

## UGC SPONSORED MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT ENTITLED

**' Virtual Reference Service Model in College Library of Kolhapur District'**

**By**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY of the Project Work**

#### **Historical Background of Kolhapur District -**

The state of Kolhapur was established by Tarabai in 1707 because of the succession dispute over the Maratha kingship. The state was annexed by the British in the 19th century. After India's independence in 1947, the Maharaja of Kolhapur acceded to the Dominion of India on 14 August 1947 and merged with Bombay State on 1 March 1949..The District also famous on the great Maharaja who is known Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj He has been first social justice king and work to every community of the his empire. He followed reservation policy for development of depressed class of society. Kolhapur is an inland city located in south-west Maharashtra state, Kolhapur's nearest cities and towns are Ichalkaranji (27 km), kodoli (35 km), PethWadgaon (15 km) Kagal(21 km), Sangli (49 km), Satara (115 km), Miraj (50 km), Gadhinglaj (67 km). Kolhapur has an elevation of 569 metres (1867 ft). It lies in the Sahayadri mountains in the Western Ghat. There are 12 Taluka tahasil place has in the Kolhapur District and there are 53 grantable colleges under the 2F/12B grand in the district affiliated Shivaji University ,Kolhapur.

**Project Work A Brief Summary** -The higher education of Indian scenario is preferred for research and development for quality education. Library is a vital part of higher education ugc has also considered library is knowledge resource centre. To day the function of library services has been changed and demands are library users has been also changed The advancement of information technologies and their impact on all the areas of society have yielded a need for obtaining useful and important information via specialized information sources, which are recognized by their methods to find, select and disseminate information. Libraries are being assigned to fulfill this function, because they are information systems which facilitate the simple and effective access to on-line information resources. From the beginning, the reference services have been considered as a teaching function for the rational use of the libraries resources (Rader, 2000). To start a virtual reference service means to take into consideration how it fits into the library mission and the academic culture, specifically its acceptance both by the management and the personnel, and the possibility to count on the technological infrastructure suitable to the service.

**Features of the VRS** The virtual reference services via electronic mail came up in the United States in the end of 1980, at the same time as the libraries began to place their catalogues on the Internet. Some of these catalogues enabled the remote users to ask their questions through links which allowed the request of a document consultation. As **-Ask a Librarian** service has been on the Internet for some years and it is easy to be accessed by motors of search when

someone asks a question. The libraries reference departments establish that service as a link in the library home page, allowing a great increase in the number of consultations. Often the service which was only addressed to a specific academic community was, receiving messages from different parts of the world. Services as Google and all type of social media platforms tools are mentioned as promoters of that type of boom in the use of virtual reference.

It is experienced that the Face to Face and reference desk is very popular among users. E-mail reference in remote service is very useful and efficiently provides to users instantly. Web form in VRS is of highly standard and very beneficial to users. So it can be stated that by applying VRS users become able to access the information Instantly and easily. However, there is a room for modification and upgrading these tools as quality VRS services can be provided effectively. The usage of E-mail is mostly used in VRS. The great benefit of VRS is instant access to the information anywhere and anytime. Most of users are aware and widely used VRS for their academic and research purpose or to full fill personal requirements. Increasingly, virtual reference service are being developed and being disseminated of libraries across the country. Unfortunately, similar emphasis on developing an assessment techniques, measures, and standards are not progressing at a similar rate in India. If Virtual Reference Service is to evolve successfully as identified library and information services then librarians need to engage in ongoing assessment and evaluation of virtual reference services. Such assessment is essential for planning and development of these services, for cost and financial decision making and perhaps most importantly, to ensure that user information needs are met. This Investigation is a sincere attempt towards better understanding of how virtual library services can be successfully integrated into existing library and information services available in these colleges. It is concluded that in college libraries VRS is in infant stage and needs to be strengthen to fulfill the user's information needs effectively and qualitatively.

All the academic colleges considered in this study is trying to provide virtual reference service to it's user group almost colleges having a library software and trying to keep updates their websites and computerized library services Some college have this facility but not appointed a special person for this services librarian is giving this services to users.

