HISTORY OF GUJARAT: AN EVALUATION OF SELECTED WEBSITES

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ABSTRACT:

This is the age of information explosion and we all are living in this era. The growth of information is very fast. In any field or discipline we found lots of information. So abundance of information is a major problem that we faced today not only in print publishing but also in web publishing. Web has become the fast and reachable source of information in the current time. It is a more convenient tool for the students as it is easier to use and collect information to carry out research. But it has also got some problem in ascertaining information accuracy and relevancy. Web provides more than enough sources to the information seeker which may not be useful for his/her purpose. That is why the information seeker needs to be a skilled one, so that he/she can easily find out the suitable and relevant information from the source. And also it is very much necessary for the information seeker to be able to evaluate the information collected from the web. So evaluation of websites is become very important. In this current study the investigator has made an attempt to evaluate websites available in an important area of interest "History of Gujarat".

Keywords: Information explosion, Web, Website Evaluation, History, Gujarat

INTRODUCTION:

We all are living in 21st century which belongs to the era of information and its use. Presently information plays a major role in the development of the society and also in every step of our life. Growth of a country totally depends on how much information it can produce, consume and use. Information can be obtained through various sources like print, non print material, internet, etc. Now

a day's information can be easily accessible through the World Wide Web. The current trend is that people prefer to use information from websites available in internet.

The services available on internet have been increased day by day, which has become channel for communication where text, sound, video, graphics are easily available. It provides a wealth of information to the users. It is a source of up to date information for all the disciplines. It is very easy to use; both for finding information and for publishing it electronically.

OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of the present study is to evaluate websites on "History of Gujarat" for users who need information on this topic from websites. The precise objectives formulated for this study are as follows:

1. To select and identify good websites on "History of Gujarat."
2. To provide best websites on "History of Gujarat".
3. To evaluate the selected websites based on the criteria decided for their evaluation.
4. To rank the evaluated websites.

NEED:

There is no central governing body for Internet publishing. It's extremely easy, cheap and fast to publish on the Internet. There is no system of quality control; there are no editors; and documents can be easily falsified and/or copied. As long as the Web retains these qualities of freedom, it will also remain unmonitored and unregulated. This, therefore, leaves a large responsibility on us, the user, to carefully and critically evaluate the Web sites we use as information sources.

When we search any query on the internet it provides us immense number of retrieval. It is very difficult for the information users whether they are scholars or common men to find out the relevant and useful information from the web. In the internet list of abundant websites get retrieved as per the search strategy. All the retrieved websites are not useful for their purpose. Anyone can create a website and also can post into the web, so it is very difficult to find out the good websites. Finding

good websites on any topic is very time consuming and requires skill to judge them. To overcome this problem there is a need to evaluate websites available in various subjects and therefore website evaluation is a very important area to study. On internet when a user types a keyword on his/her topic, it retrieves many websites. At the very first sight it seems that all the websites that appears in front of the user will be useful. But when we click the URL of any one of the websites then it may retrieve irrelevant information to the user. The user has to check the entire website one by one to satisfy his/her need. It is wastage of time as well as money and at last he/she may not get any productive information. So evaluation of websites is become very important.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Through this study the investigator has made an attempt to evaluate websites available in an important area of interest "History of Gujarat". In this subject a large numbers of websites are available in the internet. Many of them are commercial and do not have authentic information and some have little information. So it is very difficult for the users to select only those websites which are reliable and can provide relevant information. Through this study, therefore websites providing information on "History of Gujarat" are evaluated systematically applying some approved criteria and at the end a list of good and authentic websites on this topic is prepared and ranked. The present study covered only those websites which are created by governments, institutions, individuals and some extent travel agencies which are good. Fifteen websites which are in public access domain were selected from the evaluation purpose. Only one website is chosen which is hosted by travel and tours' company. "History of Gujarat" is a very important topic not only for the people of Gujarat but also for the people outside Gujarat. This study will be helpful for the students, researchers, tourists and all the people who want to know about the history of Gujarat.

METHODOLOGY:

To collect data for this study, various methods were used. First of all to access the websites on "History of Gujarat" internet sites were browsed. Although a vast number of websites are retrieved only few were found to be relevant on the topic. These websites form as the sample website and are selected for evaluation.

To search the relevant websites popular search engine" Google" was used by the investigator. There are some other search engines like AltaVista, Google Chrome, Mamma, Meta crawler, Yahoo, etc. They also provided same websites. Therefore the investigator found it more appropriate to use the Google search engine only to make the search more appropriate but also to make the search more systematic. The investigator used eight general criteria for evaluating the websites such as Authority, Purpose, Accuracy, Currency, Coverage, Accessibility, Style and Interactivity. The investigator collected the data through direct observation of the resources on the subject from the selected websites and also visited a number of websites depending upon the links and also through the reference provided there. During searching websites and collecting relevant data for the study, the investigator faced many problems. A lot of confusion was also aroused whether to consider some sites or not for some reasons. Some sites were found out easily while some sites had not.

Data or content analysis method was applied in this study. At the first stage evaluation was done by going through the face value of index of the websites displayed by the search engine. Then the contents of the information of the websites were analyzed under the eight criteria which are described in detail in the next chapter. A check list that contained 22 check points under the eight criteria was prepared. To evaluate the content of each website against each criteria, two values that are: either value '1'or '0' was assigned to each check point. If the required feature was present then it was assigned as '1' otherwise '0' for its absence. Then the points were added to find out the total points obtained by each of the websites. After that the websites were ranked according to the total scores they obtained. That means the websites measured as well had scored highest points.

ABOUT GUJARAT AND ITS HISTORY:

Gujarat is a state in northwestern India, on the border with Pakistan and Rajasthan in the north east, Madhya Pradesh in the east, and Maharashtra and the Union territories of Diu, Daman, Dadra and Nagar Haveli in the south. The Arabian Sea borders the state both to the west and the south west. Gujarat has a glorious past in many respects. History of the Gujarat can be divided into three parts: ancient, medieval and modern. It has a very rich maritime history as the coastal area of Gujarat has spread over 1600 km. Signs of civilization in the region dated back to the period from 3000 BC to

1500 BC. The region was part of the Mauryan Empire in the 3rd century BC under the King Ashoka. In 1818, the English East India Company took control of Gujarat and administered the state through local princely rulers. With the independence of India in 1947, Gujarat became part of the state of Bombay. In 1960, Bombay state was split up, and Gujarat was formed from the northern and western portions, which were predominantly Gujarati-speaking areas.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVALUATED WEBSITES:

Here the investigator has described the 15 evaluated websites along with their URL addresses. The list of the 15 websites has been arranged in chronological order according to their date of retrieval. Each website has been provided with one serial number from 1 to 15 and this number is used throughout the entire study for analysis and presentation purpose. Brief description of 15 websites on 'history of Gujarat' along with their title, URL and date of retrieval has been presented below:

1) History of Gujarat
Retrieved on March 01, 2016 from
http://www.gujaratindia.com/about-gujarat/history-1.htm

This is an official website of Govt. of Gujarat. It provides a brief history of Gujarat from the ancient time to modern. It also provides the complete list of chief ministers of Gujarat till date. As it is an official website of the State Govt., it provides us authentic information.

2) History of Gujarat
Retrieved on March 01, 2016 from
http://nri.gujarat.gov.in/gujarat-history.htm

The website is hosted by Gujarat State Non-Resident Gujarati's Foundation (NRGF) Government of Gujarat. It also provides the brief history of all the districts of Gujarat.

3) History of Gujarat
Retrieved on March 01, 2016 from

http://www.gujarat-tourism.net/Gujarat_History.htm

This is a very useful website hosted by Gujarat Tourism. Gujarat Tourism (Venture of "Indo Vacations"™) is one of the leading tour operators and travel agents, specialized in organizing tours throughout the Indian subcontinent and has a large and efficient network. This tour operator is a member of IATO (Indian Association of Tour Operators) and recognized by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and is committed on code of practice as per its guidelines. This website provides lots of information about the rich history of Gujarat, its ancient cities, its political history, etc.

4) The History of Gondal

Retrieved on March 01, 2016 from

http://www.marugondal.com/history.html

This site is designed and developed by SAM Technologies. They have a team who are responsible to design and update the website. The website provides a very brief history of Gondal, which has played a very important role in history of Gujarat.

5) Dwarkadhish

Retrieved on March 02, 2016 from

http://www.dwarkadhish.org

This is the official website of Jagad Mandir Dwarka. It provides a brief history of the temple and also about the city 'Dwarka'. Through this website one can have an online darshan of Lord Dwarkadhish.

6) Somnath Temple in Saurashtra, Gujarat

Retrieved on March 02, 2016 from

http://www.shaivam.org/siddhanta/sp/spjyoti_somnath.htm

The website is hosted by Shaivam. The website not only provides the history of Somnath but also provides links to all the 12 Jyotirlingas of India.

7) History of Gujarat

Retrieved on March 02, 2016 from

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Gujarat

Wikipedia is the most famous online encyclopedia. It provides the history of Gujarat from the beginning to till 2016. It also provides many links on the history of Gujarat within the article.

8) Maharaja of Baroda-Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad

Retrieved on March 02, 2016 from

http://www.gaekwadsofbaroda.com/

This is the official website of Gaekwads of Baroda. It gives us good information about the brief history of Baroda and also provides the history of Gaekwads rule in Baroda. It also provides three e books along with the complete family tree of Gaekwads and lots of photographs and videos of them.

9) Glorious history of Ahmadabad

Retrieved on March 02, 2016 from

http://www.egovamc.com/AhmCity/history.aspx

This is a website of Municipal Corporation of Ahmadabad. Amdavad, the city of Ahmed Shah (Medieval ruler of Gujarat), is known for its rich past and its association with the Mahatma Gandhi. The website provides a brief history of Ahmadabad from the medieval time.

10) My Kachchh Panjo Kutch

Retrieved on March 02, 2016 from

http://kachchh.webs.com/historyofkutch.htm

This website is all about the history of Kutch. It provides brief history of Kutch from the ancient time. It also gives the photographs of the rulers of Kutch. The website also provides valuable information about Kutchy language, festivals of Kutch, videos, photos, etc.

11) Junagadh

Retrieved on March 02, 2016 from

http://www.royalark.net/India/junagad2.htm

The website is hosted by the Royel Ark and designed by Christopher Buyers. The website provides the genealogy of the Babi Dynasty and also provides link to the history of this dynasty which belongs from Junagadh.

12) The History of Kathiawad: from the earliest time

Retrieved on March 02, 2016 from

http://ia600305.us.archive.org/17/items/pts_historyofkathiaw_3721-1226/pts_historyofkathiaw_3721-1226.pdf

The website is hosted by Internet US archive. The book is written by H. Wilberforce-bell. This provides us a very in depth history of Kathiawad from ancient time to 1915. It also contains a map along with lots of illustration.

13) Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency Volume 1, Part 1 - The History of Gujarat

Retrieved on March 02, 2016 from

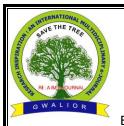**http://archive.org/stream/gazetteerbombay13enthgoog#page/n56/mode/2up**

The website is hosted by Internet Archive. This Gazetter was published by Govt. Central Press, Bombay. It provides us the history of Gujarat from the ancient time to till 1859. Its appearance looks like a physical book.

14) Idar (Princely State)

Retrieved on March 02, 2016 from

http://members.iinet.net.au/~royalty/ips/i/idar.html

This website is all about the princely states of India and it also contains information on Idar which was a princely state located in Gujarat. It provides family history of the rulers of this state. It provides alphabetical tabs and gives a list of states in a new window; alternatively use the search engine on the main page. Information presented here is based on available sources, which in many

cases will not be up-to-date. So when a ruler is listed as living or current but in fact died many years ago, it's a reflection of the inadequate sources rather than an error in compiling.

15) Salt Satyagrah and Dandi March

Retrieved on March 02, 2016 from

http://www.mkgandhi.org/articles/salt_satya.htm

The website is hosted by Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal. The website spreads Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy. It provides the useful information about salt satyagrah of Dandi which is historically famous as Dandi March.

ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF THE EVALUATED WEBSITES IN TABULAR FORM

1.   Ranking of the websites

Table 1 shows the ranking of the all websites evaluated under this study. This table has three columns which contain ranking of the 15 websites, total points scored by the websites and serial number of the websites. Among the 15 websites one website that is serial no. 5 in the list scores 22 points and stands top where as two websites score 21 points each. From the table it is clear that majority nine websites have scored 19 points. The least score is 11 and website no. 22 has that score. Name and URL of all these websites can be seen by visiting Table 13A and 13B which is provided in the later part of this chapter or through the description part of the websites provided earlier by the investigator.

Table 1

Ranking of the 15 websites according to total points obtained by them

Ranking of the websites	Total points scored by the websites	Serial no. of the websites
1	22	2

2	21	5
3	20	1,14
4	19	7,8,9,10, 11,13
5	18	3, 15
6	16	6
7	14	12
8	13	4

2.   The three best websites

Table 2 presents the three best websites among the 15 websites. This table has four columns: serial number of the websites, total points scored by the websites, name of the website and URL of the websites. 22 points is the highest points scored by website no. 2 which is titled as "History of Gujarat"

Table 2

The 3 best websites according to the total points scored by them

Serial no. of the websites	Total points Scored	Name of the website	URL of the websites
2	22	History of Gujarat	http://nri.gujarat.gov.in/gujarat-history.htm
5	21	Dwarkadhish	http://www.dwarkadhish.org
1	20	History of Gujarat	http://www.gujaratindia.com/about-gujarat/history-1.htm
14	20	Idar (Princely State)	http://members.iinet.net.au/~royalty/ips/i/idar.html

3. The 3 best websites according to criterion of accuracy

Table 3 contains data about the 3 best websites according to criterion of accuracy and has four columns: serial no of the websites, total points scored by the websites, name of the website, URL of the websites. The highest point obtained here by all 3 websites is 1 which is also the maximum score

Table 3

The 3 best websites according to criterion of accuracy

Serial no. of the websites	Total points scored	Name of the website	URL of the websites
1	1	History of Gujarat	http://www.gujaratindia.com/about-gujarat/history-1.htm
Serial no. of the websites	Total points scored	Name of the website	URL of the websites
2	1	History of Gujarat	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Gujarat
5	1	History of Gujarat	http://nri.gujarat.gov.in/gujarat-history.htm

4. The 3 best websites according to criterion of coverage

Table 4 presents the 3 best websites according to criterion of coverage. . First column of this table represents the serial no. of the websites, second shows the total points scored by the websites, third column presents the name of the website and fourth column Here also one can see from the table that total point scored by all the 3 websites is 3.

Table 4

The 3 best websites according to criterion of coverage

Serial no. of the website	Total points scored	Name of the website	URL of the Website
7	3	History of Gujarat	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Gujarat
8	3	Maharaja of Baroda-Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad	http://www.gaekwadsofbaroda.com/
2	3	History of Gujarat	http://nri.gujarat.gov.in/gujarat-history.htm

CONCLUSION:

All over the world lots of amount of information is created within a minute and whatever information was created was not very useful, authentic, accurate and reliable to the users. Therefore information evaluation is very important and now in electronic age when anyone can use internet to satisfy his/her information need. Information whatever is demanded can be found from numerous websites through internet. This retrieved information may not be accurate, relevant and reliable. One has check so that the said information can be used profitably. Therefore evaluation of websites containing the information becomes necessary in order to get the right information at right time with less effort.

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