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Unconventional Data and the Precedent of Newspaper Clippings Services: Innovative Services at Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library, JNU, New Delhi

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ABSTRACT

Newspapers are essential sources of information as they contain current information in the form of news. In the current digital era, online newspapers and online services based on newspapers are becoming more and more well-liked and valuable. The information published in the newspaper covers every aspect of Socioeconomic technology, International relation, Education, Politics, Elections, research related, etc., around the world. These services helped libraries reach out to users wherever they were and saved users time. The newspaper clippings are also known as press clippings. This paper attempt to share the experience of proper clippings services provided by Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library, JNU. The JNU Library has also been able to conserve space to accommodate the library's expanding needs by converting from bound volumes of newspapers to online newspaper archives and from physical news clippings to online/digital news clippings.

KEYWORDS: Press Clippings, Newspapers, Current Awareness Service, Reference Service, Newspaper Archives, Online Newspaper, Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library, JNU *Corresponding author

INTRODUCTION

Press Clippings are precious sources of information. They are essential for researchers because newspaper coverage is so diverse. The information published in the newspaper is current and relevant. They cover a wide range of topics pertinent to almost every subject taught in the curriculum. For scholars, newspapers are the primary source of information. They provide users with news about recent and current events. Scholars can use these clippings for their research work and get all the information related to a particular subject in one place. Research scholars do not need to go to another place for their research. They get all the relevant information in their library. The newspaper has a unique place among the bouquet of sources of information, and they carry the nascent information on a variety of subjects concerning every walk of life, like - social news, national and international political news, economic

news, crime, sports, and games, etc. Newspaper, as the primary source of information, publishes many news articles of research value. In short, press clippings are very important information source for research and teaching, especially in higher education. The terms press-clippings and newspaper-clippings have been used synonymously throughout the article.

Background

Newspaper clippings, an excerpt taken from a newspaper (print/online), have been in libraries for a long time. Newspapers are significant sources of information; the growth and developments are visualized by including online newspaper clippings (such as Google News index platform from old newspapers). Press clippings service has created its importance in library services. Whether it is an academic library or a special library, the usage, and applications of newspaper clippings service are observed [1,2,3] for the context of quick, innovative, and authentic reference service; newspapers comprise a significant component in the reference library. Various instances and examples include newspaper clippings service at Indian libraries [4,5,6,7] since a long past.

The Patterns of Newspaper Clippings Services in India and Other Institutions

There have been few experiences in the past when such services have been declining [8], yet the developments took place with the use of open source software [9,10] search engine and font technologies [11]. Newspaper Digital Libraries and association of news clippings services have been visualized for user satisfaction [12,13] and broader contexts [14,15,16,17] in library services. Many examples in India and globally are observed with the continuous proliferation of newspaper clippings services for the user communities. The advent of few software, web-based flexibility, and diversity in organizations has paved the way for constant development in this service [18,19,20,21,22,23]. The user behaviors [24,25,26], as well as their expectations, are also altering the ways of provisions of newspaper clippings services [27] at various libraries.

The usage of current technologies and intelligent approaches has created new paradigm shifts in the traditional methods of newspaper clippings services in libraries. Diversity in digital devices such as mobile technology, open source technology proliferation, and anticipations of library users are becoming influential factors for the rising of newspaper clippings services in libraries [28,29,30,31]. Recent studies reflect that libraries are finding this service to attract users in physical premises and virtual arenas [32,33]. Web-based and digitally available full-text news clippings service is becoming an essential current awareness and reference service.

ADVANTAGES AT LIBRARIES

Newspaper clippings services can provide several advantages for individuals and organizations:

- 1. Time-saving: Instead of searching through multiple newspapers, clippings services provide a convenient way to find and access articles on specific topics or keywords quickly.
- 2. Comprehensive coverage: Clippings services can cover a wide range of newspapers and other publications, ensuring clients can access comprehensive news and information.
- 3. Customization: Clippings services can be tailored to each client's specific needs, providing access to articles on topics of interest and excluding irrelevant or unwanted content.
- 4. Competitive intelligence: Clippings services can also help businesses keep track of their competitors by monitoring news articles and industry trends.

- 5. Reputation management: Clippings services can help individuals and organizations monitor their media coverage and quickly respond to negative or inaccurate information.
- 6. Research and analysis: Clippings services can provide a wealth of data and insights for researchers, journalists, and other professionals who must stay informed about specific topics or industries.
- 7. No requirement for space

An old method of Press Clippings

Before digitization, newspaper articles used to arrange in the following formats

- Subject folder in Chronological order
- Subject-wise arrangement of folders







The Instance of Newspaper Clippings Services at Dr. B R Ambedkar Centre Library, JNU

Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library, JNU, was established in 1969. JNU Central Library is the center of academic activities. The library has a collection of 5 Lac+ volumes, which includes books, bound volumes of journals, theses, dissertations, Govt. and UN reports, encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesaurus, glossaries, CDs, ROMs, etc. Further, the library has a rich collection of 2 lakh e-books from various publishers. It has a comprehensive and rich collection of learning resources in Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Business, Management, and Engineering. Electronic dissemination of information is the focus of the Central Library, JNU. In addition, more than 8 lac of digital newspaper clippings collected by the Central Library, JNU, for more than 40 years is also available to users. The rich information found in the library will primarily benefit the students and staff of the University. It serves the academic and scientific needs of students/researchers and faculty of the University. Since 1974, the Central Library has offered its patrons one of its premium services: newspaper clippings. The Press-Clippings Information Service and Newspapers Service were highly beneficial and in high demand by researchers at the JNU and other higher education institutions before the arrival of online newspapers. The primary goal of Press Clipping Services is to dispose of references on trending issues quickly. International relations, bilateral relations, the economy, trade, political parties, the National Education Policy, natural disasters, the environment, women's studies, elections, education, etc., are the principal subjects covered by the press clippings collection.

NEED FOR DIGITIZATION OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

The Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library, JNU, started a collection of press clippings that must be digitized to preserve for future use and improve user accessibility.

- Restricted access
- Quality of the paper is deficient
- Loss of clippings during use
- Space problem
- To meet the requirement of IT and online academic environment

OBJECTIVES

Keeping the priceless treasure of news clippings

Bibliographic Fields Captured:

- Title of the clipping
- Subject of the article
- Country or state of clipping
- Link to the press-clipping image
- Author of the clipping
- Name of Newspaper
- Edition of the newspaper
- Publication date

Newspaper clippings services can save time and provide valuable insights and information to individuals and organizations across various industries and fields. A newspaper clippings service can be a helpful tool for

individuals and organizations that need to stay up-to-date on the news related to their industry, competitors, or other areas of interest. However, there are also some potential disadvantages to using such a service. Here are a few:

- 1. Cost: Many newspaper clippings services charge a fee that can add up over time. Depending on the frequency and volume of clippings requested, the cost can become prohibitive for some users.
- 2. Limited scope: Even the most comprehensive newspaper clippings service cannot capture every news item related to a particular topic or industry. There may be important news sources that are not included in the service, or the service may not be able to capture news items from every geographic region.
- 3. Delayed delivery: Newspaper clippings services typically provide clippings daily or weekly, meaning users may not receive news items in real time. This can disadvantage individuals or organizations that must act quickly in response to breaking news.
- 4. Incomplete information: Newspaper clippings may not provide all the details or context necessary to understand a news item fully. Depending on the source and content of the article, important information may be omitted or presented in a biased manner.
- 5. Inflexibility: Newspaper clippings services typically have set parameters for the types of news items that can be requested and the format in which they are delivered. This can limit the ability of users to customize their service to meet their specific needs.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS SERVICE

Newspaper clippings services in libraries have greatly benefited from the use of technology. In the past, librarians and researchers had to manually sift through physical copies of newspapers to find relevant articles, which was time-consuming and often challenging. However, with the use of technology, this process has become more efficient and accessible.

One way technology has been used for newspaper clippings services is through digitization. Libraries can digitize their collections of newspapers, making them accessible online to researchers and the general public. This allows users to search for specific articles or keywords, saving them the time and effort of physically going through newspapers.

Another technology used for newspaper clippings services is optical character recognition (OCR) software. OCR software can scan and convert images of printed newspapers into machine-readable text, allowing for easy searching and indexing. This technology has benefited older newspapers, which may have deteriorated or become illegible. In addition, libraries can use specialized software to create and manage digital newspaper clippings files. These software solutions allow librarians and researchers to easily organize, annotate, and share newspaper clippings This technology can also facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing among researchers and institutions.

The Press Clippings Digitization Project's Phases

- Selecting the newspaper clippings,
- scanning them as a pdf at 300 dpi,
- capturing the newspaper clippings' metadata,
- entering the metadata into the newspaper clippings database,
- adding the newspaper clippings to the database,
- and publishing the database for the academic community to use over the campus LAN

Online Press Clippings

The ongoing task of digitizing press clippings is being finished internally by the library professionals. The library subscribes to the "pressdisplay.com" newspaper database, which is used to get online articles from newspapers and manually key-in the pertinent metadata for the database.

Steps for creating online newspaper clippings

Choosing a newspaper article from "pressdisplay.com," an online newspaper database.



The articles in the PDF files that can be downloaded are arranged in order of date and month.



A distinct file name is given to the downloaded files.



At the time of loading, meta-data are also recorded in an Excel spreadsheet.



Metadata is downloaded and recorded, and the files are uploaded to the server.



Articles are now accessible

Newspaper Clippings Service on JNU Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library Intranet Portal

Currently, there are approx. 8 lakh full-text newspaper clippings record in the database, which is easily accessible via the campus network. The Newspapers Clippings Service is accessed through the portal http://10.107.16.110:8000/cgi-

in/gw/chameleon?sessionid=2012101322403402283&skin=jnu&lng=en&inst=consortium&timedout=1 the link is embedded in the Digital services tab on the website of Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library.

Access to the newspaper clippings is through a search on the web OPAC within the campus by the title, Author, subject, and publication.

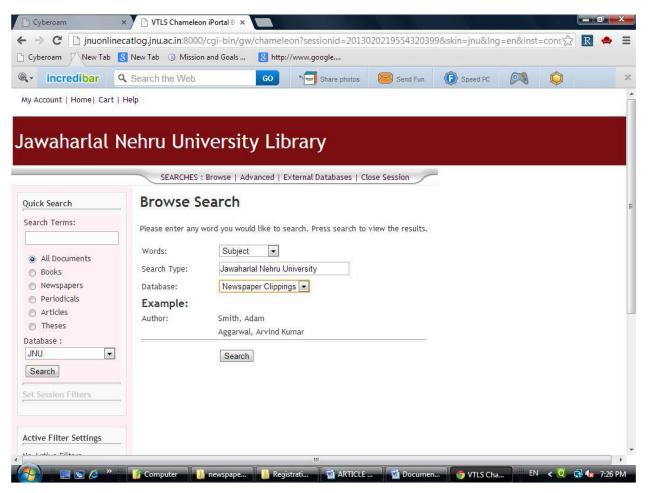


Figure 1: Search Interface

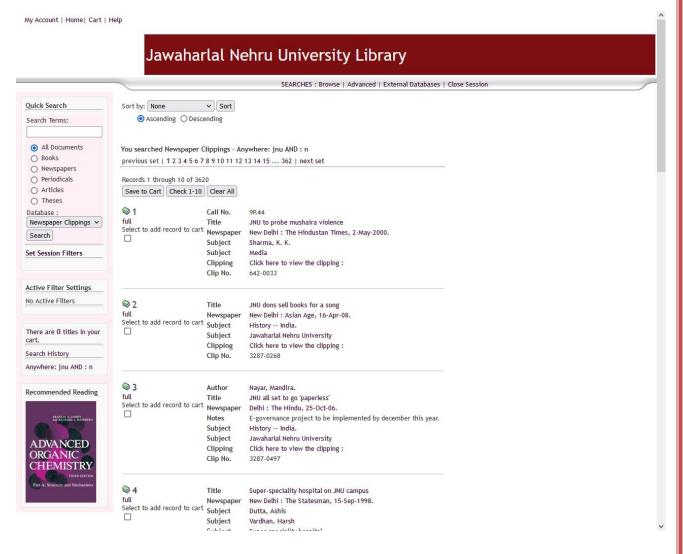


Figure 2: Title Search

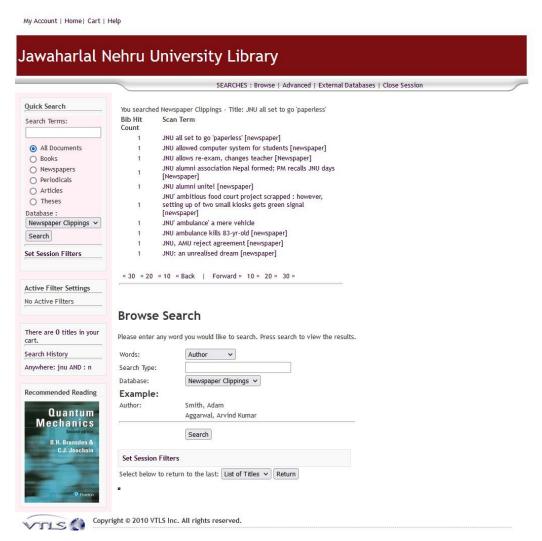


Figure 3: the title with JNU for targeted search by clicking the desired title link.

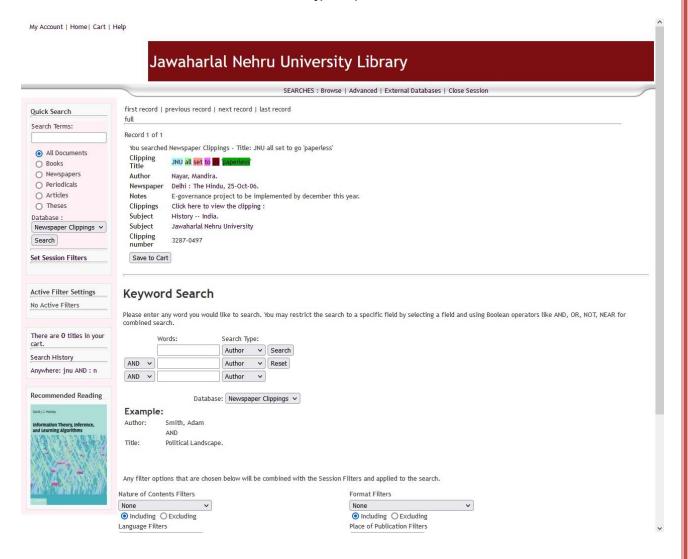


Figure 4: the title with the catalogue displaying the entry of the publication with the date and clip link.



Figure 5:- the newspaper article as in PDF in the VTLS Virtua Database for the service

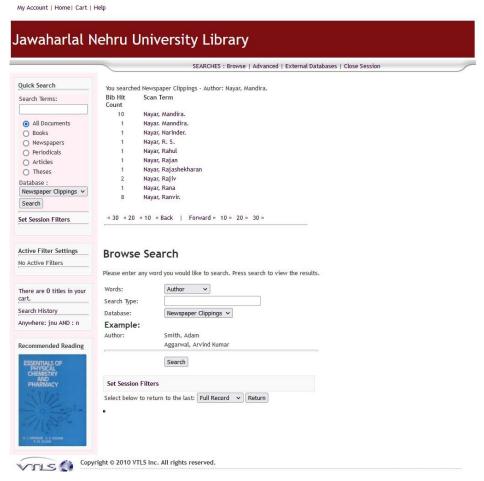


Figure 6:- Author Search in newspaper clippings service.

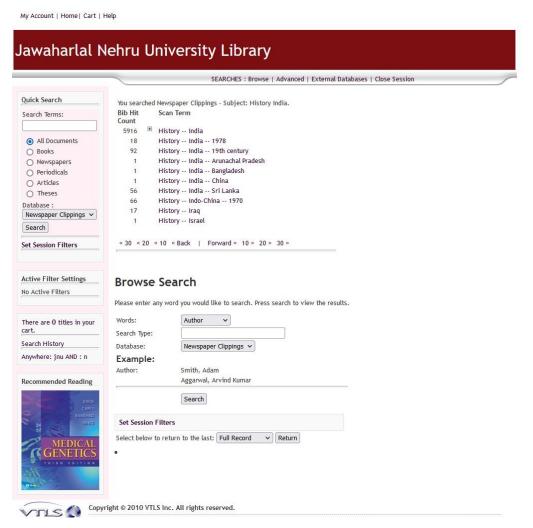


Figure 7: Subject Search

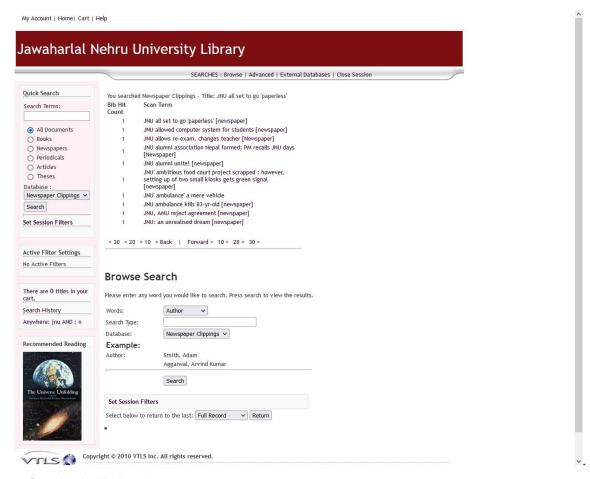


Figure 8: Related Title Search

Since there are many developments in academic libraries, especially towards appreciation & usage of Open Source Software, The JNU Library is also in transition of such effects, i.e., use of KOHA Open Source Software for Creating Press Clippings Database.

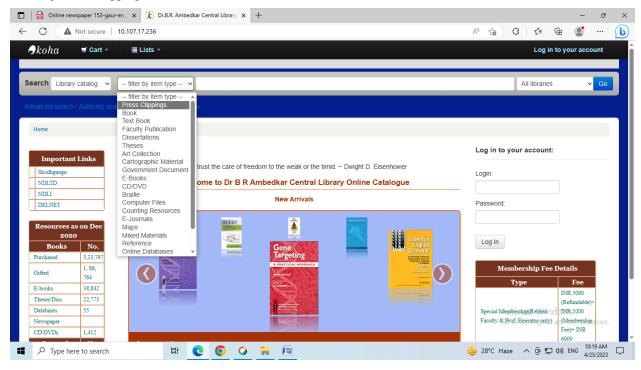


Figure 9: New Search Interface

The above screen shows the new search interface of Newspaper clippings OPAC using KOHA, an Open Source Software.

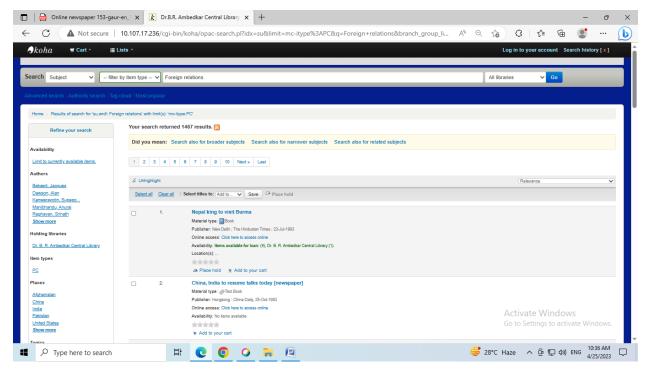


Figure 10: Search Results

The above screenshot shows the typical search results of newspaper clippings.

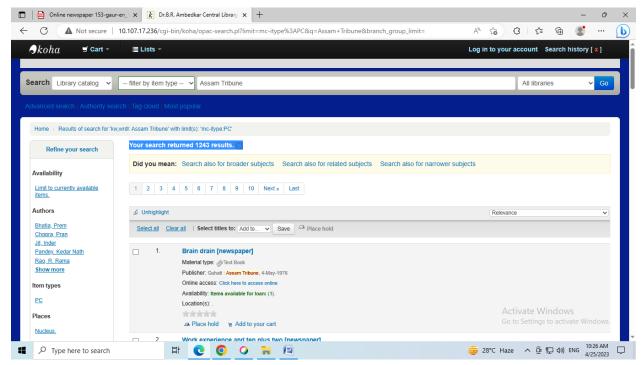


Figure 11: Search Results and records example

The above search results are based on the newspaper title, i.e., Assam Tribune, which shows 1243 records are available in the database.

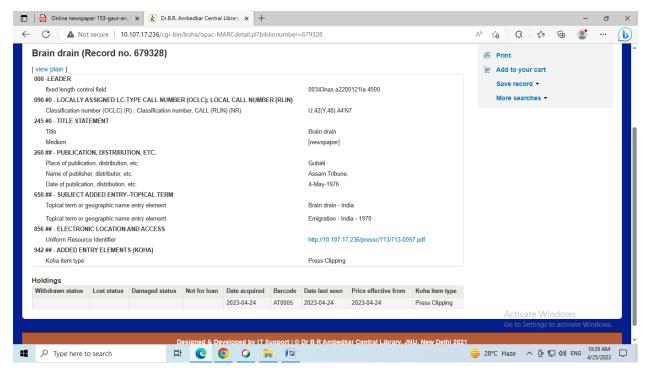


Figure 12: MARC View

The above screenshot shows the MARC view of the newspaper clippings.

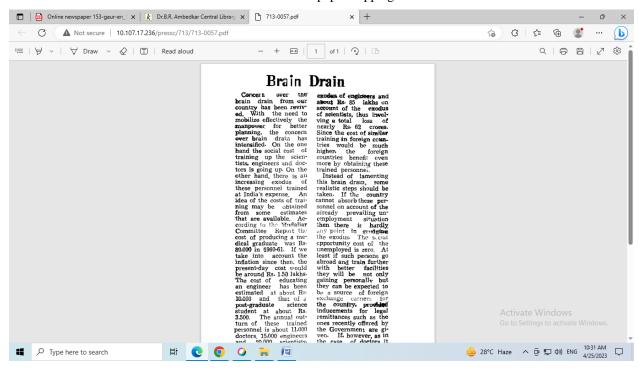


Figure 13: PDF view of Newspaper Clippings example

The above screenshot shows the typical PDF view of the newspaper clippings.

CONCLUSION

Accessibility to library resources and digital library services is feasible through newspaper clippings services in academic libraries. The literature has reflected the information services support for online learning amid COVID-19 through newspaper clippings services at university libraries. This service has emerged as a popular reference service

though it was initially categorized as a current awareness service. The application of open source software, digital tools, web-based approaches, and curiosity towards using unconventional methods to provide library services has paved the way for digital storytelling and augmented participatory inclusion of library users.

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