Institutions and Organisations.

5. WEB PORTA:

a) Library Web Portal

A library portal serves as an integrated interface to a wide variety of digital resources and web-based library services. Web portals are also important tools for users to access and utilize library and information services over a network. It's combining the circulation and catalogue functions of an integrated library system (ILS) with additional tools and facilities.

Fig. 1: Web Portal in Libraries/Resource Centres
■ Yes ■ No
3.6%
96.4%

A study on web enabled services of fashion and apparel institute resource centres in India

When analysed the web portals are found in 96.4% (N=27) libraries/resource centres whereas only one (3.6%) libraries/resource centres has no facility of web portals. It is found, that one library does not have a website or at least a link in the home page of its parent institution. (Figure – 1).

b) Components of the Web Portal

Apart from providing the library information the Library web portal needs to present some specific details and services and the kinds of component details and the services indicated on the Web portals was analysed by collecting the relevant data and the same are presented under Table - 1.

Table – 1: Components of the Web Portal

Sl. No.	Components	Number	Percentage
1.	Find books on a specific topic	20	71.4
2.	Find journals in print and electronic formats	14	50
3.	Find full-text journal articles	6	21.4
4.	Retrieve readings on electronic reserve	2	7.1
5.	Look up an online encyclopaedia or dictionary	1	3.6
6.	Sign up for training courses provided by the Interactive Media Centre	1	3.6
7.	Renew books online	1	3.6
8.	Look up library hours	4	14.3
9.	Use IM to ask a research question	1	3.6
10.	E-mail a librarian your research questions	10	35.7
11.	Library Catalogue	21	75
12.	E-books	14	50
13.	Databases	21	75
14.	Web sites relevant to course/curriculum	5	17.9
15.	Special Collection materials	3	10.7

A library portal can provide lot of services to its users like an interface for selected online journals and databases, online catalogue, digital library, online reference service, Email, newsgroup, etc. the Table -1, shows the components of the web portal or link in libraries. It is found that majority of libraries 21 (75%) are providing library online catalogue (OPAC) and e-books and databases through their web portal. 20 (71.4%) of libraries/resource centres are

A study on web enabled services of fashion and apparel institute resource centres in India

providing interface to find a book on specific topic It is found also that 14 (50%) of them are providing information on "Find information on print and e-journals" i.e. the holdings details and on e-books. The remaining options such as E-mail to librarians to enquire about the users' information needs or a reference query, Find a full text journal and others have received meager responses. However it is desirable that these components can be revised periodically after getting feedback from the users and also can be discussed with user community while providing user education and information literacy programmes.

c) Impact of the library web portal on users

The impact on providing the Library web portal on users was also assessed and the pertaining data are presented under Figure - 2.

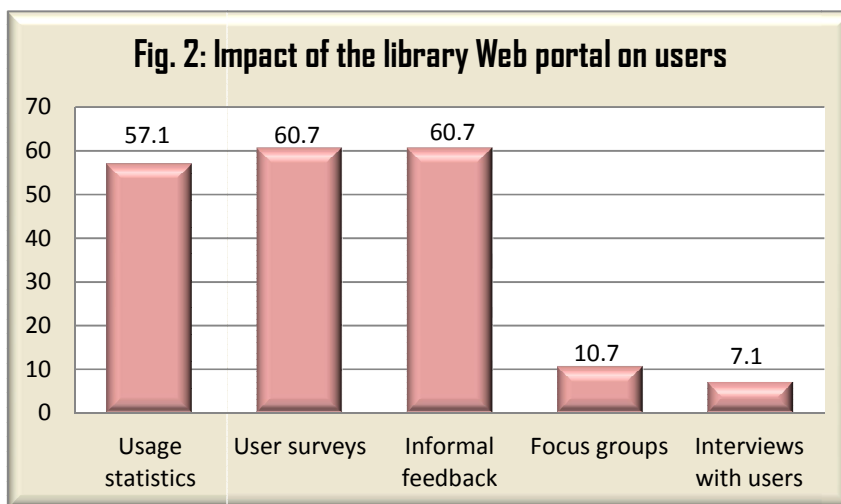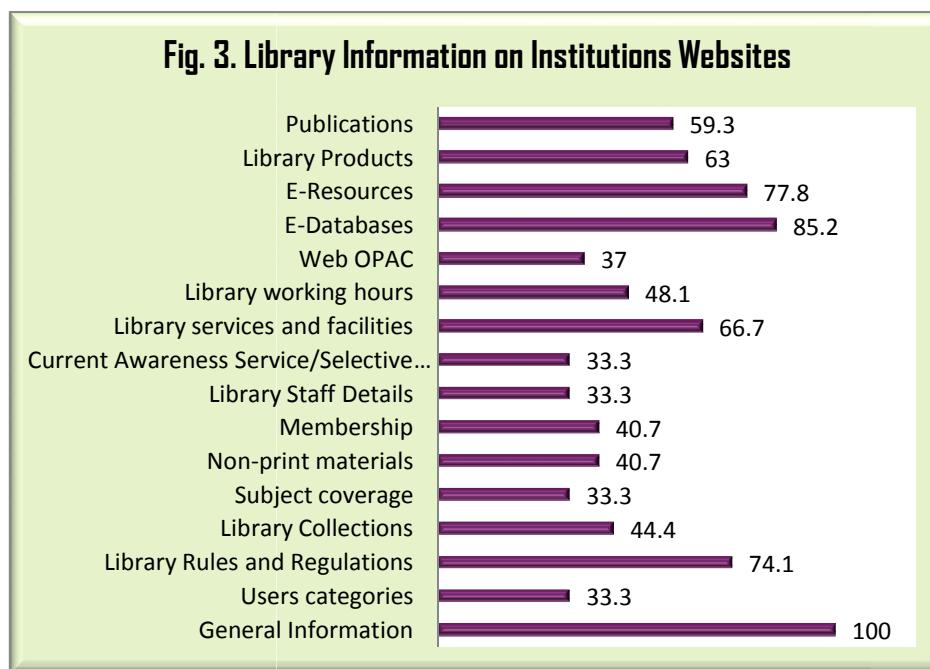

Fig. 2: Impact of the library Web portal on users

Figure – 2, provides the responses on the impact of library portals on its users. It is found from the analysis that 60.7% (N=17) of the libraries/resource centres gives information of user surveys and informal feedback, 57.1% (N=16) on usage statistics, 10.7% (N=3) on focus groups and only 7.1% (N=2) on interviews with users.

d) Library Information on Institutions' Websites

As revealed in the above discussion, if the library has no separate web portal, the libraries/resource centres might get link from the respective institutions' website and the query on the details of library information provided on the Institutions' website was sought and the responses in this regard are presented under the Figure - 3.

A study on web enabled services of fashion and apparel institute resource centres in India

Fig. 3. Library Information on Institutions Websites

| Category	Value
Publications	59.3
Library Products	63
E-Resources	77.8
E-Databases	85.2
Web OPAC	37
Library working hours	48.1
Library services and facilities	66.7
Current Awareness Service/Selective…	33.3
Library Staff Details	33.3
Membership	40.7
Non-print materials	40.7
Subject coverage	33.3
Library Collections	44.4
Library Rules and Regulations	74.1
Users categories	33.3
General Information	100

The Library web portal or a link for library/resource centre in the institute home page is very essential to provide various types of information to the users' interface through the web portal or otherwise. Library users can access various types of library information and access facilities like Web OPAC through this website, Figure -3, highlights the information regarding library on the institutions website. It is found that all the 27 libraries that posses web portals provide general information on their institutional website. 85.2% (N=23) of them provide information of e-database, 77.8% (N=21) on e-resources, 74.1% (N=20) on library rules and regulations, 66.7% (N=18) on library services and facilities, 63% (N=17) on library products, 59.3% (N=16) on publications, 48.1% (N=13) on library working hours, 44.4% (N=12) on library collections, 40.7% (N=11) on non-print materials and memberships, 37% (N=10) web OPAC and 33.3% (N=9) provides information on users categories, subject coverage, library staff details and current awareness service/selective dissemination of information bulletins.

It is observed that all these web portals or websites links are not informative and these are created without any plan or intension to provide any type of information. Majority of them provides general information about the library.

A study on web enabled services of fashion and apparel institute resource centres in India
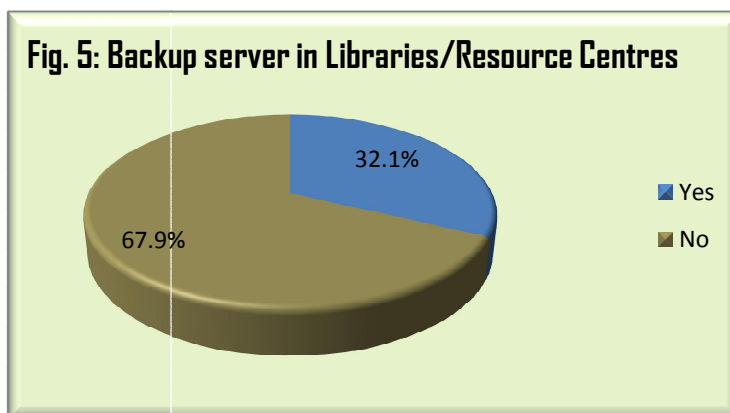
e) Web portal provides up-to-date information

Just providing information the website is not enough and it should be up dated periodically and at regular intervals. The data on this aspect is collected and the same is presented in Figure -4.

Fig. 4: Web portal provides up-to-date information
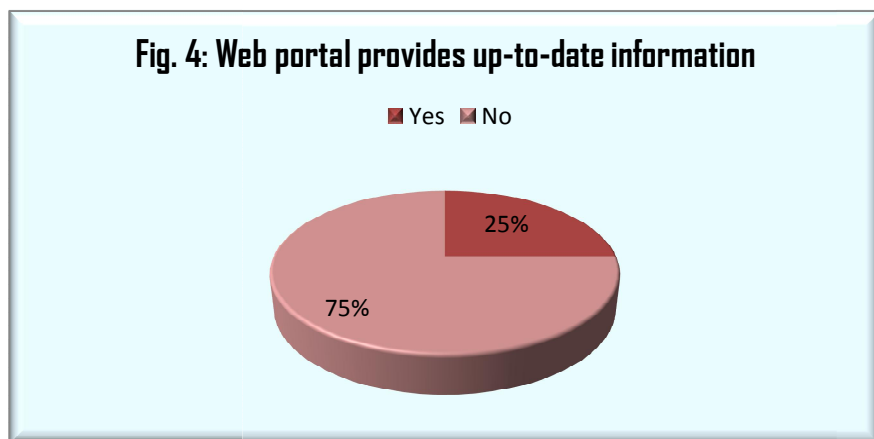
The study found that out of 28 libraries/resource centres, three fourth of libraries/resource centres have are not updated their web portals 75%, (N=21), whereas only 25% (N=7) libraries/resource centres update their web portals Figure -4.

f) Backup Server in Libraries/Resource Centres

The data capture and data entry is a time consuming and expensive work and the data once stored should be secure and protected. For this purpose the libraries should have a practice of taking backup and for this need a back-up server. A query was also made to find out how many libraries/resource centres have the back-up servers and the data are presented in Figure-5.

Fig. 5: Backup server in Libraries/Resource Centres

A study on web enabled services of fashion and apparel institute resource centres in India

It is found from Figure -5, that majority of libraries/resource centres have not adapted backup server facility in 67.9%, (N=19) libraries/resource centres and only 32.1% (N=9) libraries/resource centres have adopted backup server.

6. WEB ENABLED SERVICES:
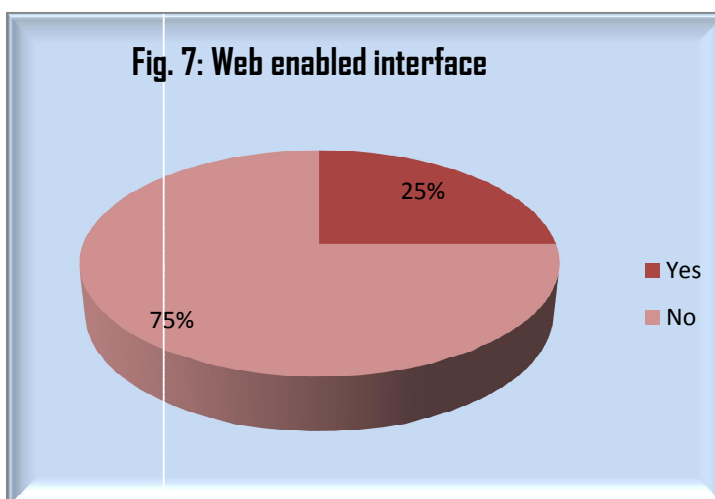
a) Web server in Libraries/Resource Centres

To provide web access to library resources libraries/resource centres arrange for Web servers to ease the data communication traffic for different web servers. So a query was made to the libraries/resource centres and so the data are presented in Figure - 6

Fig. 6: Web server in Libraries/Resource Centres
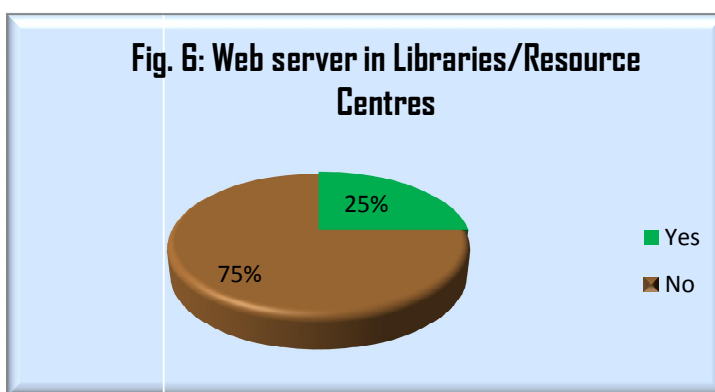
The Fig. 1 reveals that the availability of web server is only in 7 libraries/resource centres 25% (N=7) and in the majority 75% (N=21) of libraries/resource centres web server is not available.

b) Web enabled interface

The complement to this is the Web enabled interface and the data are identical in this case also as shown in Figure - 7.

Fig. 7: Web enabled interface

A study on web enabled services of fashion and apparel institute resource centres in India

According to Figure -7, less number of libraries/resource centres are having web enabled interface system 25%, (N=7) and the remaining 75% (N=21) libraries/resource centres are not having web enabled interface system.

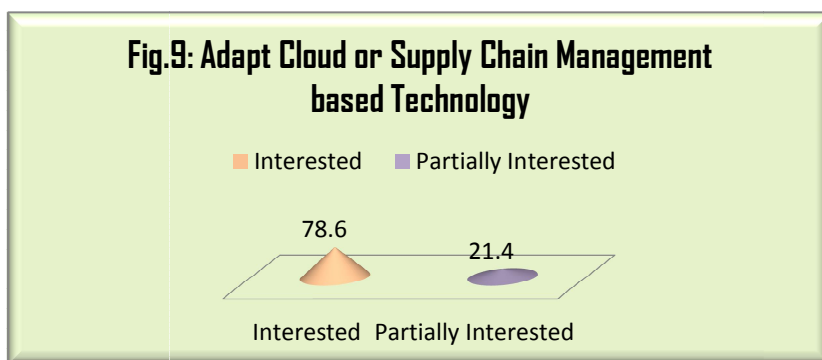**c) Resources sharing activities in Libraries/ Resource Centres**

The ILL and DDS and shared access to resources are feasible with the Union catalogue and the Figure – 8, shows the Resource sharing by the libraries/resource centres under study.

Fig. 8: Resources sharing activities in Libraries/ Resource Centres
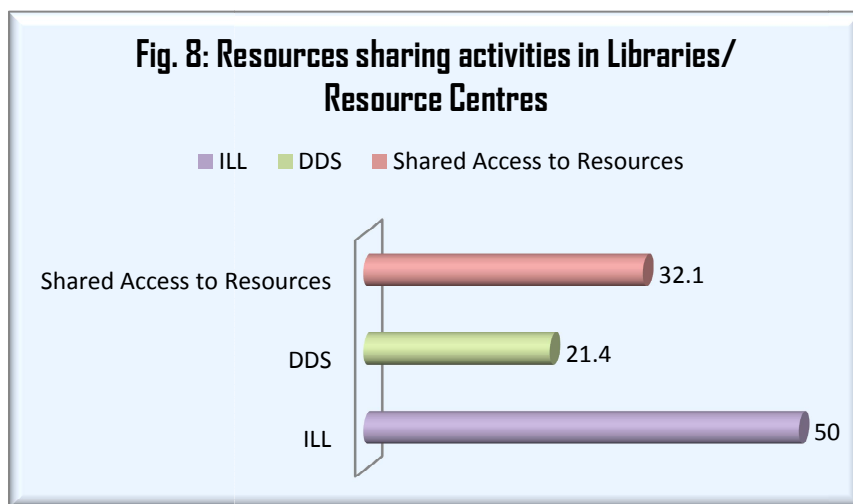
The data from Figure – 8, depicts that resource sharing activities in libraries/resource centre. Fifty percent of libraries/resource centres are sharing their resources through ILL (N=14), followed by 32.1% (N=9) shared access to resources and 21.4% (N=6) DDS.

d) Adapt Cloud or Supply Chain Management based technology

There are developed in the technologies like Cloud computing and Supply Chain management, and it is desired to find out which technologies are adopted by the libraries/resource centres and the data is presented under Figure -9.

Fig.9: Adapt Cloud or Supply Chain Management based Technology

A study on web enabled services of fashion and apparel institute resource centres in India

Above figure depicts that 22 (78.6%) libraries/resource centres Interested to adapt Cloud or Supply Chain Management based technology in the library for sharing resources and services, and 6 (21.4%) are partially interested to adapt.

7. SUGGESTIONS

The Textile, Design, Fashion and Apparel Institutions' and allied Industry sector Libraries/Resource Centres currently are not forming part of any existing networks either at local or national level. It becomes mandatory and essential to form a network/consortium of Libraries/Resource Centres to explore and exploit the possible benefits of Resource Sharing and Networking with the following objectives.

- ✓ To develop consortium of Fashion and Apparel resources.
- ✓ To evolve a network of Textile, Design, Fashion and Apparel institutions' in India for an optimum utilisation of information resources.
- ✓ To optimise the utilisation of funds by minimising duplication of resources in Textile, Design, Fashion, and Apparel libraries/resource centres.
- ✓ To provide access to document collection of the Textile, Design, Fashion and Apparel libraries/resource centres.
- ✓ To standardise library/resource centre services and activities.
- ✓ To facilitate inter-communication among the Textile, Design, Fashion, and Apparel and allied subject Libraries/resource centres.
- ✓ Developing a National Information System for Fashion and Apparel Industry.

8. CONCLUSION

The prevailing situation and the procedures adopted by Textile, Design, Fashion and Apparel Libraries/Resource Centres are possibly advantageous to implement the proposal as there cannot be any ambiguity about the ownership issue for the shared information resources, financial complexities or any other issues existing in other information systems working in the world. Textile Research Associations, Apparel Export Promotion Council, National Design Institutes, National Institutes of Fashion Technology and other related allied centers in India are functioning under the Ministry of Textiles, and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Though there are various information systems and services existing in the country, the web portals are insufficient to meet the upcoming user community in the field of fashion and

A study on web enabled services of fashion and apparel institute resource centres in India

apparel technology, having common goal with similar aims and objectives, which is an additional factor for considering the implementation of the proposed to Design and Development of National Information System for Fashion and Apparel Industry (NISFAI).

9. REFERENCES

- Bandi, Ananadappa (2004). *Information Systems and Services of Fashion Design Technology: A Study with Special Reference to India.* Karnataka University, Dharwad. Communication Technology literacy assessment framework. 1-14. 13.

- Dutta, Nandini (2010). Communicating Information to Indian Fashion Educators: Periodical Preferences in the Resource Centre, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Delhi, *Serials Review*, 36, 23–31.

- Gopalakrishnan, S.; Ramesh Babu, B. and Gopalakrishnan, S. (June, 2008) Information Use Pattern by the Academicians: A Case Study of NIFT Centres in India. *Library Herald,* 46(2).

- Kannappanavar, B. U. and Prakash, M. (2011). Students Attitude towards the Resources and Services of Selected Fashion Technology Institute Libraries in Bangalore City: A Survey. *SRELS Journal of Information Management,* 48(5).

- Rathod, Girish, M.S., and Padmamma, S., (2015) Information resources and services of fashion and apparel institute resource centres in India: A perspective study. *International Journal of Information Sources and Services,* 2(5), 49-52.

A study on web enabled services of fashion and apparel institute resource centres in India