

Awareness and Use of Electronic Resources by Post-Graduate Students in Technical University Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Sciences and Technology Haryana: A Study

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Abstract

This paper is attempt to study the issues of Electronic Resources, awareness and use by Post-Graduate Students of DeenBandhu Chhotu Ram University, Murthal (Sonapat) Haryana with a view to survey the exposure of Post Graduate Students to Awareness and use of electronic resources. Also it aims to highlight the problems encountered by the users and suggests some remedial measures for its improvement. A structured questionnaire was distributed among Full time and part time Post-Graduate Students, Post-Graduate responded to this survey. The study confirmed that the Post-Graduate Students are aware of the e-resources and various types of e-resources, e-databases and e-journals. It suggests for the improvement in the Awareness facilities and most particularly increases the web resources to support their research activities.

Keywords: *Electronic Resources, Deenbandhu ChhotuRam, University, E-Database, E-Journals*

1. Introduction:

Change is constant. The birth of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has drastically affected library services and resources. It has transformed the quest for knowledge in different

dimensions, not necessarily through the conventional formats. This culminates into intranet and internet. Electronic resources are information on devices such as net, hard disc, flash drive and CD ROMS. It could be in form of database application created for a particular organization that manages data and allows easy access, fast storage and retrieval of that data. Database can be edited to suit one's purpose or interest.

E-resources could be accessed via the aid of user name and password while some are based on the availability of infrastructural facilities and powerful network connectivity. Sharma (2009) opines that advances in computer application during the past few decades have brought radical changes in the way information is gathered, stored, Organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed. Librarianship originally known as a trinity of acquisition, organization and dissemination of print media in traditional ways has transcended and changed in recent times into acquisition, organisation, collection development, services and resource management. E-resources have become part and parcel of library services, with particular reference to Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Sciences and Technology Ahiazu (2012) emphasized that the ICT-driven transformation from librarianship to library and

information science comes with changes in the learning, teaching and research environment and changes in the behavior of library users. Therefore, there is the need to provide electronic resources and services which are maintained alongside the conventional resources and services.

Academic libraries are libraries found in Technical University of learning. These include universities, and colleges. The mission of academic library is to support teaching, learning and research of its parent institution via the provision of current, reliable and relevant materials that are well-organized for easy accessibility. Curzon (2010) opines that providing support for teaching, learning and research is the focus of a good library. To help in this regard, the library collections should be rich and diverse. Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Sciences and Technology as an ICT-driven baby institution born in the era of information technology has to embrace innovation. In this, its library as an indispensable component cannot be left out. It has to go extra mile in providing materials suitable to courses offered by the parent institution both in print media and electronic resources.

2. Literature Review

Mishra and Reshmi Rekha (2010) in their study reveal that the use of e-resources among the students of the library under study is primarily to update knowledge. The teachers of the university under study use UGC-Infonet and INDEST Consortium to find the latest information in their own subject and constitute the highest percentage for using the e-journals. It is also surprising to note that a good number of respondents are not used to e-resources of the library due to the lack of their awareness.

Masoumeh (2011) this study was to determine users dependency on electronic and print journals by the most frequently users of journals-research scholars and faculty in Iran. A total of 118 faculty members and research scholars were selected. The results showed that the majority of users had high dependency on electronic journals.

Omotayo (2011) finds that majority of respondents prefer electronic journals than print journals. All respondents were of the opinion that use will continue to increase. It showed that only 35% of the respondents had published in electronic journals.

Madhusudan (2010) in his article titled "Use of electronic resources by Research scholars of Kurukshetra University" concluded that electronic resources had become an integral part of information

needs of research scholars there. Further, he found that e-resources can be good substitute for conventional resources, if the access is fast, and more computer terminals are installed to provide fast access to e-resources.

Pushpalatha and Mallaiah (2009) found that Online Public Access Catalogue and assistance of library staff were the primary means to locate needed documents. About 58.92% post graduate students rated library collection as adequate to meet their information needs, whereas 40% research scholars and 83.33% of the teachers considered at partially adequate.

Patterson (2009) in his study titled "Research support through resource sharing: challenges and opportunities for Irish academic libraries" Even though the literature has indicated that academic libraries play a significant role on facilitating research, the overall support of academic libraries for research was not strategic. Instead of developing an extensive research collection, the libraries relied heavily on inter-library loans to support research.

Kaur and Verma (2009) on use of electronic information sources in Thapar University shows that maximum number of user accessing E-resources for their purpose. The impact of E-resources is visible from the decrease in number of printed journals in comparison to increase in number of electronic journals.

Thanuskodi, S. and Ravi, S. (2011) in their paper titled "Use of Digital Resources by Faculty and Research Scholars of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli discusses utilisation of digital resources by faculty and research scholars of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. Results show that 67.14% of the faculty is familiar with the use of digital resources, and majority of these members are using digital resources for research purpose. Study also reveals that majority of the faculty members are learning the required skills for the usage of digital resources through self-study. Majority of the faculty members and research scholars (55.71 %) felt that the information available in the digital resources.

3. E- Resources

The electronic resources are defined as "systems in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and computer networks". It includes electronic articles, Online-Databases, E-journals E-books, Internet resources OPAC, CD-ROMs.

3.1 Features of E-Resources:

- Multiple accesses speed,
- Rich content,
- Reuse,
- Timeliness,
- Anywhere access is some of the features of e-resources
- Not restricted to geographical location
- Access to current information Various search techniques
- Extensive links to explore additional resources

3.2 E-database

An e-database is an organized collection of information, of a particular subject or multi-disciplinary areas. The information of an e-database can be searched and retrieved electronically

3.3 E-journals

An electronic journal is a periodical publication which is published in electronic format, usually on the Internet. Search the contents pages and/or the full text of journals to find articles on a certain subject. It is important that the library has an informed perspective on how e-resources are used and valued by the user community regarding their awareness and use of these materials.

4. Research Methodology:

This study is based on Survey Method. A structured Questionnaire was designed to collect data from Post Graduate students of Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University, keeping in mind the basic objectives of the study. For collecting the requisite data from 50 Post Graduate students from different departments were selected. The data was collected from Post Graduate students by administering questionnaire on Awareness and Use of Electronic Resources by Post-Graduate Students in Technical University Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Sciences and Technology Haryana: A Study

5. Scope of the Study:

The present study focuses on the awareness and use of electronic resources by Post-Graduate Students in Technical University Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram

University in Sonapat district. It also highlights the present scenario of e-resources in the university library.

6. Objective of the Study:

The study was an attempt to find out the awareness and use of electronic resources and services by the PG students in Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University. The study was designed & conducted to achieve the following objectives:

- To find out the frequency of accessing E-resources.
- To find out the level of awareness of electronic resources.
- To find out the main reason and purpose behind the use of e-resources.
- To assess the current use of electronic resources by PG students.
- To find the suggestions for development of library resources
- To find the level of satisfaction with existing information sources.

7. Data Analysis and Interpretations:

Table 1: What is the frequency of using e-resources?

Options	Frequencies	%
More than once in a week	32	64
Once in a week	28	56
Once in a month	10	20
Less than once a month	06	12

The indicates that 64% of the PG students visit frequently for using e-resources, which follows 56% visit once in a week, 20% of them for once in a month and only 12% less than once in a month.

Table 2: Which of the following e-resources are used?

Options	Frequencies	%
E-Book	24	48
Databases	20	40
On-line journal/Thesis	29	58
Other	26	52

The response from the above table shows that 58% of the students use E-resources for Online

journals/thesis followed by 52% in others, 48% use for E-books and only 40% of them use for databases.

Table 3: The purpose to use e-resources?

Options	Frequencies	%
To gain general/specific information	32	64
To study course materials	28	56
To use web resources	10	20
To meet/support research work	06	12

From the table 3 it has been revealed that 64% students gain general/specific information. The 56% students gave reason for studying course materials. 20% of them for web resources and only 12% to meet research work.

Table 4: The place where e-resources are accessed?

Options	Frequencies	%
University Campus	41	82
Off campus	14	28
Internet Café	34	68
Other Resource	14	28

The above table shows that University campus access are of 82% which is followed by 68% uses in Internet café, 28% off campus and 28% go with other resource.

Table 5: What problems do you encounter while accessing e-resources?

Options	Frequencies	%
Non-connectivity	20	40
Inability to use computer	18	36
Too few computers with internet facilities	16	32
Lack of IT skills	15	30

The highlights response of respondents regarding the problems in accessing e-resources 40% says due to non-connectivity. 36% are unable to use computer. 32% say too few computers with internet facilities. 30% are Lack of IT skills

Table 6: What do you suggest one should do to solve the problems?

Options	Frequencies	%
Increase Bandwidth	32	64
Provision of more computers	28	56
Provide a conducive environment	10	20
Have stable electrical backup	06	12

The above table reveals that 64% students suggested increasing bandwidth. 56% say there should be provision of more computers. 20% say to provide a conducive environment. 2% suggested having stable electrical backup.

8. Conclusion

These days massive growth of information and communication technology has appeared as most significant medium for storage and retrieval of information. E-Resources are currently increasing as essential source of information for all current and emerging considerations and thoughts imminent into survival in the area of teaching, learning and research. Based on the findings of the study the following suggestions are made the University library as well as should facilitate more number of computers with internet connection speed for instant and bulky data at a time. It is suggested that the University library should arrange user awareness programme and training programs to educate the learners how to use the CeRA consortium to achieve their educational goals and should organize training programme to increase in use of electronic resource

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