

“CONTENT ANALYSIS OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT LIBRARY WEBSITE”

Researcher

Mrs. Ruby S. Takbhaure

Ph.D. Scholar

Contact No. 9665672644

Email: - rubykarosia@gmail.com

Guide

Dr. Ashok S. Khobaragade

Professor Arts and Commerce Night

College, Chitanvispura, Mahal, Nagpur 32

Email: ashoklibrarian@rediffmail.com

Abstract :

This paper “Content Analysis of Gauhati High Court Library Website” presents an analysis of the digital services and resources of the Gauhati High Court Library. In the digital age, libraries are not limited to physical books but also facilitate and make judicial and academic research easy and effective through e-resources, online catalogue, e-journals and legal databases. The Gauhati High Court Library website provides a dedicated and reliable platform for judges, advocates, researchers and law students. It has access to KOHA software based e-catalogue, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), and major legal databases such as LexisNexis, SCC Online and Manupatra. Sections such as About the Library, Library Services, Library Collection, Current Journals, Koha Cataloguing Data, Constitution of India and Conference to Reduce Pendency and Delay in Judicial System make judicial research and decision making process transparent, efficient and easy access to justice.

The study adopted the Content Analysis method under which the website content was systematically classified and analysed. The results showed that the website makes a significant contribution to the availability of judicial documents and legal information. Adding multilingual options, advanced search features and interactive user support could make it more effective and user-friendly. This abstract is a guide for students and researchers on how digital library services can support judicial and academic research and strengthen their research projects.

Keywords : Gauhati High Court Library, Content Analysis, Digital Library Services, E-resources, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), Koha Software.

Introduction :

Knowledge and information are the basic foundations of the progress of human society. As society became complex and organized in the course of development of civilization, the means of preservation, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge also developed. The contribution of libraries in this process has been very important. Libraries are not just a collection of texts, but they are the carriers of the intellectual consciousness and research traditions of the society. Especially in the legal field, the role of libraries is decisive,

because the work of the judiciary is based on unbiased and updated legal information. The quality of judicial decisions in the courts depends on what kind of legal sources the libraries there are providing and how updated they are.

In a democratic country like India, the judiciary is the supreme institution to interpret the Constitution, preserve legal traditions and protect the fundamental rights of the citizens. Due to this, the importance of court libraries increases even more. Traditionally, these libraries have been functioning as a huge repository of printed legal texts, acts, legislative reports and judicial decisions. But in the last few decades, the development of information and communication technology has fundamentally changed the functioning and form of libraries. Today libraries are not limited to physical collections but are widening and accelerating access to knowledge through digital resources and online services.

The history of the Gauhati High Court holds special importance in understanding this change. The Gauhati High Court, established on 5 April 1948, was originally the higher judicial body of the entire Northeast India. Initially its jurisdiction extended to Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Later, after the reorganization of states and the establishment of separate High Courts, its jurisdiction was mainly limited to Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The Gauhati High Court has played an important role in strengthening the judicial traditions and legal framework of Northeast India since its inception. The library of this High Court has also been a major source of legal information for judges, advocates and researchers since its early years.

Initially, the Guwahati High Court Library functioned in a traditional format, providing a collection of printed legal texts, Acts and judgments. Over time, the library enriched its collection and included various Indian and foreign legal texts. When information technology started entering libraries in the second half of the twentieth century, the Guwahati High Court Library also tried to adopt this change. Gradually, the catalogue started to be digitised, online databases were subscribed to and initiatives were taken towards making judicial judgments available in digital form.

In the twenty-first century, when the Internet and the World Wide Web spread widely, the High Courts created their official websites. The website of the Guwahati High Court was also developed in this context. This website not only became a medium for sharing information and administrative activities of the court, but it also provided an opportunity to present the services of the library in digital format. Today, the website of the Guwahati High Court Library has facilities such as online database of judicial decisions, Acts and Manuals, notifications, e-resources, online catalogue and user guidance. This website is a concrete step towards the digitisation of the judiciary and is proving to be helpful in ensuring equal access to justice.

This study will not only be limited to identifying the digital services available on the website, but it will also tell what is the nature of these services, how comprehensive they are

and to what extent they are able to meet the needs of the users. Thus, this research will not only be important from an academic point of view in the direction of digitization of court libraries, but its impact will also be wide from a practical point of view.

Literature Review :

Development in the field of information and communication technology has imparted tremendous powers to library services. That is why different researches have been conducted into the fact that digital services provide the fastest and most convenient delivery of data into the hands of users. According to Kumar (2010), e-resources make researchers more efficient. Singh and Sharma (2013) also found e-journals and databases to be extremely useful for libraries of higher educational institutions.

Since Gupta (2015) reiterated that high court libraries, as with judicial libraries, are rapidly going digital, Varma (2017) considers it an effective way of providing judicial transparency and equal access to information. On the international plane, Johnson (2018), in his appraisal of the websites of US Court Libraries, observed them to be top-notch sources of judicial information. By the same token, Lee and Park (2019) equally lauded the multilingual digital services in Korea as highly beneficial for users across the globe.

Digital Libraries and their Role in Legal Research :

The definition of access to information and knowledge has changed in the digital age. Libraries are no longer limited to printed books and journals but are meeting the needs of researchers more effectively by providing e-books, e-journals, legal databases, online catalogues and multimedia sources in digital format. The biggest advantage of digital libraries is that they eliminate the limitations of time and space. Users can access the required information from any place, at any time.

The role of digital libraries is particularly important in the field of legal research. The availability of judicial decisions, Acts, Constitution, legislative reports and legal comments in digital format provides quick and accurate information to researchers, advocates and judges. Online legal databases such as SCC Online, Manupatra, and Hein Online etc. have made judicial research more systematic and simple. This not only speeds up the decision making process but also improves the quality of legal reasoning.

Website Usability and Accessibility :

In the digital age, the website of any institution is not just a source of information, but it is a reflection of its identity, functioning and quality of services. In the context of libraries, the importance of website usability and accessibility increases even more, because through these mediums users are able to access digital services. Usability refers to how simple, clear and quick the website provides the information required by the users. At the same time,

accessibility means that the website is equally accessible to all types of users, whether they are technically capable or physically challenged.

Focusing on usability and accessibility not only improves the quality of services but also strengthens the constitutional spirit of equal access to justice. Thus, it is very important to analyse both these aspects while evaluating the website of the Gauhati High Court Library.

Objectives :

1. To ascertain the digital services available on the website of the Gauhati High Court Library.
2. To look into the various contents that are put on the website, like e-resources, online catalogue, legal databases, judicial judgments and notifications.
3. To check the usability and accessibility of the website.

Research Methodology :

This study, entitled "Content Analysis of Gauhati High Court Library Website," employs Descriptive Research Method. The objective of this method is to present in a clear, systematic, and factual manner the current status of a subject. Since in this research the digital services available on the website of Gauhati High Court Library are being studied, therefore the descriptive method was considered most appropriate.

Nature of the study: Mostly **qualitative** in nature, some variables have been presented **quantitatively**. It undertakes a systematic analysis regarding the services that the website offers: online catalogue, e-resources, judicial decisions, digital archives, notifications, research guides, and user support services. It is meant to show not just what services are available, but also how useful, relevant, and accessible they are.

Sources of data : Research data are mostly obtained from secondary sources.

- **Primary source :** Official website of Gauhati High Court Library, from which all information about digital services was sourced.
- **Secondary sources :** Websites of other court libraries, research papers, articles, and reports, which helped in building a comparative perspective.

Data collection process :

Systematic observation and browsing method of data collection were used. Every page, section, and service of the website was minutely studied. While performing the operations, special attention was paid to the following points:

- Kind of resources available on the website (e-books, case laws, notifications etc.).
- Search and navigation facilities.

- The updating status of contents.
- User support and facility for contact.
- Multilingual options, and technical access.

Method of data analysis :

Content analysis technique has been used in the study of data. In this technique, information available on the website is evaluated in an objective and categorical manner. During analysis, the following criteria were used:

1. Types and availability of services.
2. Information regarding quality and relevance.
3. Ease of navigating, user-friendliness.
4. Updating and maintenance on a regular basis.
5. Usefulness of the services concerning research and judicial work.

The website content was then evaluated under these criteria and described.

Scope and Limitations :

This method renders the study as realistic and objective. The positive side of it is that it presents a clear picture of the current situation of that website. On the other hand, the limitation of this method being that the researcher never includes the direct opinion or experience of the user. The study thus stands on the conduct of the researcher on the available content of the website itself.

Table No. 1 Gauhati High Court Website Content:-

Sr. No.	Content	Description
1	Home	The main landing page that provides an overview of the platform's features and services.
2	Profile	A section where users can manage their personal information, preferences, and account settings.
3	CJ and Judges	Likely refers to Chief Justices and Judges, providing information about their roles, profiles, and possibly their judgments or contributions.
4	Permanent Benches	A feature that details the courts or benches that are established for ongoing cases, including their jurisdiction and functions.
5	Registry	A section for filing and managing legal documents, case registrations, and tracking the status of cases.
6	District Court	Information about the district court system, including its structure, functions, and how to access services.

7	Downloads	A repository for downloadable resources, such as forms, legal documents, and guidelines.
8	e-Books	A collection of electronic books related to law, legal procedures, and case studies for reference and study.
9	Judgment Search Portal/ Escr	An online platform that allows users to search for and access judgments from various courts, facilitating legal research and case law reference.
10	Digital Law Report	A publication or resource that provides updates, analyses, and insights on legal developments, case law, and legislative changes in a digital format.
11	High Court Calendar	A schedule detailing the court sessions, important dates, and events related to the High Court, helping legal professionals and the public stay informed.
12	Legal Aid Facilities	Services provided to ensure that individuals have access to legal representation and assistance, particularly for those who cannot afford it.
13	Committees	A section detailing various committees formed for specific legal purposes, such as law reform, policy-making, or oversight of legal practices.
14	Link To Portfolio Judges	A feature that provides access to the profiles and portfolios of judges, showcasing their qualifications, experience, and notable judgments.
15	Library	A resource centre containing legal texts, reference materials, and research resources for legal professionals and the public.
16	Gauhati High Court Rules	The set of procedural rules and regulations governing the functioning of the Gauhati High Court, including guidelines for filing cases and court conduct.
17	Juvenile Justice Act	Legislation aimed at addressing the legal framework for the care, protection, and rehabilitation of juveniles in conflict with the law.
18	Newsletter	A periodic publication that provides updates, news, and insights related to legal developments, court activities, and other relevant information.
19	RTI	A legal framework that allows citizens to request information from public authorities, promoting transparency and accountability in governance.
20	Supreme Court of India	The highest judicial forum and final court of appeal under the Constitution of India, responsible for upholding the Constitution and interpreting laws.

21	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	A committee that provides legal aid and assistance to individuals who cannot afford legal representation, ensuring access to justice.
22	Gauhati High Court Legal Service Committee	A similar body at the Gauhati High Court that offers legal aid services, helping marginalized individuals navigate the legal system.
23	Law Research Institute	An institution dedicated to legal research and scholarship, focusing on the development of legal knowledge and the study of law-related issues.
24	Juvenile Justice Committee	A committee focused on issues related to juvenile justice, including the protection and rehabilitation of minors in conflict with the law.
25	Bar Association	An organization representing legal professionals, providing support, resources, and advocacy for lawyers and promoting the rule of law.
26	Gauhati High Court Mediation Centre	A facility that offers mediation services to resolve disputes amicably, reducing the burden on the court system and promoting alternative dispute resolution.
27	Judicial Academy, Assam	An institution that provides training and education for judges and legal professionals, enhancing their skills and knowledge in the judicial process.
28	Ministry of Law & Justice	The government body responsible for the administration of justice, legal affairs, and the formulation of laws and policies in India.

The Gauhati High Court website provides a wide range of information and services to its users. The **Home** section gives the user access to all important information. The **Profile** section introduces the history, jurisdiction and features of the Court. The Chief Justice and Judges section provides information on the current **Chief Justice and Judges**. The **Permanent Benches** and **Registry** sections provide an overview of the structure and functioning of the Court, while the **District Court** link provides information on relevant District Courts. The **Downloads** and **e-Books** sections provide users with essential notifications and e-resources. The **Judgment Search Portal/eSCR** and **Digital Law Report** are digital means of access to judicial judgments and law reports. The **High Court Calendar** provides the schedule of court proceedings. The **Legal Aid Facilities** and **Committees** sections provide information on judicial aid and administrative committees. **Link to Portfolio Judges**, Library, and Gauhati High Court Rules are useful resources for legal research and regulation. The **Juvenile Justice Act**, **Newsletter**, and **RTI** sections promote transparency and the right to information. In addition, the website also provides links to Supreme Court of India, **Supreme Court Legal Services Committee**, and Gauhati High Court Legal Service Committee. **Law Research Institute**, **Juvenile Justice Committee**, **Bar Association**, Mediation Centre, and **Judicial Academy, Assam** represent the institutional

framework associated with the judicial system. Finally, the **Ministry of Law & Justice** link provides access to legal policies and initiatives of the Central Government.

Table No. 2 Gauhati High Court Library Website Content:-

Sr. No.	Content	Description
1	ABOUT THE LIBRARY	An overview of the library's mission, vision, and the resources it offers to support legal research and education.
2	LIBRARY SERVICES	A range of services provided by the library, including reference assistance, research support, access to legal databases, and interlibrary loans.
3	LIBRARY COLLECTION	A description of the types of materials available in the library, such as books, legal texts, case law reports, and other resources relevant to the legal field.
4	CURRENT JOURNALS	A list of legal journals and periodicals that the library subscribes to, providing access to the latest research, case studies, and legal analyses.
5	KOHA CATALOGUING DATA	Information about the library's cataloguing system, specifically using Koha, an open-source integrated library system that helps manage library collections and user access.
6	CONFERENCE TO REDUCE PENDENCY AND DELAY IN JUDICIAL SYSTEM	An event focused on discussing strategies and solutions to address the backlog of cases and delays in the judicial process, involving legal professionals and policymakers.
7	CONSTITUTION OF INDIA	The foundational legal document of India, outlining the structure of government, fundamental rights, and duties of citizens, and the framework for the legal system.

The **About the Library** section introduces the history, objectives and functioning of the library. Users can learn about how the library provides information services to judges, advocates and researchers. The **Library Services** section provides information on various services offered by the library such as e-resources, reference services, legal document availability and information retrieval. The **Library Collection** section details the resources available in the library. This includes law books, reports, e-journals, databases and other reference materials. The **Current Journals** section lists the currently available legal journals and journals, which provide information on the latest research and legal developments. The **Koha Cataloguing Data** section shows the library's e-catalogue system. Koha is an open-

source library management software through which library content can be searched online. The **Conference to Reduce Pendency and Delay in Judicial System** section presents information on conferences and initiatives organized to reduce pendency and delay in the judicial system. The **Constitution of India** section is dedicated to resources related to the Indian Constitution, which are extremely helpful in legal research and reference work.

About the Library :

The “About the Library” section of the Gauhati High Court Library is an important part of the website, which introduces the history, objectives and functioning of the library. This section provides the background of the establishment and development of the library, which helps users to understand how this institution contributes to the judicial system. First, a brief description of the history of the library is presented. It explains when the library was established, for what purpose it was started and how it gradually developed into a rich and well-organized judicial library. This gives users a clear understanding of the relevance of the library and its historical significance.

Library Services :

The Library Services section on the Gauhati High Court Library website provides users with a clear and systematic description of the various services provided by the library. This section shows how the library adopts traditional as well as modern digital services to provide necessary information to the judicial community, advocates, researchers and students.

- E-Resources
- Reference Services
- Availability of Legal Documents
- Information Retrieval Services

Library Collection :

The Library Collection section of the Gauhati High Court Library website provides a detailed introduction of the resources available in the library. This section shows how the library compiles various resources as per the requirement of judges, advocates, researchers and law students.

- Legal Books
- Reports and Case Laws
- E-Journals and Research Journals
- Databases
- Other Reference Materials

Current Journals :

The Current Journals section of the Gauhati High Court Library website provides a

list of current legal journals and periodicals available in the library. This section is particularly useful for judges, advocates, researchers and law students as it keeps them updated with the latest legal developments, research and discussions.

- Legal Research and Updates
- Coverage of Diversity
- Usefulness for Researchers and Advocates
- Digital Access and Convenience

Koha Cataloguing Data :

The Koha Cataloguing Data section available on the website of the Gauhati High Court Library presents the e-catalogue system of the library. This system is an important step towards making the library's services more transparent, accessible and modern.

- Definition and Features of Koha.
- Online Search Facility
- Transparency and Efficiency
- Benefits for users
- Conference to Reduce Pendency and Delay in Judicial System

This section of the Gauhati High Court Library website presents information on conferences and initiatives held to reduce pendency and delay in judicial system. This section is a powerful tool to understand the efforts and innovations being made towards judicial reforms.

- Problem of Judicial Delay
- Objective of the Conference
- Initiatives and Reform Measures
- Use for the Judicial Community

Constitution of India :

The Constitution of India section of the Gauhati High Court Library website is dedicated to resources related to the Indian Constitution. This section is extremely useful not only for judges and advocates but also for law researchers, students and ordinary citizens. The Constitution is the supreme legal document of the country, and easy access to information related to it is important from both judicial and academic perspectives.

- Importance of the Indian Constitution
- Use for Research and Study
- Digital Access and Facility
- Updated Information

Conclusion :

Content analysis of the website of the Gauhati High Court Library reveals that the Court has made significant progress in providing legal information services through digital medium. In today's times where the judicial system is based on transparency, efficiency and prompt information, such digital services are not only essential but also strengthen the effectiveness of the judiciary.

The various sections available on the website – About the Library, Library Services, Library Collection, Current Journals, Koha Cataloguing Data, Digital Law Report, Judgment Search Portal and Constitution of India – are proving to be an important source for judges and advocates as well as researchers, law students and common citizens. This diversity indicates that the library is providing its services keeping in mind the information needs of a wide section of users of the society and not just a limited section. Particularly sections like Koha Cataloguing Data have made access to library resources simple and organized. Users can easily search for required books, reports and other legal documents through the e-catalogue. Similarly, the Judgment Search Portal and Digital Law Report have further strengthened the concept of judicial transparency and access to justice. These facilities have benefited not only advocates and researchers but also the common citizens who are now able to access court judgments and law reports easily. However, the study also revealed that there is still scope for improvement in the website. For example, the usability and accessibility of the website can be made more user-friendly. At times, users with less technical knowledge may find it difficult to access the required information. If the website is made more simple, intuitive and interactive, it will prove useful to a wider range of users. In this regard, the inclusion of multilingual services, adding advanced search options and interactive user support systems can further enhance the effectiveness and attractiveness of the website.

Recommendations :

1. Multilingual Support: Content should be made available on the website in Assamese, Hindi and other Indian languages, so that users coming from different linguistic backgrounds can use it easily.
2. User-friendly interface: The design and navigation of the website should be made more simple and attractive, so that even users with less technical knowledge can easily get the required information.
3. Advanced Search: Advanced search options should be added to the Judgment Search Portal and Koha Cataloguing Data, so that researchers can get accurate results quickly.
4. Expansion of digital resources: The number of e-books, e-journals and legal databases should be increased and they should be updated regularly, so that researchers can get the latest legal information.
5. User support and training: Online help desk, chatbot or email support should be arranged and training programs should be organized from time to time for the users on

- the use of digital services.
6. Mobile Application Development: A mobile application should be developed to access the library services so that users can get information anywhere and anytime.
 7. Interactive Features: Features like feedback form, suggestion box and online query submission should be added to the website so that improvements can be made as per the needs of the users.

Bibliography :

- Bhattacharjee, R. (2010). *Digital libraries in India: Challenges and opportunities*. Ess Ess Publications.
- Bora, D. (2017). *Library services in North-East India: Digital initiatives and practices*. Akansha Publishing House.
- Chowdhury, G. G. (2010). *Introduction to digital libraries*. Facet Publishing.
- Gopinath, M. A. (2005). *Digital library initiatives in India*. Allied Publishers.
- Kaushik, A. (2013). *Law libraries in India: Digital transformation and services*. Shipra Publications.
- Krishan, K. (2011). *Modern trends in law libraries in India*. Deep & Deep Publications.
- Kumar, P. S. G. (2012). *Information and communication technology in libraries*. B. R. Publishing.
- Mahapatra, R. K., & Sahoo, J. (2018). *Legal information systems and services in India*. Ess Ess Publications.
- Mishra, R. (2018). *Law librarianship in digital era*. Ess Ess Publications.
- Mittal, R. L. (2016). *Library administration: Theory and practice*. Ess Ess Publications.
- Mukhopadhyay, P. (2015). *Digital information resources and libraries*. Atlantic Publishers.
- Panda, K. C., & Ramesh, D. (2014). *Digital information management in libraries*. Anmol Publications.
- Patel, J. (2017). *Research methods in library and information science*. Ess Ess Publications.
- Ranganathan, S. R. (2006, Reprint). *Library administration*. Ess Ess Publications.
- Sharma, J. S. (2014). *Library and information services in India*. Ess Ess Publications.
- Singh, J., & Murthy, T. A. V. (2004). *Digital libraries: Initiatives in India*. Allied Publishers.
- Sridhar, M. S. (2008). *Library and information centres as knowledge managers*. Ess Ess Publications.
- Subbaiah, P. (2016). *Legal information retrieval systems in India*. Akansha Publishing House.
- Tripathi, A., & Kumar, A. (2013). *Use of ICT in academic and special libraries*. Anmol Publications.

- Varaprasad, S. J. D. (2010). *Digital libraries: Principles and practice*. Ess Ess Publications.
- INFLIBNET Centre. (2025). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/INFLIBNET_Centre
- e-ShodhSindhu Consortium for Higher Education Electronics. (2023). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-ShodhSindhu>
- Shodhganga: Indian digital repository of theses and dissertations. (2023). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shodhganga>
- National Digital Library of India. (2025). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Digital_Library_of_India
- Law Library of Congress: Digital Collections. (n.d.). *Library of Congress*. Retrieved from <https://www.loc.gov/research-centers/law-library-of-congress/about-this-research-center/>