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USE OF DIGITAL INFORMATION RESOURCES AMONG THE RESEARCH SCHOLAR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE: A STUDY



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ABSTRACT

Use of Digital Information Resources among the Research Scholar of the Mysore University: A Study with a view to use of digital information resources by Science Research Scholar random sampling techniques was used. 180 questionnaire was distributed for data collection 150 filled questionnaire was received giving a responds rate of 83%. Simple frequency counting and percentage were used in reporting and finding. Nowadays availability of digital information resources in a university library is very common. But their proper and maximum use is a matter for discussion. The study also highlights the preferences and importance of digital information resources among the research scholars.

KEYWORDS :Digital Information Resources ,accessed, retrieved and consumed , information processing .

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays advances in computer applications during the past few decades have brought radical changes in the way information is gathered, store, organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed. The

application of computers in information processing has brought several products and services to the scene. The Internet and the Web are constantly influencing the development of new modes of scholarly communication; their potential for delivering goods is quite vast, as they overcome successfully the geographical limitations associated with the print media. Further, distribution time between product publication and its delivery has been drastically reduced. The Internet can be used for efficient retrieval and meeting information needs. This is very important for university libraries since most of them call for more and more research work. This important fact is convincing many libraries to move towards digital information resources, which are found to be less expensive and more useful for easy access. This is especially helpful to learners who have limited time to access the libraries from outside by dial-up access to commonly available digital information resources, mainly e-journals, e-books, e-thesis, e-databases / Journals gateways / portals, which are replacing the print media.

The library plays a leading role in Researcher-library relationships and in instructional services such as orientation and training in use of library resources. If efficient and effective use is to be made of library's e-resources, then user training will have to increase in both intensity and coverage. It is important to remember that the ability of library staff to keep up to date is necessary, and, therefore, training for them is crucial as well.

2. MYSORE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Mysore University library is one of the oldest and largest University Library in the country and Mother of other University Libraries in Karnataka. The Library started functioning in the year 1918. The new building open 1947 at manasagangothri campus but it has a glorious record of 96 years (Include old library) of worthy service, with rich resource collection 6 of Lakhs volumes in its systems today. The Library has grown to become one of the leading university libraries in the country with a rich collection of books, journals, reports, rare materials and archives, with multiple locations and a collection of more than 1.2 million items. The goal of knowledge acquisition is Enlightenment. Mysore University Library provides access to more than 13000 e-journals, More than 18.000 E-books, and e-thesis through its e resources portal for the benefit of its patrons.

3. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Santhi, L and Radhakrishnan, N. (2014) The main focus of the research was to examine the Usage pattern of electronic resources by the research scholars from Engineering Institutions affiliated to Anna University of Technology, Coimbatore. The study was carried out for researchers who are doing Ph.D in Anna University, Coimbatore and its affiliated institutions to explore their usage pattern of electronic resources. Questionnaire method was used to examine and collect data from the research scholars. The collected data has been analyzed with the help of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). Statistical methods like percentage, Chi-Square and ANOVA were used. The Hypotheses framed were proved by this study. The results revealed that there is a significant difference among researchers in different age groups who are familiar with utilization of electronic resources. Course oriented web pages should be linked with library websites which in turn help the research scholars to use these resources easily and effectively

Asokan & Dhanavandan (2014) discussed the Use and Awareness of Electronic Information Resources by the Faculty, UG students and PG students of the Aalim Muhammed Salegh College of Engineering, Avadi, and Chennai – 600-054. The scholars observed that the e-resource to develop the curriculum activities. The use of e-resources at the college level is increasing day by day. To provide awareness programme for e-resources like training, user education need to be conducted among the

staff and students

Chauhan and Sharma (2014), the study, "Use of Electronic Resources in Teaching, Learning and Research in schools of Management Studies of Universities in Delhi: A Study," is focused to know who these electronic information services users are, how often they use the services and the place where the information is accessed. Also, the users are asked to give their preferences between an electronic and print journal format. It has been found that usage of e-journals is increasing; this is due to awareness among the users about the e-resources and library services. Owing to an easy access available at various places in the schools, users are accessing these resources at hostels and departments.

Crispen and et al.... (2012) Lecturers use various electronic resources at different frequencies. The university library's information literacy skills workshops and seminars are the main sources of knowledge of accessing electronic resources. The use of electronic resources can be said to have positively affected lecturers' pedagogical practices and their work in general. The aim of this study was? To reference an investigation of 30 lecturers' use of electronic resources in an effort to uncover correlations between library information literacy training and increased use of web based increased use of web resources and improved pedagogy as well as increased use of web resources and higher publication rates. The use of electronic information resources by lecturers proved to have positively affected their work as evidenced by the results. However, there is need to mount more and frequent electronic information resources training workshops

4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the present study is limited to research scholars of science. Further, the researcher covered all type of research scholar like full time, part time and FIP (Faculty Improvement Programmes) scholars. The scope of the study is confined to the selected discipline such as physic ; Chemistry ; Botany & Zoology ; Geology ; Biochemistry ; Microbiology ; Sericulture ; Statistics ; Biotechnology etc., in University of Mysore.

5. OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of the study are:

- 1.To usage of digital information resources by research scholar in the University of Mysore,
- 2.To know their awareness on available digital information resources
- 3.To identify the useful digital information resources
- 4.To examine the purpose of use digital information resources
- 5.To satisfaction of the digital resources and services for the benefit of users.

6. METHODOLOGY

Keeping in view the above objectives, structured questionnaire was administered to collect the details about the attitude of respondents towards the use of digital information resources. Totally, 180 questionnaires were distributed among research scholars, out of which 150 filled questionnaires were received back. This constitutes 83 % of the total response and same was used for analysis. Simple frequencies counting and percentages were used in reporting the findings.

7. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The data collected from the respondents are analyzed and presented in the below section.

Table 1: Sex wise distribution of respondents

Gender	No of Respondents	Percentages
Male	93	62%
Female	57	38%
Total	150	100%

The above table 1 shows that, out of 150 respondents, 93(62 %) of the respondents are male and remaining i.e.57 (38%) of the respondents are female respondents.

Table 2: Use of digital information resources

Use	No of respondents	Percentage
Familiar	98	65.33%
Not Familiar	52	34.67%
Total	150	100%

The table 2 show that among the 150 respondents 98(65.33%) are familiar with the use of digital information resources and the remaining 52 (34.67%) of them are not familiar. So they need more orientation on digital information sources.

Table3: Frequency of using the digital information resources

Sl.No	Frequency	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	80	53.33%
2	Weekly	52	34.67%
3	Fort Nightly	30	20.00%
4	Monthly	25	16.67%
5	Occasionally	16	10.67%

The table 3 Depicts of frequency using digital information resources in that 16 (10.67%) respondent are using digital information resources Occasionally, while 25 (16.67%) respondent are using digital information resources Monthly, 30 (20%) respondent are using digital information resources Fort Nightly, 52 (34.67%) respondent are using digital information resources Weekly, 80 (53.33%) respondent are using digital information resources Daily.

Table 4: Methods of learning search strategy

Sl.No	Methods	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Self learning	60	40.00%
2	Trained by colleagues	38	25.33%
3	Trained by the library staff	50	33.33%
4	Attending formal training any	45	30.00%
5	Using guides / documents	25	16.67%

From the table 4 show that 60 (40%) are respondents self learning, 38(25.33%) are respondents trained by colleagues, 50 (33.33%) are respondents trained by the library staff, 45 (30%) are respondents attending formal training, 25(16.67%) are respondents using guides/ documents respectively.

Table 5: Formal training obtained in the use of Digital Information Resources

Use	No of respondents	Percentage
Obtained	62	41.33%
Not Obtained	88	58.67%
Total	150	100%

The table 5 shows that majority 88 (58.67%) of the respondents are of the opinion that they did not get training in the use of digital information resources, the remaining 62 (41.33%) respondents got training in the use of digital information resources.

Table 6: Place of accessing of electronic information resources

Sl.No	Accessing	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Home	40	26.67%
2	Library	75	50.00%
3	Department	60	40.00%
4	Hostel	35	23.33%
5	Browsing Centre	15	10.00%

The above Table 6 highlights that majority of respondents 40 (26.67%) respondents are accessing at home, 75 (50%) respondents are accessing at Library, 60(40%) respondents are accessing at Department, 35 (23.33%) respondents are accessing at Hostel, 15 (10%) respondents are accessing at browsing centre.

Table 7 Type of Digital Information Resources

Sl. No	Types	No. Responds	Frequency
1	E-Journals	75	50.00%
2	E-books	62	41.33%
3	E-Thesis and Dissertations	56	37.33%
4	Electronic Databases	68	45.33%
5	Online full text Databases	48	32.00%
6	Online encyclopedias	38	25.33%

Table-7 reveals that most of responded access e-journals, E-Databases and E-books to get required information at 76 (50%) respondents prefer to use e-journals whereas 68 (45.33%) respondents make the use of E-databases to get the information sources. E-books used 62 (41.33%) of them prefer to use these. 56(37.33%) respondents use of E-thesis and Dissertations. online full text databases and online encyclopedias are also used respondents as 48(32%) and 38(25.33%) respectively.

Table 8. Purpose of using digital resources

Sl.No	Purpose	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Teaching	60	40.00%
2	Research	85	56.67%
3	Write report	32	21.33%
4	Write Articles	56	37.33%
5	Update subject knowledge	42	28.00%
6	General Awareness	36	24.00%

The purpose of use Digital Information Resources according to the research scholar status give in the table 6. 60 (40%) respondent are using the digital information resources Teaching purpose, 85(56.67%) respondent are using the digital information resources Research purpose, 32(21.33%) respondent are using the digital information resources write report purpose, 56(37.33%) respondent are using the digital information resources write articles purpose, 42(28%) respondent are using the digital information resources update subject knowledge purpose, 36(24%) respondent are using the digital information resources general awareness purpose,

Table 9. Reasons for Using Electronic Resources

Sl.No	Using	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Time Saving	77	51.33%
2	Time Consuming	8	5.33%
3	Easy To Use	70	46.67%
4	Difficult to use	10	6.67%
5	More Informative	65	43.33%
6	More expensive	40	26.67%
7	Less Expensive	12	8.00%
8	More useful	46	30.67%
9	Less Useful	34	22.67%

Table 8 revealed that majority of respondents use digital information resources in 77(51.33%) of them consider digital information resources as Time-Saving, 70(46.67%) considered digital information resources it Easy to Use, whereas 65(43.33%) respondents considered digital information resources it More informative. 46(30.67%) respondents preferred to use of digital information resources it more useful, 46(26.67%) of responded preferred to use digital information resources because they are more expensive. 34(22.67%) responded they are less useful and 12(8%), 10(6.67%), 8(5.33%) respondents less expensive, difficult to use and time consuming. The results from table 8 revealed that digital information resources were preferred by respondents because they were Time-Saving, Easy to Use, More informative and more useful.

Table 10. Rating of Digital Information resources

Sl.No	Rating	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Excellent	50	33.33%
2	Good	60	40.00%
3	Average	22	14.67%
4	Poor	18	12.00%
Total		150	100%

The table 10 show that maximum numbers of respondents has the opinion that that the Digital Information Resources are good and excellent. 50 (33.33%) respondents are excellent, 60 (40%) respondents are good, 22(14.67%) are respondents average, lastly 18(12%) are respondents poor respectively.

Table 11: Satisfaction with Digital Information Resources

Satisfaction	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	98	65.33%
No	52	34.67%
Total	150	100%

Table 11 indicated that 98(65.33%) of researchers were satisfied with the existing digital information resources. This is against 62(55.4%) research scholars who were not satisfied with digital information resources.

8. FINDINGS

- 1.The table 2 show that among the 150 respondents 98(65.33%) are familiar with the use of digital information resources
- 2.The table shows that among the 150 respondents 80 (53.33%) respondent are using digital information resources daily. 52(34.67%) respondent are using digital information resources weekly,
- 3.From the table 4 show that among the 150 respondents 60 (40%) are respondents self learning,
- 4.The table 5 shows that majority 88 (58.67%) of the respondents are of the opinion that they did not get training in the use of digital information resources
- 5.The table 11 indicated that 98(65.33%) of researchers were satisfied with the existing digital information resources.

9.CONCLUSION

Study shows the use of digital information resources is very common among the research scholars of Mysore University Library and majority of the research scholar are dependent on digital information resources to get the desired and relevant information. But practical use of digital information resources is not up-to the worth in comparison to investments made in acquiring these resources; secondly infrastructure and training programs should also be revised as per requirements. It is observed that the availability of e-resources on the campus is almost sufficient for all the existing

disciplines but the infrastructure to use these resources is not adequate and can hinder the ability to meet the requirements of users.

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