Introduction

Electronic resources such as digital libraries continue to evolve and proliferate, offering on-campus and distance learners a multitude of information sources such as Web-based catalogs, online full-text databases, indices, an entire plethora of electronic and digital objects. Digital library services that include access to online reference librarians, electronic texts and full-text databases are now a reality. Existing models include the collaborative effort involving the Libraries offering a twenty-four hour a day, seven days a week, world-wide online reference service. The increased availability of Internet-based services and resources has fueled a corresponding acceleration in the expectations of library users.

At the same time, libraries find an expanding chunk of their annual budgets most Indian University Libraries are presently based on the model of providing access to organized collections, assist the users in information search and circulate documents within the stipulated period of time. Some have automated their operations for greater efficiency and provide additional facilities for use of the Internet and e-journals. These services are not enough to meet the information service requirements of emerging knowledge society (Chakravarty, 2005; Jansen, 2006). Moreover, university libraries now have no monopoly for providing academic information, as alternatives are available for accessing academic information. University libraries are thus also facing fierce competition from alternative information services. In such a situation what strategies we should have in place for converting them into knowledge resources and service centers?

Information retrieval (IR) deals with the representation, preservation, organization of, and access to information items. The representation and organization of the information items should provide the user with easy access to the information in which he is interested. In the past 20 years, the area of information retrieval has grown well beyond its primary goals of indexing text and searching for useful documents in a collection. Nowadays, research in IR includes modeling, document classification and categorization, systems architecture, user interfaces, data visualization, filtering, Data Mining, Image and
Sound, Videos languages, etc. Despite its maturity, until recently, IR was seen as a narrow area of interest mainly to librarians and information experts. Such a tendentious vision prevailed for many years, despite the rapid dissemination, among users of modern personal computers, of IR tools for multimedia and hypertext applications. In the beginning of the 1990s, a single fact changed once and for all these perceptions – the introduction of the World Wide Web.

The subject of information retrieval is thus developing through application of the matrix notation, probability theory, optimization techniques, pattern recognition, and system analysis, through which operations are reported by mathematical models that may be.

Retrieval techniques include those techniques that help users construct their queries. For example, some have online tutorials that guide users through the techniques available; basic and advanced searches using Boolean operators, proximity, lateral searching, query-by-example, and re-run saved search strategies. Some retrieval techniques are common among the database providers, and some are unique. Common retrieval techniques are defined here as the techniques offered and made available by five or more database providers; while unique techniques are those techniques offered by less than five database providers. Users expect a set of retrieval techniques to solve their retrieval tasks. It is possible that users may encounter problems related to retrieval even with common techniques since each piece of information need requires different approaches to, conduct searches. Since all these possibilities are just predictions made based on a review of the relevant literature, it is important to conduct a study that examines the preservation and retrieval techniques, problems faced by librarians and users in applying these techniques to their retrieval tasks, and techniques that help them, retrieve needed items. The aim of this study was to examine the, retrieval techniques as offered and made available by database providers. The objectives are to identify the preservation and retrieval techniques offered by selected database providers; difficulties faced in using the techniques; and the techniques expected by users and missed by the
database providers. This study intends to answer the following questions, different preservation and storage techniques, variety of data retrieval techniques, possible classification of all the data retrieval techniques, users approach to the data retrieval techniques and performance evaluation by the users among the selected databases available in the university library. Different accessibility feature of web interface of the online databases and it reaction of users, Different site feature of the online databases and its adoptability by the users, study of feasibility of site of the online databases and users interaction and reaction too, the difficulties faced by these users in applying those techniques to complete their retrieval tasks and the retrieval techniques expected by these users and missed in the database.