



## USE OF E-RESOURCES BY STUDENTS OF MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

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### ABSTRACT

In the 21st Century E-resources became essence of every intellectual activity of higher education especially in university Education. Realizing importance of the E-resources most of the universities in India liberally investing to provide access to these resources to support learning, teaching, and research. In this way Mahatma Gandhi University gained a prominent place by providing huge number of valuable and quality E- resources to the university user community with a more advanced Library infrastructure. The study examined the use of E-Resources by students of Mahatma Gandhi University. Research design that was adopted for the study is survey. Data was collected through structured questionnaire instrument for the research work. The present paper emphasis the concept of E-Resources, types of E-Resources and also utility of e-resources. The



study highlights the Mahatma Gandhi University teachers perspective on E-Resources, purpose of using E-Resources, types of E-resources most frequently used, Access points of E-Resources, Regularity of accessing E-Resources and Problems to access E-Resources. Finally paper presents Findings, Suggestions and conclusion.

**KEYWORDS:** E-Resources, E-Learning, Electronic Publishing, Bibliographic Databases, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)

### INTRODUCTION :

Impacts of Information and Communication Technology Applications during the past five decades have brought enormous, radical and constructive changes in every aspects of human life. Electronic publishing has been revolutionizing the format of the recorded knowledge. Electronic information services

are attracting reader's attention in today's networked environment. E-journals and E-databases bring new challenges before the library and information professionals to give full text access to scholarly publications both in print and electronic version to its end users. Further subscribing to printed journals by individual libraries is beyond human comprehension. Ever-increasing prices of journals accompanied with the shrinking budget of libraries, education institutions/management/parent bodies are forced to resort to the best alternatives like consortia's.

In the modern society Universities are the highest learning centers and intellectual hubs of every nation and university libraries are the driving force behind all the intellectual activities of universities in the society. Universities libraries are today moving towards having access to more and more E-resources in their collection as they form major intellectual research output of the world. To support teaching, learning and research activities of the academic community of the university of Mahatma Gandhi University having access to huge number of E-resources and this study is to realize its usage pattern and impact to further enhance the utilization of E-resources at the University.

### NEED FOR THE STUDY

In the higher education sector Universities are the higher intellectual hubs to transmit knowledge and understanding of ideas and values to students, teaching faculty and research community through various intellectual means and library is an important agent in this process. S. Radha Krishnan (Ex President of India) quote "Libraries are the heart of every university" as it supports every teaching, learning and research activity. Libraries are now moved from traditional resources to more dynamic and flexible new form of resources like E-resources, Mahatma Gandhi University Library is ahead of many other College libraries in this way as it have the access to huge and valuable E-resources.

Understanding the constructive impact and cost effectiveness of any new service is the intelligent Strategy of every manager to know how well their initiations influenced the targeted group and purpose. With this concern to measure the impact of E-resources the present study has been taken up to know the current state of the use of E-resources and its impact on the teachers and students of the Mahatma Gandhi University to further enhance the Utility of E-resources.

### E-RESOURCES

E-resource means that an electronic resource is defined as a resource which requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and so on.

Over the past few years, a numbers of techniques and related standards have been developed which allow documents to be created and distributed in electronic form. Hence to cope with the present situation, libraries are shifting towards new media, namely electronic resources for their collection developments that the demands of users are better fulfilled. The e-resources on magnetic and optical media have a vast impact on the collections of university libraries. These are more useful due to inherent capabilities for manipulation and searching, providing information access is cheaper to acquiring information resources, savings in storage and maintenance.

### Types of Electronic Resources:

Some of the Electronic Resources are

- CD's and DVD's
- BLUE RAY DISC's
- Cassettes

- Research Guides by subject
- Indexes
- Electronic Books and Texts
- Electronic Journals
- Library catalogs
- Reference Sources

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

The main purpose of this study was to explore the awareness pattern of usage of E-resources among students, impact and problems of E-resources to further enhance the utility and impact of E-resources among the students of Mahatma Gandhi University.

### **The other objectives of the Present study :**

- 1.To study the purpose of using E-resources by Mahatma Gandhi University students.
- 2.To analyse the use pattern of E-resources by Mahatma Gandhi University students.
- 3.To find out the satisfaction level of accessing e-resources by Mahatma Gandhi University students.
- 4.To realize the constraints faced by the students while accessing the E-resources.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

The study has been carried out by survey strategy using separate questionnaire. Only 150 questionnaires were distributed among the students of the University. Out of the total respondents only 140 questionnaires were returned. Out of which 80 respondents are male and 60 respondents are female. The study was conducted in the month of November 2016. The findings of the presents study are thus based purely on the responses made in the questionnaire returned by the respondents.

### **Statement of the Problem:**

The present study has been undertaken to answer what is the impact of E-resources, what are the problems in accessing E-resources and to identify the solutions for the problems identified through study to enhance the usage and impact of E-resources available at Mahatma Gandhi University.

### **Limitation of the Study:**

In the 21st Century every University has the E-resource collection in their libraries but the present study it is confined to the use and impact of E-Resources by the users of Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda, Telangana up to November 2016.

### **Significance of the study:**

So, far University have invested a lot on providing infrastructure for E-resources as of now there are no attempts made to realize the impact and utility of E-resources. In this context we felt it is essential to have a study of usage and impact of E- resources in the university. This study would help to assess the impact of these E-resources on university users and also this study will help improve the collection and utility of E-resources.

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:**

There are a various number of studies related to the use of e-journals, e-books, databases by faculty members, researchers and students of various institutions and universities. There are many factors which affect the use of e-resources. The related studies discuss some of these issues. The present study is conducted in the light of the previous studies.

Shukla and Mishra (2011) The report of the study research scholars in Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University prefer e-resources against print resources because of its various good features, for their research progress and are looking in future to have more e-resources access within university campus with better internet connectivity.

Cummings et.al (2010) carried out a survey in order to better understand the nature of handheld mobile computing use by academic library users and to determine whether there is a significant demand for using the library services with these small screen devices. Findings revealed that a total of 58.4 percent of respondents who own a web-enabled handheld device indicate that they would use small screen devices, such as PDAs or web-enabled cell phones to search a library OPAC. The authors conclude that the increasing prevalence of handheld mobile computing devices such as PDAs and web-enabled cell phones warrants investigation as to its impact on libraries.

Guruprasad and Nikam (2010) report focus on the 16 aerospace organizations of Bangalore, India. Analysis shows that the reading e-journals saved time and helped scientists and engineers to gain more scientific knowledge. All the 16 organizations show a significant difference in their mean scores.

Harter and Kim (1996). The study examines the forms in which scholars cite e-journals, the accuracy and completeness of citations to e-journals and practical difficulties faced by scholars and researchers who wish to retrieve e-journals through the networks.

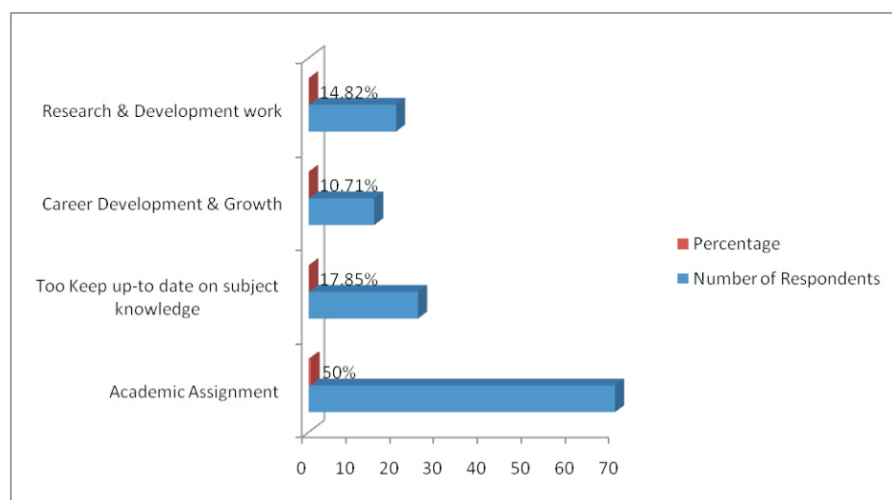
Ibrahim (2004) The findings from a survey conducted to measure the use and perception of the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) faculty members of electronic resources. Analysis confirmed the frequency of use of e-resources and it was found to be low. Reasons cited were lack of time because of the time needed to focus on teaching, lack of awareness to e-resources provided by the library, ineffective communication channels, and language barrier.

Sharma and Gobind (2009) examines the existence of various e-resources databases in Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University Library. They also highlight the preferences and importance of online resources among the teachers and research scholars.

## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE PAPER

**Table: 1 Purpose of Using E-Resources in Mahatma Gandhi University**

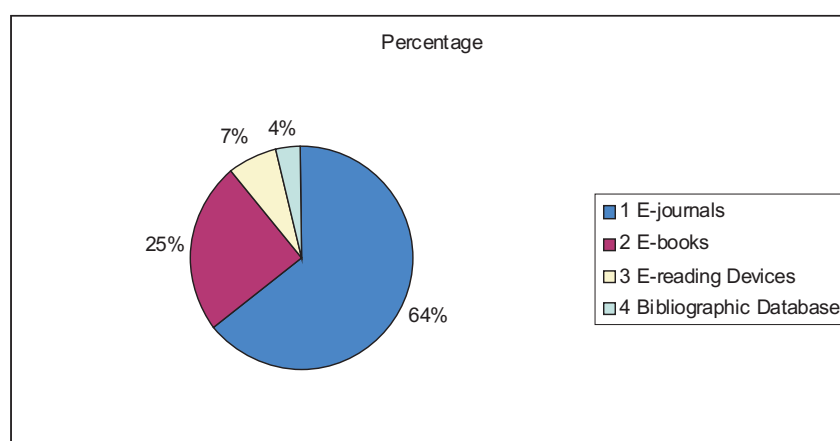
Sl.No.	Purpose	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Academic Assignment	70	50%
2	Too Keep up-to date on subject knowledge	25	17.85%
3	Career Development & Growth	15	10.71%
4	Research & Development work	20	14.82%
5	other s	15	10.71%



The above table and Graph shows that the purpose of accessing E-resources by students. Out of 140 respondents 70 (50%) respondents accessing E-resources for academic assignment 20 (14.82%) and 25 (17.85%) respondents accessing for research work and to keep up to date on subject interest respectively. Also it is shown that very less number of i.e. 15 is respondents accessing the E-resources for career development and growth. University is a hub various intellectual activities E-resources are the intellectual infrastructure to support these intellectual activities in the university. There are different user communities in the university set up they use the E-resources for different reasons

**Table 2: Type of E-Resources most frequently used in Mahatma Gandhi University**

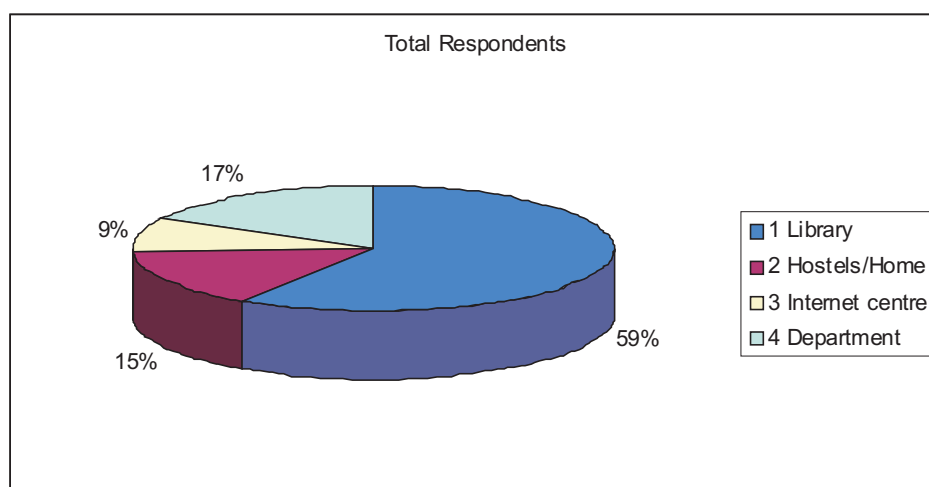
Sl.No.	Purpose	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	E-Journals	90	64.28%
2	E-books	35	25%
3	E-reading devices	10	7.14%
4	Bibliographic Databases	5	3.57%
	Total	140	100%



The above Table 2 and Pai-diagram emphasis reflects the types of E-resources most frequently used by the respondents. E-journals dominate i.e. 64.28% the list in frequency of usage followed by E-books (25%) and E-reading devices (7.14%). Least preference of e-resources are Bibliographic databases used by the students and faculty members. This indicates that majority of the students focused much on E-journals.

**Table 3: Access points of E-Resources in Mahatma Gandhi University**

Sl.No	Access Points	Total Respondents	Percentage
1	Library	83	59.28%
2	Hostels/Home	21	15%
3	Internet centre	12	8.57%
4	Concern Department	24	17.14%
	Total	140	100%

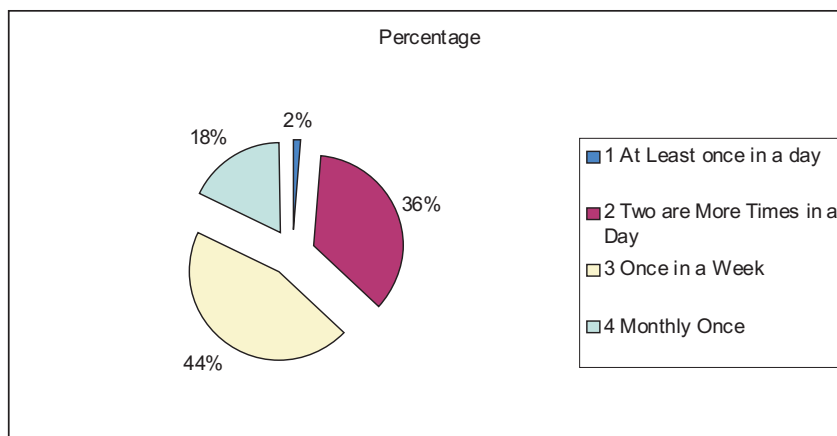


Above table replicates the Access points from where the respondents are accessing the E-resources they are Library, Hostels, Internet centers, concerned Departments. Library dominates the list as more than 83 (59.28%) respondents of 140 respondents accessing through library followed by Hostels and concerned Department. And least percentage 8.57% of e-resources are accessing through the Internet centre. Majority of the students are accessing the E-resources at Library.

**Table 4: Regularity of Accessing E-Resources in Mahatma Gandhi University**

Sl.No	Regularity	Total Respondents	Percentage
1	At least once in a day	85	60.71%
2	Two or more times in a day	20	14.28%
3	Once in a week	25	17.85%
4	Monthly once	10	7.14%
5	Total	140	100%

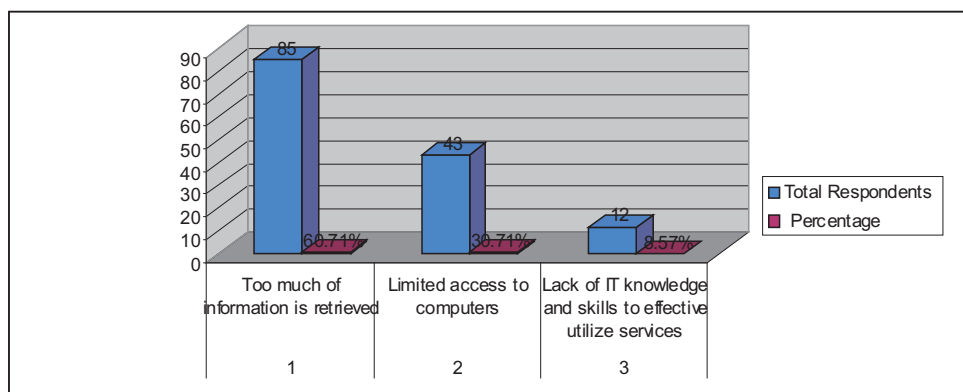




The above Table 4 and Graph reflects that the Regularity of usage of E-resources. As E- resources became common source for every teaching, learning and research activities in universities frequency of is generally more. Out of 140 respondents 85 (60.71%) respondents' access E- resources at least once in a day. 20 (14.28%) respondents access E-resources two or more times in a day re and also same percentage i.e. 14.28% access E-resources at least once in a week. Least percentage i.e. 7.14% of the users are accessing e-resources are monthly once. So there is a need to promote the use of E- resource by the students.

**Table 5: Problems to Access E-Resources in Mahatma Gandhi University**

Sl.No	Problem	Total Respondents	Percentage
1	Too much of information is retrieved	85	60.71%
2	Limited access to computers	43	30.71%
3	Lack of IT knowledge and skills to effective utilize services	12	8.57%
	Total	140	100%



The Table 5 and graphs shows the problems or the key constraints faced by the students in effective use of E- resources. There are many constraints in the way of accessing the E- resources effectively. Among all problems students are retrieving too much of information i.e. around 60.71%, followed by limited access to computers and lack of IT knowledge and skills to effective utilize the services. Training is the basic requirement to make the usage of E-resources effectively. So university needs to take steps towards training the users to attract more number of users towards E-resources.

### FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS:

With the help of above data analysis and discussion we can determine some important findings and the suggestions which are as follows:

- E-resources playing an important role in universities teaching and research activities as most of the students are using the facility and there is a need of promoting usage of E-resources by the students.
- Students are facing problems of limited number of terminals while accessing the journals, so university need to increase the number of terminals to further enhance the usage.
- A course in Information Literacy should be made compulsory for all students irrespective of the disciplines. This will go a long way in increasing the knowledge level of the learners regarding the use of electronic resources.
- Majority of the students expecting more orientation and training programmes for better usage of the resources, so Department of Library and Information Science and university library need to organize seminars and workshops to enhance the utility of E-resources.

### CONCLUSION:

The present study further recommends that there is a need to conduct regular awareness programmes, trainings, workshops to the students to improve the accessibility and scholarly communication further more in near future. Realizing the needs of users Mahatma Gandhi University took many initiations to enrich its E-resources collection and usage. The several awareness programmes are conducted in collaboration with INFLIBNET, to the students to increase the usage of access to these e-resources.

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