Abstract

It is very much difficult to organize resources which are available online through digital mediums. Day by day, the amount of these resources is increasing very rapidly. Organization of information resources is essential in a digital space where information are provided for the targeted audience. Information architecture is an important tool for arranging those resources so that people can understand and access the information provided in any digital information space with least effort and time. In this study, several components of website information architecture are utilized for analyzing the existing information architecture of the selected central government ministries' and departmental websites of India. In addition with that, this study has also made an endeavor to analyze and evaluate the concerned websites by utilizing different webometric indicators: analysis of domain name, calculating web impact factors (simple, external and self), retrieving domain authority, page authority and page rank of the respective websites, website link mapping etc. Web-based survey and observation techniques have been used in this study for the collection of data from different websites. Some selected online tools and techniques are used to retrieve data from the websites under study. The collected data have been structured in multiple tables and figures for analysis and evaluation. The search engine, Google has been used in this study for the collection of relevant data from the concerned websites. Results of the study highlight that maximum number of the selected ministries' and departmental websites present error in their content organization or navigation system. Chronological arrangement has been found in almost all of the concerned websites. Geographical scheme has not been adopted by most of the websites under study. Global and local navigation systems have been followed by all of the selected websites. All the ministries' websites are in a good and satisfactory situation under labeling system. Metaphor driven scheme has not been found in any of the chosen websites under study. According to domain name extension, maximum number of websites carry gov.in domain. The website of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCRA) occupies 1st rank under simple and self-link WIFs. The topmost score has been attained by the website of Ministry of Railways (MoR) under domain authority, page authority and page rank. The website of Department of Food and Public Distribution (DoFPD) holds the highest rank under simple, external and self-link WIFs. Most of the websites are not linked with each other for information sharing through their websites. Therefore, the current study provides a clear-cut picture of website information architecture. The study also illustrates the visibility, performance and link quality of the concerned websites. In the

concluding lines it can be said that, this work of research will pave the way for new approaches to the analyses of website information architecture. The outcome of this study will aid in the diagnosis of the issues and point future research in the direction of webometric analyses and evaluation.

Keywords: Information Architecture, Webometrics, Web Impact Factor, Central Government Ministries and Departments, websites