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AWARENESS OF E-RESOURCES IN LIBRARIES FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

The speedy advancement of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) has brought revolutionary changes in information handling and provides various choices to handle varied data sources, handily and effortlessly. As a result, e-resources became the foremost for modern library's reserves in satisfying students, teachers, and researchers' varied information needs with minimum time. The use of computers has changed libraries' working and has become an essential tool for retrieving information. Electronic resources are a significant portion of library collections nowadays. The worth and use of information resources, considerably e-resources, have increased with time. Online sources have a significant role in science and technology in comparison to social science and humanities subjects. There are not many online sources available in language and literature, and those available are scattered. Therefore, there is a necessity to study the use and awareness of e-resources of language and literature subjects. The initial study deals with users' utilization of resources, further consideration by the research scholars.

INTRODUCTION

ICT has had a significant influence on every part of our life. Libraries have never shied away from ICT and are always working to keep up with new advancements and incorporate new tools and procedures in order to provide better and more efficient library services. Electronic resources have completely transformed the standing of libraries and information centers all across the world. "The user community has had a strong desire to obtain more and more information online. The fast expansion of electronic databases and current e-book technologies, as well as the development of ICT gadgets, have all transformed the landscape of informatics." Lallaisangzuali (2013), p. Because users nowadays want precise, comprehensive information at their desks, their attitudes toward information are increasingly changing away from printed materials and toward electronic resources.

Teaching, learning, and research are the mainstays of the academic system, which are in turn reliant on information resources. These "drivers" of an informed society are these information resources. Only by correctly storing, sharing, and utilizing information can an enlightened society survive. Both "education" and "library" are inseparable - indivisible notions in an academic setting, striving to promote and evolve teaching, learning, and research for increased use of academia" (Rao & Choudhury, 2009, p. 630). Electronic resources have had a "major influence on how the academic community consumes, saves, and maintains information," according to the report (Heterick, 2002, p.10).

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Users will benefit from being aware of electronic resources since they will be able to keep up with current advancements in their particular subject areas. Electronic resources, as opposed to print media, allow better, faster, and easier access to information, and hence are employed by them. "Electronic resources may be counted on for timely information, proving the statement "correct information to the right user at the right time" (Lallaisangzuali, 2013, p.2). Because of the obvious huge benefits of electronic resources, electronic resources are now a large element of most libraries' collections. Users may completely benefit from e-resources if they are aware of their existence, availability, searchability, and best use. Libraries and information centers must take proactive measures to bridge the gap between users' information demands and the availability of that material in various forms, particularly in electronic form.

TYPES OF E-RESOURCES

The two main categories of e-resources are as follows:

1. Online electronic resources, such as

- electronic journal (Full Text & Bibliographic Databases)

- e-books

Internet databases

- Web pages

2. Other digital resources could include

- CD ROM

- Diskettes

- Additional databases for portable devices

The sections that follow provide explanations of these elements.

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,

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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 organisations 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 organised 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-

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document search and retrieval, relational data structures, and effective query mechanisms are used to organise and store information.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Navalur, S. A., Balasubramani, R. et al (2012) E-resources are now fundamental to any serious pursuit of knowledge at the university level. Universities in India are spending heavily in expanding their electronic resource collections because they know how valuable they are for fostering student success in the classroom, faculty research, and scholarly inquiry. Bharatidhasan University rose to prominence in this fashion because it upgraded its infrastructure and made available to its student body a vast collection of high-quality electronic resources. This research takes a look at how commonplace various types of electronic resources are, how well people know about them, and how much they appreciate using them. Analyze the challenges that professors, students, and researchers at Bharatidhasan University experience when trying to use E-resources and the reasons why they do so. Managers that want to know if their initiatives had the desired effect on their intended audience and were cost-effective can analyze these factors.

Madhusudhan, M. (2010) Of course, researchers want the content to be made available within the scope of their skills and resources, so that they may access and use the data they need to fill the perceived knowledge gap. That is to say, the impact of e-resources on scholarly work is determined less by the underlying technology than by individual users' habits of engagement. This research also suggests that improved access to computing resources and faster internet speeds could increase the efficiency with which e-resources are used. Research scholars should be encouraged by library authorities about the obvious impact of e-resources and the importance of their need for research work in order to achieve the primary mission of the JLN Library, which is to provide maximum facilities to the readers and serve the clientele with the right information at the right time in the right way without wasting much of their time.

Ansari, M. S. (2020) Rapid progress in ICT has resulted in game-changing improvements to data management and the availability of new options for working with different kinds of data in a flexible and manageable manner. Because of this, e-resources have surpassed print books as the primary means by which today's libraries meet the information needs of its patrons (including students, faculty, and researchers) in the shortest amount of time possible. Computing devices are now widely used in libraries and have transformed the way information is accessed. Today, libraries often have extensive electronic resource collections. Information resources, especially eresources, have grown in importance and value throughout the years. When comparing science and technology to the social sciences and the humanities, online sources play a much larger role in the former. Literature and language-related resources on the web are scarce and dispersed. This calls for research into both the prevalence of and familiarity with the many online language- and literature-related resources available today.

Thanuskodi, S. (2012) The electronic representation of information is called an electronic resource. E-books, digital libraries, online journal magazines, e-learning tutors, and online exams are just some of the many formats in which this content can be found. These e-resources have supplanted traditional sources of knowledge thanks to their engaging

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presentation in a variety of media formats. Full-text databases, electronic journals, image archives, and multimedia files accessible by CD, tape, the World Wide Web, etc. are all examples of electronic resources. Some examples of e-resources are online discussion forums, data archives, e-mail, and instant messaging services. There is a vast variety of items that can be considered electronic information sources, including but not limited to electronic magazines, CD-ROMs, mailing lists, and databases.

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 computerised 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.

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

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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.

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.

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 utilising 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.

ADVANTAGES OF E-RESOURCES

Due to their simplicity of use, readability, affordability, and accessibility, electronic materials are widely acknowledged as the justification for starting to purchase them. The benefits of using electronic resources over print media include the following:

i. Multi-access: A networked product can offer several points of access at various locations 24/7 to numerous concurrent users.

ii. Speed: An electronic resource may be used much more quickly for browsing, searching, extracting information, integrating it into other materials, and doing cross-referencing or referencing between several publications.

iii. Usability: By using the search mode on an e-resource, a user can approach publications to examine their content in novel ways.

iv. Content: The e-resources can have a tonne of information, but more significantly, the content may include mixed media, such as photographs, video, and audio animation, which

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cannot be replicated in print. Other benefits include portability, physical space savings, convenience, and time and money savings.

DISADVATAGES OF E- RESOURCES

Because they can save them time and money, individuals are starting to favour electronic resources over traditional ones. However, as more and more e-resources become available, more individuals are becoming aware of their drawbacks.

- One drawback of using electronic resources is that they require specialised equipment or personal computers. In order to be compatible with specific software that may not be readily available, several e-resources are often produced. E-resources may be impacted by hardware or software failure because they depend on other devices.
- An e-resource reader's electronic documents are useless if the hardware, Internet connection, or battery power are not immediately available. Additionally, e-resources are more susceptible to damage than printed books since they depend on hardware and software, and reading devices for e-resources are unquestionably more expensive. Power is needed by all electronic resource devices. Growing worries exist that current e-resources may not be usable or compatible with upcoming e-resources software or hardware.
- Many potential users of e-resource technology are seriously concerned about screen glare and eyestrain. The eyes could get damaged when reading through an electronic resource reader. The print quality produced by a printing press is far better than the display resolution of computer displays and other electronic devices.
- Compared to reading from a book, reading on a computer loses the familiarity and comfort. An electronic text requires more effort to browse than a conventional book, which may be opened and paged through

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that majority of the students are aware of e-resources. Use of eresources is frequent among the Undergraduates, Postgraduates and Research Scholars. To a greater extent, research scholars are relying on eresources to access relevant information. But still, there are some students who are unaware of e-resources subscribed by the university. No doubt that the university is paying a huge amount for the subscription of e-resources, but it is the duty of library staff to make the students aware of e-resources. Some of the students are not fully satisfied with the existing e-resources as e journals related to their subject are not fully accessible or not subscribed to the university. Some other issues are also there as there should be more library timings for female candidates, personal database of the library should be maintained, Internet connectivity, and speed, inadequate infrastructure; more e-resources should also be subscribed. In the light of the findings of this study, it is suggested that the library staff should make efforts and organize some training & orientation programs for the students to create awareness about subscribed eresources. Infrastructure should also be

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improved as per the requirements of students and researchers. So, there is a need to improve the facilities and efforts should be made to overcome these problems.

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