

Full Length Research

An Evaluation Study of the Application of Web 2.0 in Asian National Libraries

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Purpose

The purpose of the paper is to discover the recent trends in the application of the Web 2.0 purposes and features as exemplified through national library web sites around the world.

Design/Methodology/approach

In Asian continent collected 52 countries, out of them we found 46 countries owning national libraries. Overall, 42 national libraries are accessed URL's remaining 4 national libraries are non-accessible. On the whole 28 with 66.6 percent of the national library websites from Asia selected for data collection. Content analysis methods used for data collection and Checklist used for the main research instrument. (see Figure 1)

Findings

Results revealed that the National Library of Israel is leading in the adoption of the Web 2.0 tools and technologies in Asia (See Table 1). 17 national libraries are adopting social networking sites, followed by 16 national libraries applied RSS, 11 national libraries used Mashups, 6 national libraries used Vodcasts, 5 national libraries used Blog and 2 national libraries used Instant Messaging tool (See Table 2). And overall 17 national libraries adopted Social Networking Sites tool with in that 10 national libraries effectual adopted SNS in their websites for various purposes and features (See Table 3).

Research limitations/implications

The findings of the study can be utilized to assess the status of assorted Web 2.0 tools used in Asian National libraries. It may enable future research to investigate other aspects, such as the adoption of Web 2.0 tools in Museum library, oriental library or reference library of a particular country as well as continents.

Originality/Value

The research paper begins with an evaluating of Web 2.0 in a wide scope continent of Asian country's national libraries implemented various types of Web 2.0 technologies, like Social networking sites, RSS, Blog, Mashups, Instant messaging etc.

Keywords: World Wide Web, Web 2.0, National Libraries, Asian Countries, Continent

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INTRODUCTION

Adoption of Web 2.0 tools and technologies, especially in the field of Asian national libraries has been a significant and exciting aspect for the last few years. The impersonal space of the World Wide Web (WWW) is rapidly being replaced by Web 2.0 tools and technologies that put an individual user in the spotlight. The application of Web 2.0 tools facilitates easy, collaborative and instantaneous access to the library resources. It (Web 2.0) has opened many opportunities for the libraries to extend the services through a user interface with librarians and modes of delivering the information to the intended users in significantly less time.

In a normal circumstance, every national library has its own website. As expected, in the last few years all-most-all types of national libraries have implemented Web 2.0 tools and technologies. Web 2.0 invites user participation, encourages constant and purposeful change.

There is a need to investigate the adoption of Web 2.0 tools such as blogs, bookmarks, RSS, podcasts, mashups, YouTube, wikis, social networks (Facebook, Orkut, Netlog and so on) in national libraries around the Asian Continent.

Concept of Web 2.0 in Asian National libraries

The term "Web 2.0" was coined by Darcy DiNucci in 1999 and was popularized by Tim O'Reilly at the O'Reilly Media Web 2.0 conference in late 2004, but 2005 onwards it became very popular. (O' Reilly, 2006)

Table 1 shows the adoption of Web 2.0 technologies in Asian national libraries. Used Web 2.0 for various purposes and features like post Library news, events and videos and browsable by date, subjects, Archives etc. It is found that the National Library of Israel (51.2%) is leading in the adoption of the Web 2.0 technologies in Asia, followed by the National Library of Malaysia (34.5%), Cultural Foundation National Library, United Arab Emirates (29.8%), National Library of Mongolia (29.2%), National Library of Thailand (28.6%), National Diet Library, Japan (27.4%) and the National Library of Sri Lanka (3.6%).

The study will be conducting at different levels to find out the plan of the Asian national libraries should be reached or not by used of varied types of Web 2.0 technologies such as:

Level 1 Identified the type of Web 2.0 tools and technologies adopted in the Asian national library websites.

Level 2 The investigator found that even though the Web 2.0 tools and technologies adopted in the Asian national library websites and is continuously updated by providing the

current information from time to time.

Level 3 The investigator took the websites which have been updated with the information sources, news, etc., in such cases, users interact with the sites and library staff; and the users share the ideas, comments, suggestions that will be considered as a good application of Web 2.0 tools and technologies.

Table 3 explored in effective application of Asian national library adopted various types of Web 2.0 tools and various levels in reaching their aims. Hence here I highly and effectively adopted Web 2.0 tools is Social Networking sites because 10 Asian national libraries are adopted SNS fully for their reaching aim.

In the Table 4 was found that high application on Facebook and Twitter was at 82.4 percent, followed by Flickr of 23.5 percent in the Asian national libraries.

Table 1: A list of the National libraries in Asia used Web 2.0

Sl. No.	National libraries	Application of Web 2.0 checkpoints N=168
1	National Library of Israel	86 (51.2%)
2	National Library of Malaysia	58 (34.5%)
3	Cultural Foundation National Library, United Arab Emirates	50 (29.8%)
4	National Library of Mongolia	49 (29.2%)
5	National Library of Thailand	48 (28.6%)
6	National Diet Library, Japan	46 (27.4%)
7	National Library of Russia	34 (20.2%)
8	National Library, Singapore	34 (20.2%)
9	National Library of Kuwait	28 (16.7%)
10	National Library of Indonesia	26 (15.5%)
11	National Library of Qatar	26 (15.5%)
12	King Fahad National Library, Saudi Arabia	24 (14.3%)

13	National Library of China	22 (13.1%)
14	National Library of Kazakhstan	22 (13.1%)
15	National Library of Korea	21 (12.5%)
16	National Library of India	20 (11.9%)
17	National Library of the Maldives	19 (11.3%)
18	National Library of Turkey, Turkey	14 (8.3%)
19	National Library of Iran	11 (6.5%)
20	National Library of Jordan	11 (6.5%)
21	The Lebanese National Library, Lebanon	11 (6.5%)
22	National Library of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan	10 (6%)
23	National Library of Uzbekistan	10 (6.0%)
24	National Library of Vietnam, Vietnam	10 (6%)
25	National Library of the Philippines	9 (5.4%)
26	Iraq National Library and Archive	8 (4.8%)
27	National Library of Myanmar	7 (4.2%)
28	National Library of Sri Lanka	6 (3.6%)

5	Blog	5
6	Instant Messaging	2
7	Podcasts	0
8	Folksonomy	0

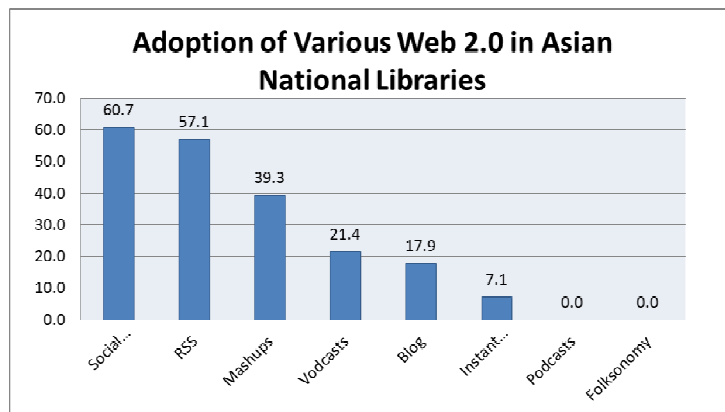


Figure 1 shows adoption various web 2.0 in Asian national libraries, 60.7 percent of the national libraries in asia adopted social networking sites and very less used Instant messaging with 7.1 percent but podcasts and folksonomy tools no one used in asian countries national libraries.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Overall of this study we found in the world, more than half of the national libraries in the Asian continent adopted Web 2.0 various tools like social networking sites, RSS, Blog ect. We are happy because most of the national libraries effectively used and reached there aim but some of the Web 2.0 tools like podcasts and folksonomy no one library implemented. So we recomended use folksonomy is a best tool for tagging online contenet in one certain places.

Table 2: Various types of application of Web 2.0 tools in Asian National libraries

Sl. No.	Various types Web 2.0	National libraries of Asia N=28
1	Social Networking Sites	17
2	RSS	16
3	Mashups	11
4	Vodcasts	6

Table 3: Effective application of Web 2.0 in Asian national libraries shows various Levels

Sl. No.	Various Web 2.0 tools	Effective adoption of Web 2.0 in Asian national libraries			Total Number of Asian national libraries N=28
		Levels 1	Levels 2	Levels 3	
1	Social Networking Sites	3	4	10	17
2	RSS	6	3	7	16
3	Mashups	5	5	1	11
4	Vodcasts	5	1	-	6
5	Blog	-	2	3	5
6	Instant Messaging	1	-	1	2

Table 4: Types of Social Networking sites in Asian national libraries

Sl. No.	Social Networking Sites	Asian National Libraries N=17
1	Facebook	14 (82.4%)
2	Flicker	4 (23.5%)
3	Twitter	14 (82.4%)

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