JETIR.ORG ISSN: 2349-5162 | ESTD Year : 2014 | Monthly Issue

JOURNAL OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (JETIR)

An International Scholarly Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

A Case Study on the Utilization of Electronic Resources by Research Scholars at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut (U.P.)

Richa Yadav
Research Scholar
Department of Library and Information Science
Monard University (Hapur)

Dr. Jyoti
Head
Department of Library and Information
Monard University (Hapur)

Prof. J. A. Siddiqui
Head
Department of Library & Information Science
Chaudhary Charan Singh University (Meerut)

ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate various aspects, including the utilization of electronic information resources, their influence on the utilization of both print and electronic sources, user awareness, and the locations where users access these resources. The research was conducted at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut (U.P.) A total of 150 Research Scholars participated in the survey, providing responses through a questionnaire. The results indicate that users actively employ electronic resources, with increased awareness positively influencing their utilization. The study highlights a significant surge in the adoption of electronic resources, replacing traditional printed materials.

Keywords: Electronic information Resources, Utilization Of E- Resources, Chaudhary Charan Singh University Meerut, User Studies

1. Introduction:

The ongoing advancements in information technology are reshaping the landscape of information communication. Developments in information communication technology have significantly expanded opportunities for e-resources and have played a substantial role in transforming the publishing domain. E-resources refer to the dissemination of information in various electronic formats, including CD-ROMs, floppy

disks, magnetic tapes, and computer networks, encompassing e-journals, e-books, etc. (Dictionary OE 2007). Digital resources play a crucial role in keeping academic knowledge current, especially in the ever-evolving fields of science and technology. This study is an attempt to analyze utilization of electronic resources Research Scholars in Meerut University and identify the challenges they encounter when accessing these resources. The goal is to provide meaningful suggestions for the development of e-resources based on the identified issues and constraints.

2. Literature Review

Numerous studies have explored the utilization of electronic resources by students and researchers across various institutions and universities. The use of e-resources is influenced by several factors, and these pertinent studies delve into the discussion of some of these affecting elements. This study is carried out in consideration of the findings and insights from prior research.

Ahmed (2013) observed that post-graduate students in medical science and Research Scholars in engineering predominantly favored accessing free electronic resources oversubscribed e-resources.

Ashoka (2013) assessed the utilization of e-resources by the Research scholars, with the aim of investigating the extent of research scholars' exposure to e-resources.

Bhatt and Rana (2011) research delved into how the adoption of e-resources by Research Scholars and academic staff has elevated their academic and professional competence. Additionally, the utilization of e-resources in teaching methodologies was found to positively impact students' abilities.

Kanadiya and Akbari (2009) in their article, explored the significance, definition, evolutionary trends, and accessibility of e-journals. They not only discussed the advantages but also addressed the pressing issues and challenges faced by the current and future library and information profession.

Vakaari (2008) in their study 'on influence of use of e- resources on the scholarly work'. The investigation revealed a substantial impact of electronic resources on enhancing access to and availability of a vast amount of literature. This increased accessibility is expected to contribute to a higher volume of publications and better alignment with the latest developments in the respective fields of study. Respondents also expressed the belief that e-resources have positively influenced the quality of their work and contributed to the generation of new ideas.

Chaudhary Charan Singh University: Overview

The Ch. Charan Singh University Library, formerly known as Meerut University Library, was established in 1968 with the primary objective of serving the academic community of the university, as well as the broader region within the state. It is now recognized as the Raja Mahendra Pratap Library. The library is committed to delivering effective service and instructional programs while harnessing electronic information systems to grant access to innovative information products and services. The library's overarching goal is to develop a comprehensive book collection that caters to both teaching and research needs. As per the guidance provided by departmental committees, the library acquires books, periodicals, journals, and other materials.

3. Objectives

- To assess the Research Scholars perspective regarding the utilization of electronic resources.
- To uncover the primary reason(s) driving their utilization of electronic resources.
- To identify and analyze the factors that either encourage or impede the use of electronic resources.

4. Methodology

The research employs a survey (questionnaire) methodology, utilizing a meticulously designed structured questionnaire to gather data from Research Scholars of Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, aligning with the study's core objectives. The data collection involved direct interaction with the Research Scholars, and supplementary personal interviews were conducted with library and information science professionals to evaluate issues pertaining to the Researcher's in use of e-resources.

5. Analysis Of Data

Among the 180 questionnaires distributed, a total of 150 respondents (83.3%) provided completed responses. The necessary editing of the questionnaires was undertaken, resulting in a total of 108 valid responses in all cases. The gathered data from the questionnaires was meticulously examined, organized, and tabulated to enhance comprehension and clarity.

5.1 Sex Ratio

The sex ratio denotes the proportion of males to females within a given population. The primary sex ratio corresponds to the ratio at the point of conception, the secondary sex ratio relates to the ratio at the time of birth, and the tertiary sex ratio pertains to the ratio of mature organisms.

Table 1 Sex Ratio

Sr. No	Gender	Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	95	63.3
2	Female	55	36..7
	Total	150	100

The Table 1 shows that among the 150 respondents in the current study, 95 (63.3%) were male, and 55 (36.7%) were female.

5.2 Rate of Internet Utilization

The Internet has emerged as a crucial tool for both teaching and research, providing a vast repository of literature across various fields of knowledge. This valuable resource aids Research Scholar in enhancing their understanding. This study aims to investigate aspects such as the frequency, purpose, of Internet use among respondents, delving into their utilization patterns.

Table 2 Rate of Internet Utilization

Sr. No	Rate of Internet Use	Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	50	33.33
2	Weekly	45	30
3	Monthly	35	23.33
4	When required	20	13.33
	Total	150	

Table 2 presents a clear indication that all participants in the study exhibit a regular tendency to use the internet. Notably, approximately 50 respondents (33.33%) engage with the internet daily, with 45 users (30%) accessing it weekly. Additionally, 35users (23.33%) and 20 respondents (13.33%) reported monthly and as-needed internet usage, respectively.

5.3 **Objectives of Internet Utilization**

The utilization of the internet carries both benefits and drawbacks, contingent on the purpose for which it is employed. When used appropriately, it serves to augment knowledge and ensures one stays well-informed about recent advancements.

Table 3: Objectives of Internet Utilization

Sr. No.	Objectives of Internet Utilization	Respondents	Percentage
1	Study and Research work	80	53.33
2	Subject Knowledge	45	30
3	General Information	15	10
4	other	10	6.66
	Total	150	

the data in Table 3 indicates that a significant number, specifically 80 responses (53.33%), identified the primary purpose as study and research. This was followed by 45 responses 30%) indicating the use for improving subject Knowledge, while 15 responses (10%) specified General Information as the purpose. Rest of 6.66 % Respondents have other Reasons.

5.4 **Awareness Of E- Resources**

Both electronic and print resources constitute essential components of library collections. Notably, there has been a significant shift in user preferences from print to electronic resources for information. Consequently, libraries are actively acquiring a substantial number of electronic resources. However, it remains a reality that the utilization of these resources is often unsatisfactory in many libraries, primarily due to users' lack of awareness. The current study aims to shed light on this issue through the ensuing tables.

Table 4: Awareness of E- Resources

Sr. No	Awareness of E-Resources	Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	120	80
2	No	30	20
	Total	150	

Table 4 unmistakably demonstrates that among the 150 respondents120 (80%) exhibited awareness of e-resources, while only 30 (20%) indicated a lack of awareness. This outcome suggests a positive inclination towards the utilization of e-resources among the Research scholars of Meerut University.

5.5 **Commonly Utilized Categories of E-resources**

Table 5: Commonly Utilized Categories of E- resources

Sr. No	Categories of E-Resources	Respondents	Percentage
1	E- Journals	30	20
2	E- Books	35	23.33
3	World Wide Web	40	26.66
4	E- Thesis/ Dissertation	15	10
5	E- prints	10	6.66
6	Institutional Repository	20	13.33
	Total	150	

Examination of the information in Table 5 reveals that, based on respondents' responses, World wide web as the most frequently utilized resources, accounting for 40 (26.66%) and the use of E- Books is 35 (23.33%) respectively. Following these, respondents reported the use of e-journals at 20%, Institutional Repository at 13.33 %, e-theses/dissertations at 10 %, e-prints at 6.66%.

5.6 **Purpose for Use E – Resources**

Table 6: Purpose For Use E- Resources

Sr. No	Purpose For Use E-Resource	Respondents	Percentage
1	Research Work	55	36.66
2	Study	30	20
3	Paper Publication	40	26.66
4	Workshops/seminars	20	13.33
5	All	5	3.33
	Total	150	

The primary objective for the utilization of e-resources by Meerut University Research Scholars is research Work, as indicated in Table 8. The data reveals that a substantial 55 responses, accounting for (36.66%), specify the purpose of employing e-resources for Research Work. This is followed by 40 responses (26.66%) for Paper publication, 30 responses (20%) for study, and 20 responses (13.33%) for presentation in seminars, or workshops. 5 responses, constituting (3.33%) of the total, indicate that respondents use e-resources for all the mentioned purposes.

5.7 **Causes of Dissatisfaction with Current E-resources**

Table 7: Causes of Dissatisfaction with Current E-resources

Sr. No.	Causes	Respondents	Percentage
1	Connectivity problems	65	43.33
2	E-resources Not Aligned with Needs	35	23.33
3	Lack of Cooperation from Library Staff	15	10

4	Inconvenient Library Hours	30	20
5	other reasons	5	3.33
	Total	150	

The investigation explores the factors contributing to dissatisfaction among faculty members with the available e-resources.

As illustrated in Table 7. According to respondents, the primary reason for dissatisfaction with available e-resources is the connectivity problems (43.33%). This is followed by other reasons, including e-resources not aligning with needs (23.33%), inconvenient library hours (20%), uncooperative library staff (10%).and other reasons (3.33).

5.8 **Benefits of Utilizing E-resources**

Table 8: Benefits of Utilizing E-resources

Sr. No.	Benefits	Respondents	Percentage
1	Time saving	40	26.66
2	Management and Transfer of Information	30	20
3	Easy to use	35	23.33
4	Remote Accessibility	30	20
5	User-Friendly Interface	10	6.66
6	Cost-Effective Acces	5	3.33
	Total	150	

Table 8 presents diverse viewpoints on the benefits of utilizing these resources. Most respondents expressed the belief that the benefit is time saving (26.66) primary advantage of accessing e-resources lies in their easy use (23.33%). This was followed by the benefits of remote accessibility & Transfer of Information, (6.66%) Respondents expressed that it is User- Friendly Interface, (3.33%) Cost – Effective Access.

5.9 **Challenges in the Utilization of E-resources**

Table 9: Challenges in the Utilization of E-resources

Sr. No	Challenges	Respondents	Percentage
1	Connectivity Challenges	45	30
2	Lack of Familiarity with Usage	10	6.66
3	Presence of Unwanted Information	35	23.33
4	Poor Readability	15	10
5	Time-Consuming	10	6.66
6	less Number of Computers	35	23.33
	Total	150	

In Table 9, The analysis demonstrates that a significant portion of respondents identifies connectivity issues 30%) as the primary challenge when utilizing e-resources. Other Challenge include the Presence of Unwanted Information & a smaller number of Computers (23.33), unfamiliarity with usage & Time – Consuming Process (6.66%), poor readability (10%).

5.10 Choices Regarding the Utilization of Print and E-Resources

The respondents' preferences for the use of print and electronic resources are presented in Below Table.

Table 10: Choices Regarding the Utilization of Print and E-Resources

Sr. No.	Choices	Respondents	Percentage
1	E- Resources	65	43.33
2	Print Resources	30	20
3	Both	55	36.66
	Total	150	

In Table 10, it indicates that most respondents (43.33%) utilize electronic resources. Notably, the reliance on exclusive use of print resources (20%) has diminished compared to the preference for e-resources However, a substantial number of respondents express the view that both print and electronic resources are valuable for their academic activities (36.66 %). This suggests that print resources are not obsolete; instead, electronic resources complement the role of print resources.

6 Findings and Suggestions

- The male respondents were more than the female respondents in the library.
- The World Wide Web stands out as one of the most favored types of e-resources when compared to other categories.
- Most respondents utilize Internet for study and Research work Purpose.
- Most of the respondents indicated that time savings are one of the main advantages of using e-resources.
- The primary reasons for respondents to utilize e-resources are for research work and paper Publication.
- The issue of "Connectivity Problem" stands out as a significant challenge encountered when accessing e-resources.
- There is a need to enhance the speed of the Internet to facilitate swift access to the available e-resources.
- There is a need to increase the no of computers for better utilization of resources.
- In addition to acquiring e-journals and e-books, the library should procure e-database and various other e-resources, both in online and offline formats.
- A regular assessment of the usage and usability of e-resources by Scholars should be conducted as part of ongoing studies.

7 Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be affirmed that the utilization of e-resources significantly contributes to the academic activities of Research Scholars. Moreover, they demonstrate substantial awareness in utilizing various types of e-resources. There is still ample opportunity for the library to enhance its infrastructure facilities for accessing e-resources, procure additional e-resources based on requirements, and encourage users to explore open-source e-resources, among other potential improvements.

References

1 Ahmed, S.M.Z, "A survey of students" use of and

satisfaction with university subscribed online resources.

in two specialized universities in a developing

country", Library Hi Tech News, vol.3 (30), pp.6-8,

2013.

2 Ashoka R "Use Of Electronic Resources By Research Scholars of Masoor : A Study'' , International Conference on Convergence of Science, Engineering and Management In Education and Research- A Global Perspective , 2nd edition, Bangalore, pp2-8.2013.

3. Bhatt, S and Rana, M. S "E-information usage among engineering academics in India with special reference to Rajasthan State", Library Hi Tech, vol.29 (3), pp.496-511, 2011.

4. Dictionary, O. E., Oxford English dictionary online. (2007)

5. Kanediya, P. K. &Akari, A. K.). E-Journal: A common Guidelines. SRELS Journal of Information Management, 46, 149-154. 2..9

6. Self-study report for Chaudhary Charan Singh University available at www. Ccsuniversity.ac.in

7. Vakkari , P "Perceived influence of the use of electronic information resources on scholarly work and publication productivity", Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, vol. 59(4), pp.602–612.2008