



A STUDY ON RESEARCH SCHOLARS AWARENESS REGARDING E-RESOURCES

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ABSTRACT

Electronic resources are materials that need connection to a computer, whether via a personal computer, mainframe, or portable mobile device. It can also refer to any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, whether its text, such as full text databases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products, or numerical, graphical, or time-based data, as well as any commercially available title that has been published with the intent of being marketed. They can be accessible locally or remotely over the Internet. Electronic resources are becoming more and more required from users. Studies were conducted to ascertain the degree of use of this type of resource, how users feel about various issues relating to electronic resources, and whether attitudes change depending on the subject studied to ascertain the degree of use of various electronic information resources, ways in which they felt that electronic resources had hampered or improved their academic career, if they believed themselves capable of using the resources, would the standard of their work be affected by the use of the resources, etc. Along with these technological developments, many stand-alone CD-ROMs, which have been in use for the past ten years, are becoming more and more networked, allowing access from any institution-wide networked computer terminal rather than just the library itself, improving user accessibility.

KEY WORDS: *Electronic Resources, Electronic Journals, Technological Developments, Accessibility*



INTRODUCTION

In the higher education system, libraries play a crucial and fundamental role. Due to a static budget and escalating prices for library collections, academic libraries in India are having a lot of issues. A quick and dynamic transition is currently taking place in the library environment, giving rise to a new generation of libraries that place a strong focus on electronic resources. Over the past few years, numerous initiatives have been made to address the issue of the financial crisis by resource sharing through university library consortia. Two significant programmes for patrons of university libraries are INDEST-AICTE consortium and UGC-INFONET. Scholarly materials including databases, peer-reviewed journals, abstracts of proceedings, etc. are being made available thanks to these groundbreaking developments. Users of university libraries must benefit from these efforts, which will undoubtedly raise the standard of the higher education system in our nation.

Library A consortium is a collection of two or more libraries that have decided to work together to meet common goals, typically resource sharing. Typically, it relates to information sharing between libraries through cooperation, coordination, and collaboration. In essence, consortiums are developing forms of collaboration between libraries that come together to share resources electronically. Even in underdeveloped nations like India, it has acquired traction.

E-RESOURCES

The World Wide Web (WWW) and the Internet are the fastest and most comprehensive sources of information. It is the most effective tool for information sharing and global communication. The amount of material that has been published and is accessible online is steadily growing at an astounding rate. It has transformed how people access information and created new opportunities in fields like digital libraries, information retrieval and distribution, education, business, entertainment, and even government and health care. Finding high-quality web resources is important while conducting research on a variety of topics on the WWW.



An electronic resource is a source of information that is accessible online, on or off campus. Material that has been encoded for computer manipulation, including data and/or programmes. This content might need to be accessed over a computer network or through the use of a peripheral device that is directly attached to a computerized device, such as a CD-ROM drive (e.g. Internet).

Any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, whether it be text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products, or numerical, graphical, or time-based, is referred to as a "e-resource." E-resources are defined as commercially available works that have been published with the intention of being marketed. These could be transmitted over the internet, CD-ROM, tape, etc. Several methods and related standards have been established in recent years that enable the creation and distribution of documents in electronic form. As a result, libraries are utilising new media, namely electronic resources, to better meet user requests as a means of coping with the current situation. The collections of university libraries are significantly impacted by e-resources on magnetic and optical media. These are more beneficial owing to built-in search and manipulation tools, the cost of providing information access is less than purchasing information resources, there are storage and maintenance cost savings, etc., and occasionally using electronic form is the only option.

Today's consumers have distinct chances than those of their forebears thanks to electronic information sources. The user can re-specify their needs dynamically, obtain the information when they want it, making it "just in time" rather than "just in case," choose only the information required to answer the specific question, and only store the information if they choose to. These are the benefits of using electronic resources for the user. Therefore, compared to traditional print-based sources, electronic information might offer a number of benefits.

E-JOURNALS

Journals and articles from magazines to which the library has subscriptions are available online. There are Full-text and Bibliographic Databases in it. The entire content of an article, including the text, citation information, pictures, diagrams, and tables, can be found in full-text databases. Only the



citation information for an article—including the author, journal, date of publication, and page numbers—is available in bibliographic databases. An electronic database is a well-organized collection of data. It allows for versatile and comprehensive searching across a variety of fields, including journal title, article title, author, abstract, year, etc. The Library Catalogue only allows journal names to be searched, not article names or authors. As a result, using an electronic database to search publications on certain subjects, like peer evaluation in the classroom, is quite helpful. E-databases can be used to get specific journal articles that the Library Catalogue was unable to locate.

Libraries have been looking into ways to deal with the issues of ever-rising journal prices, space needs, and declining usage as the journals age. However, libraries are required to save copies of the journals' past issues, generally bound. Without considerably reducing service levels, electronic journals greatly aid librarians in addressing these issues. Any PC with a web browser can view electronic journals online. Depending on the subscription option, one or more users can use the service at once, either directly from a standalone web-enabled PC or through a proxy server in a local area network (IP addresses based access). Full-text searching and article downloads are further advantages of using electronic journals. Many electronic journal publishers provide their publications through consortiums of libraries at substantially lower prices. Two such organizations that operate in India are INDEST and INFLIBNET. The full text of articles in electronic journals can also be accessed through aggregator services, which provide links to journal websites and searchable databases of the contents of e-journals from various publishers. Some examples of e-journal aggregator services include Emerald, OCLC, and J-Gate. The biggest drawback of electronic journals is that libraries are unable to physically own them.

E-BOOK

An electronic book is a reproduction of a printed book with all of its pages (text, tables, diagrams, illustrations, etc.). An e-database, which allows full-text searching within and across titles, advanced search, and bookmark functionalities, is typically used to set up an e-book collection. Online users can read e-books in their entirety in HTML or PDF format. An e-book is a text similar to a book that is in digital form and can be viewed on a computer screen. E-books can be downloaded and read on a



computer screen or with a special e-Book reader like GemStar eBook, much like traditional books. There are also some more recent technologies under development, such as talking books in MP3 format and electronic paper, which is similar to paper except that the text can be modified. E-books provide benefits including portability, accessibility that is available around-the-clock, text search, annotation, linking, multimedia, and self-publishing options. Before e-books can be widely adopted, compatibility, e-book readers, accessibility, and intellectual property rights must be resolved. E-books are still in the early stages of development.

ON-LINE DATABASES

On-line A collection of data organized into distinct fields is called a database. Most databases allow for keyword and subject searches. An electronic database is a structured collection of data on a single topic or a number of related fields. An electronic database's information can be electronically searched for and retrieved. Journal papers, newspaper pieces, book reviews, conference proceedings, etc. are among the contents. Databases with structured cross-document search and retrieval, relational data structures, and effective query mechanisms are used to organise and store information.

WEBSITES

Single window access to numerous web-enabled library services is made possible via a library web page or Universal Resource Locator (URL). A URL could be as basic as a library web page listing the services with a few links to the catalogue and external free and paid resources, or it could have more advanced features like interactive help and value added services like subject gateways, self-help tools, and frequently asked questions. It could also host information about the library, like hours, a calendar, rules, etc. Libraries are utilising the internet's potential and computer power in addition to the traditional services that ICT has enabled to offer fresh, cutting-edge offerings. Its goal is to aid users in their quest to comprehend consciousness. It is quick and simple to use, and it keeps you up to date on news and information, to be able to read the most recent stuff from hundreds of websites from a single programme.



Information can be presented on web pages in carefully selected media that are best suited for the subject. Web sites can be static or dynamic, which means that the content is either the same no matter who views them or is pulled from a database that is regularly updated with new information. For instance, if the homepage of a website featured a "news" part describing recent news about a firm or event, the old news item would vanish from the homepage's news section when a new one appeared or had expired.

The most crucial component of a website is the content and how it is presented. It is the reason visitors visit the website and, ideally, tell others about it. The most popular and easily accessible formats for presenting website material are text and visuals. For instance, a website designed for blind or partially sighted individuals will be a non-visual website that makes the best use of text, spoken word, and sound (which may be heard via a text to audio web browser).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The universe or population is the sum total or aggregate of "all units/cases that conform to a given set of specifications". In survey research, the idea of population is crucial. "A population is any group of humans or objects that has at least one common attribute,"). The population of the current study is made up of faculty members and research researchers from the scientific departments of the five universities in Haryana, Punjab, and Chandigarh. The entire population of the study included 3005 people, including 734 faculty members and 2271 research researchers from these five institutions' scientific departments.

METHOD

There are several research methodologies that may be used to perform the study. The research method used will be determined by the study's topic. "The survey approach based on the questionnaire instrument was found to be the most frequent in social science research. "Survey research is arguably the finest tool accessible to the social researcher who is interested in obtaining original data for



characterizing a population too vast to observe directly," writes. "To collect thorough descriptions of actual occurrences with the purpose of using facts to defend present circumstances and behaviors," survey studies are done. "To obtain and analyze information by asking individuals who are either representative of the study population or the complete research population," according to survey research. In light of the aforementioned facts, the survey approach was determined to be appropriate and was thus used in the current study.

DATA ANALYSIS

"Analysis" is defined as "the calculation of particular metrics as well as the search for patterns of association among data sets". The kind of data, study strategy, underlying assumptions of the test statistics, and other factors all influence the approach used for data analysis.

Statistics entails two processes: (a) summarizing vast collections of data and (b) making inferences about such data sets based on sampling. As a result, statistical applications may be separated into two categories: descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

AWARENESS REGARDING E-RESOURCES

Table shows how knowledgeable faculty members and research researchers are about e-resources.

TABLE-1: AWARENESS OF E-RESOURCES

Electronic Resources	Awareness regarding e-resources					
	FM (n=200)		RS (n=400)		Total (n=600)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
E-books	198	2	394	6	592	8
	(99.21)	(0.79)	(98.56)	(1.44)	(98.8)	(1.2)
E-journals	200	0	400	0	600	0
	(100)	(0)	(100)	(0)	(100)	(0)
E-theses/ dissertations	195	5	383	17	578	22
	(97.5)	(2.5)	(95.91)	(4.09)	(96.33)	(3.29)
E- bibliographic databases	180	20	240	88	492	108
	(90)	(10)	(60)	(22)	(82)	(16.17)
E-conference proceedings	185	15	324	76	509	91
	(92.5)	(7.5)	(81)	(19)	(84.8)	(13.62)
Indexing abstracting databases	174	26	303	97	477	123
	(87)	(13)	(75.7)	(24.2)	(79.5)	(18.41)
E-research reports	187	13	296	60	527	73
	(93.5)	(6.5)	(74)	(15)	(87.8)	(10.93)
E-magazines	183	17	335	65	518	82
	(91.5)	(8.5)	(83.7)	(16.25)	(86.33)	(12.28)
E-newspapers	191	9	378	22	569	31
	(95.5)	(4.5)	(94.5)	(5.5)	(94.8)	(4.64)
Free Internet resources	194	6	394	6	588	12
	(97)	(3.0)	(98.5)	(1.5)	(98)	(1.8)
Open Access resources	186	14	349	51	535	65
	(93)	(7.0)	(87.25)	(12.75)	(89.16)	(9.73)
Institutional repositories	135	65	211	189	346	254
	(67.5)	(32.5)	(52.75)	(47.25)	(57.6)	(38.02)

198 (99.21%) of the 200 faculty members are familiar with e-books, and 200(100%) are familiar with e-journals. ETDs are known by 195 (98.02 percent), e-bibliographic databases are known by 180 (90 percent), e-conference proceedings are known by 185 (92.5 percent), and indexing and abstracting databases are known by 174 (87 percent). 187 people (93.5%) are aware of e-research reports. E-magazines are known by 183 (91.5 percent), while e-newspapers are known by 191 (95.5 percent). 186



people (93%) know about free online resources. Open access materials are known by 135 people (67.5 percent), and institutional repositories are known by 394 (98.56%) of the 400 research researchers are familiar with e-books, and 400 (100%) are familiar with e-journals. ETDs are known by 383 people (95.91%), whereas e-bibliographic databases are known by 240 people (60%). 324 people (81%) are aware of e-conference proceedings, whereas 303 people (75.7%) are aware of indexing and abstracting databases. E-research reports are known by 296 (74 percent), e-magazines are known by 335 (83.7 percent), e-newspapers are known by 378 (94.5 percent), and free internet resources are known by 394(98.56 percent).349 people (87.74%) are aware of open access materials, whereas 211 people (52.75%) are aware of institutional repositories.

As a result, it was discovered that all faculty members and research scientists are aware of e-journals. E-books, free internet resources, ETDs, and e-newspapers are some more e-resources with a high degree of awareness. Faculty and research researchers were found to have the least knowledge about institutional repositories.

AWARENESS TECHNIQUES

Table shows the replies to the means through which faculty members and research researchers learn about electronic resources. The responders were given the option of selecting various replies.

The most typical way faculty members learn about e-resources is "through browsing or seeking for stuff" (74.6 percent). "Citations in reports/ journals/ conference papers" (54.76 percent), "email alerts from publishers/ distributors, etc." (51.19 percent), "personal communication with friends, subject experts, and resource persons" (47.62 percent), and "searching bibliographic databases" (47.62 percent) are the other methods of becoming aware (46.43 percent).

"Announcements in journals" (30.95 percent) and "reference from the librarian" are the approaches that contribute the least to e-resource awareness (19.05 percent).

"Browsing or seeking for materials" is the most prevalent strategy employed by research researchers to



learn about e-resources (73.08 percent). "By personal conversation with friends, topic specialists, and resource individuals" (66.83 percent) and "quoted in reports/ journals/ conference papers" are two more ways to become aware of e-resources (51.44 percent). "E-mail alerts from publishers/ distributors, etc." (29.81 percent), "through searching bibliographic databases" (28.13 percent), "announcements in journals" (17.55 percent), and "reference from the librarian" are the techniques by which only certain research researchers learn about e-resources (7.69 percent).

TABLE-2: METHODS OF AWARENESS

Awareness Methods	FM (n=200)	RS (n=400)	Total (n=600)
By searching bibliographic database	117 (58.5)	117 (29.2)	234 (39)
Announcements in journals	78 (39)	73 (18.25)	151 (25.1)
Cited in report/ journals/ conference papers	138 (69)	214 (53.5)	352 (58.6)
Referred to me by the librarian	48 (24)	32 (8)	80 (13.33)
By browsing or looking for materials	188 (94)	304 (76)	492 (82)
E-mail alerts from publishers/ distributors, etc.	129 (64.5)	124 (31)	253 (42.16)
By personal communication with friends, subject experts and resource persons	120 (60)	278 (69.5)	398 (66.33)
<i>*Values in parentheses indicate %age</i>			
<i>#multiple responses were allowed</i>			



As a result, it is reasonable to conclude that both professors and research researchers learn about e-resources mostly by browsing or searching for content. Because relatively few faculty members and research researchers learned about e-resources through the librarian, there appears to be a gap between the user and the library staff.

CONCLUSION

These benefits include the fact that using electronic information sources is frequently faster than using print indexes, especially when searching backwards, and that it is simpler to employ keyword combinations with them. They make it possible to search through numerous files at once, which is easier to do than when utilizing printed equivalents. Since they are updated more frequently than printed tools, electronic resources can be printed and searches saved to be repeated at a later time. Their accessibility from outside the library via dial-up connection is one of their key benefits, particularly for distance learners or those with limited time to access the library.

Scholars face additional difficulties because of the internet and electronic information that lacks print analogues. As information is provided exclusively online, it is becoming more and more common for library service desks to get inquiries regarding how to properly credit these sources in academic papers.

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