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Impact and Usage of E-Resources: A Literature Review

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Abstract

The advent of Information Communication Technology (ICT) has brought radical changes in all spheres of life in the way in which information is gathered, stored, organized, processed and consumed. The changing trend in ICT has also impacted the work and working pattern of libraries. This paper provides a meticulous review of literature on Impact and Usage of E-Resources. Reviewed the published literature during 2000 to 2019 those reviews reveal that the use of E-Resources i.e. E-Books, E-Journals, E-Theses, E-Databases, etc. are becoming very common in this new technological era. As the academic libraries are mainly used by the teachers, researchers and students, e-resources have a great impact to their academic and research work. Majority of the users are dependent on e-resources and those resources are also impacted their reading habit in their walk of life.

Key Words: *Electronic Resources or E-Resources, E-Books, E-Journals, E-Databases, Academic Libraries.*

Introduction

Today we are living in the era of information explosion. Information is a dynamic and unending resource that affects all disciplines and all walks of human life. Since last decade, E-Resources or Electronic Resources have become a substantial component of the document collection in academic libraries. The impact of electronic resources in academic world is phenomenal, and leading to wide spread availability of them. The internet is constantly influencing the development of new modes of scholarly communication. With the growing popularity of E-

Resources, the existing traditional libraries are now transforming into Electronic Libraries in which most of the resources i.e. books, journals, theses, and other reading materials are available in electronic form and also adding more web-based resources to their collection. In this context, the present paper provides a review of the literature on various aspects of use and impact of E-Resources or Electronic Resources on the users of libraries i.e. faculty members, researchers, students and other users.

Sources Consulted: This paper encompasses a selective range of research papers on E-Resources published in national and international journals, conferences of national and international repute, commemorated volumes, theses and dissertations, case studies. These sources cover the time period from 2014 to 2019.

Structure of the Paper: The literature reviewed is organized into two related themes on the basis of the thought content directly drawn from the literature and presented chronologically within each theme.

The themes of the present study are as under:

- Usage of E-Resources
- Impact of E-Resources

Usage of E-Resources

Karunaratna, H M P P (2014) article titled Use of Electronic Resources by Law Degree Students at Anuradhapura Regional Centre of the Open University of Sri Lanka. The findings revealed that 93% of students have been used electronic resources but most of them were unaware how to use various electronic resources for their academic activities. Further, findings revealed that lack of computer skills and English language skills have also been affected to the usage of electronic resources. Their main barrier was insufficient work station with bandwidth. So the researcher recommended to increase the computer facility at ARC library and develop new courses and training sessions to develop their computer skills and English language proficiency.

Bala, Suniti & Lal, Payare (2016) in their article titled Usage of Electronic Resources and their Impact on Reading Culture: Study of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana disclosed that e-books, e-journals, and electronic thesis are the most commonly used e-resources among the students, other online databases are less popular among students, most of the students are of the opinion that e-resources have improved their reading habit and they are friendly with the

use of e-resources. Its use made them more confident and it drove them to learn the searching skills. The students prefer to use the library resources for their research but they opt to use their own electronic gadgets as they feel that the library has inadequate facilities in terms of infrastructure. On the other hand, most of the students accepted that the library has a satisfactory internet facility. The students accepted that the training to use electronic resources is provided by the library staff and they possess adequate skills to retrieve the information from e-resources.

Tripathi, Bhavana. Sonkar, Sharad Kumar & Rajbanshi, VishwasJeet (2016) in their article titled Use and Impact of E-Resources among Research Scholars: A Comparative Study of Agriculture and Technology Universities in Uttar Pradesh. Findings of the study are majority of the users are aware of e-resources and used e-resources in a month for the learning, study and research. The most of the scholars preferred e-journals due to ease of searching and browsing facilities. They are utilizing print as well as e-resources for various purpose. Majority of research scholars are not satisfied with the availability of electronic journals, internet connectivity and its speed in the universities.

Ananda, S K. et. al. (2017) The article emphasis the use and awareness of Electronic Information Resources (EIR) among UG & PG students of T John College, the study identifies the awareness of electronic information resources among students i.e. 81% opined that they are aware of Electronic Information Resources (EIR) and 19% opined that they are not aware of Electronic information Resources. Students use electronic resources for Project Work i.e.74.07%, followed by preparing class notes 64.19%. The students use EIR for Social Networking i.e. 56.79%, followed by 55.55% for preparing assignments and 43.02% for entertainment purpose.

Hosaini, SomayaBinta (2017) studied Use and Impact of Electronic Resources: A study on Two Selected Academic Libraries. Major findings of the study are maximum users of all the university libraries are preferred to use electronic journal than any other electronic resources. Majority of the users' use e-resources in most days which is a good sign, most of the users use e-resources for learning and research purpose. The users are highly benefited by using electronic resources because they get current information and the data can be retrieved quickly, most of the users get it difficult to find relevant information, which is a major problem of using e-resources, though some libraries provide orientation program, maximum users required to get presentation of different resources and IT training. Majority of the users consider that e-

resources save their time and money and they get up to-date information which is a great impact of using electronic resources. A large number of users indicate that they have a high level of success in research/academic work for using e-resources, most of the users feel comfortable to use e-resources.

Singh, Mridula & Srivastava, Rochna (2018) in their titled Use and Impact of E-Resources by the Users of Private Universities and Institutions. It surveyed the user's awareness about available e-resources in these libraries, purpose and frequency of using e-resources by the users, the factor affecting resource utilization, impact of e-resources and services on the academic work of the users. It reveals that the use of e-resources is very common among the user community i.e. faculty, research scholars and student's majority of these users are dependent on e-resources to get the required and relevant information. Only few universities and institution are having the required e-resources as per the running courses, but practical use of available e-resources is not up-to the worth in comparison to investments made in acquiring these resources by the authorities of these universities and institutions. Except this, infrastructure for the proper access of these resources is also not provided to these libraries. Library staff should conduct orientation and training programs as per requirements of the user community and make maximum utility of the available e resources in these libraries.

Vilgi, K S & Ray, Shibu, S (2018) The study revealed that 2/5th of them prefer to use both print and electronic format resources, purpose of 2/5th is to support the academic work, 2/5th of them opined as easy to use and one third are using electronic resources daily. E-journals are the most frequently used type of electronic resources, IEEE Explore database is used most followed by J-Gate, and slow speed is the main barrier in its use. Study suggests some measures to increase the effective utilization of electronic resources.

Akuffo, Maxwell, N & Budu, Stephen (2019) Their study revealed high awareness levels, adequate computer competencies, derivation of multiple benefits, use of electronic resources for academic purposes and inadequate search skills of most respondents because of the dearth of training. Constraints to electronic resources usage were access problems, search and retrieval problems and staff-related problems. The results also have shown that postgraduate students were very much aware of ACI-subscribed electronic resources, from which they derived multiple benefits, and which they used often for academic purposes. Thus, the extent of use of electronic resources reflected the multiple benefits derived, as well as the level of awareness.

Girakaduwa, Saman (2019) study revealed that 72.7% of library users aware of the electronic resources and services provided by the library. But, only 62.2% of the library users used the electronic resources and services. Most of the respondents used library Web resources, OPAC and past exam paper downloading facility, respectively as a percentage of 62.2%, 60.9% and 57.8%. In additionally findings were revealed that 46% of respondents used the electronic journals and Digital Repository System. Compare to the other services E-mail service and database usage were fairly low. Study has shown that nearly 37.8% of respondents had never used the electronic resources and services. User satisfaction and usefulness of electronic resources and services was 62.2% of the participants. Based on the findings, the reasons for lower usage of electronic resources and services were lack of infrastructure facilities, lack of user education and user awareness programs, English language barriers, and lack of IT skills and knowledge. Further researcher suggests to revise the curriculums by adding more practical sessions and establishing email or mobile alert update service to get maximum benefit of the electronic resources and services.

Prafulla, Andhe & Chowdappa, N (2019) in their paper quantizes the correlation of the current engineering curriculum with that of the electronic resource usage by the average engineering student. This analysis highlights the stages of electronic resource flow, the areas of maximum impact along with the various factors leading to the increased electronic resource usage and the highly relevant years in the span of a student's four years of engineering life. A comparison with the yesteryear's Engineering Curriculum demand and the current demand on the digital emphasis is clearly brought together to show the pre-dominant mandatory usage of Information Technology due to various reasons for a student of this generation. The demand vis-a-vis electronic resource usage based on the needs and policies of the affiliated colleges of VTU and the autonomous colleges also are seen in this study.

Ramesh, K & Jayaprakash, M (2019) in their article titled "Use and Impact of Electronic Journals among the Users of Periyar University, Salem, Tamilnadu, India". This study has made an attempt to examine the use and impact of e-resources particularly e-journals. Periyar University Central Library subscribes a number of e-journals to meet the information needs of its users such as faculty members, post graduate students and research scholars etc. The results showed that the maximum number of respondents was female with 58.33% whereas the minimum number of respondents was male. The highest number of age group is between 21-30 ages. The 40.38% of users was postgraduate students and ranked first. 47.44% of respondents were preferred to access electronic journals whereas 19.87% of the respondents

preferred print format, and 32.69% of the respondents preferred both forms of journals. It was found that the majority of respondents (40.39%) were using the central library to access e-journals by weekly.

Impact of E-Resources

Ajayi, Shorunke&Aboyade (2014) conducted a survey to find the Influence of Electronic Resources Use on Students' Reading Culture in Nigerian universities. The study revealed that the most commonly used e-resources amongst the students included e-book, e-journal, and e-news. 88.68% respondents used the e-resources very frequently and 90.57% respondents agreed that e-resources improved their reading habits. 71.17% respondents agreed that they would like to prefer e-resources to printed resources. The poor internet connectivity felt by 73.11% respondents is the major hindrance in effective use of e-resources whereas 46.69% respondents considered that inadequate skill to use e-resources is the major hindrance to make optimum and effective use of e-resources in the library.

Sivathaasan, Murugathas&Chandrasekar (2014) Attitude towards the usage of Electronic Information Resources (EIS) in medical library, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, conducted a survey on medical students and academic staff to identify the Impact of Usage of E-resources on Academic Teachers. The findings revealed that attitude of academic staff and students is different in the use of electronic information resources (EIS) whereas gender wise and age group wise there is no difference in the attitude of respondents towards the use of electronic information resources.

Syed FayyazMohsin, SahimaKhatoon& Shaikh Atique Usman (2014) in their study tried to analyse the usage and impact of e-resources by the faculty members of Sir Sayyed College of Arts, Commerce and Science Aurangabad. The findings show that users were using electronic resources; the awareness about e-resources encourages users to use such resources to the maximum; and the users are using Department and home more for accessing the information. The impact of electronic resources was visible from the decrease in number of printed documents in comparison to the increase in number of electronic resources. The use of e-resources has increased manifold. The printed material is being quickly replaced by the e-resources.

Kaur, Gurjeet (2016) studied the impact of electronic Information resources on user of social science in Gulbarga University. A questionnaire was used to find the answer of questions about the awareness and usage of electronic resources among users, to identify the level of

satisfaction, to measure the impact of electronic resources and to find out the problems which are faced by the user. The study found that use of electronic resources was not only affected by low speed of network and reading direct from computer but also lack of enough computers in library and paid access of information. The findings of the study indicated that a lot need to be done to increase the use of electronic resources and librarians should reorient themselves, think creatively and adopt the new technology to generate services and resources to increase the use of e-resources.

Natarajan, Manusamy (2017) his article titled “Use and impact of electronic resources by information science students at Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia” This paper aims to describe the use of e-resources and services provided at the social science library of Jimma University, Jimma. The paper is focused to find out the use of those e-resources by the students of information science and how frequently they are using, from where the information is accessed. Also, they have been requested about their preferences between an electronic and print journals format. It has been found that the usage of electronic journals is increasing; this is due to awareness among the students of information science about the electronic resources and services. Owing to an easy access available at various places in the university, they are accessing these resources at hostels and departments more as compared to the library. Their visits to library have decreased day-by-day.

Prafulla, Andhe & Chowdappa, N (2019) in their paper titled “E-Resource usage impact in direct correlation to the Engineering Curriculum”, quantizes the correlation of the current engineering curriculum with that of the electronic resource usage by the average engineering student. This analysis highlights the areas of maximum impact, factors leading to the increased electronic resource usage and highly relevant years in the span of the student's four years of engineering life.

Bhat, Nazir Ahmad (2019) in his paper titled Impact of Electronic Resources on the Mindset of Researchers studied the impact of advent of electronic information resources (EIR) on some core aspects related to the research activity across agricultural libraries of Northern India. Six aspects have been covered in this study. The response of the users for each statement under investigation has been collected through a simple Yes/No option. The majority of respondents are of the opinion that due to advent of electronic resources and in view of the ICT developments the literature survey (92.94%) and problem identification (51.81%) has become easy and fast. The spirit to conduct more and more research has increased among respondents

(86.62%). Moreover, this has also enabled the users to complete (84.31%) and publish (89.97%) their research work in a lesser time than required in print era. A 46.26% of respondents also agree that the cross comparison of findings of one's study with those of other studies has become easy and fast in electronic era.

Conclusion

Today with the huge developments in Information Communication Technology (ICT) the users' retrieval of information has been changed from traditional to and e-resources. E-Resources are playing a key role among the information sources amidst academicians, teachers and researchers etc. The importance of e-resources in academic library is increasing day-by-day. The above reviews reveal that the use of e-resources is becoming very common in this new technological era. As the academic libraries are mainly used by the teachers, researchers and students, e-resources have a great impact to their academic and research work. Adjusting with changing need and development could enhance the applicability and relevance to the scatter needs of library users.

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