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Information Technology

STUDENT PERCEPTION OF USE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN GUJARAT UNIVERSITY LIBRARY: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT The growing use of electronic resources in and outside the libraries has become a major issue of discussion all over the world. Information seekers, particularly students are becoming key proponents of e-resource use. Against this backdrop, this paper explores the pattern of e-resource use by undergraduate and post-graduate students of Gujarat University Library. It is one of the oldest and largest universities in Gujarat. This study based on a questionnaire based survey; the paper comes up with some key findings on the e-resource use pattern by the students as well as some recommendations for increasing the use of e-resources in the future.

INTRODUCTION

Electronic resources (ER), more commonly known as e-resources, have gradually taken a central position in library collections all over the world. With the growing popularity of digital libraries, e-resources now form the major part of many library collections. With the appearance of new technologies, electronic resources are becoming more important for the academic area and an awareness of these resources is of vital significance to library development in the 21st century (Akpojotor, 2016). The use of e-resources has created new opportunity as well as new challenge for library professional as they are trying to come up with new technique and approach for managing their e-collections and providing vibrant library services using whole new technologies. The users, on their part, also are trying to cope with the changing situations by making diversified use of electronic resources although many users are still skeptical about the real potentials of electronic resources. Besides, the adoption of e-resources and digital technologies has not been similar in all parts of the world, with developed countries making significant advances in this regard while many developing countries lag behind. Against this backdrop, exploring the nature and dimensions of e-resource use has become quite important, as it will help understand the significance of e-resources in library collections at present and in the future.

Electronic resources: Definition

Simply said, e-resources are resources that are produced, preserved, managed, used and shared by electronic means. They require the use of additional tools including computers, e-book reader, smart phone, etc. IGI Global defines e-resources as 'all the information products that a library provides through a computer network. This includes electronic books and journals, bibliographic databases, and library website pages (IGI Global). LOC defines e-resources as 'any work encoded and made available for access through the use of a computer (Library of Congress website). It includes data available by:
• Remote access
• Direct access

The viewpoint of IFLA e-resources refer to those materials that require computer access, whether through a personal computer, mainframe, or handheld mobile device. They may either be accessed remotely via the internet or locally (IFLA, 2012).' Today's LIS centres deal with a large range of e-resources which include e-journals, e-books, full-text databases, indexing and abstracting services, reference databases, statistical databases, audio and visual materials and so on. The production of e-resources and their increasing use by an extensive number of learners, libraries have been trying to make these resources available to their users. This has created some unique challenges for the libraries as well as an opportunity to serve their users more effectively.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is confined to users (students, researchers) of Gujarat University Library, Ahmedabad, regarding the student perception of use of electronic resources in Gujarat University Library.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There have been numerous studies on the use and impact of e-resources on users of Gujarat University, viz. students, researchers etc. These studies have focused on various aspects of e-resource use (including constraint and challenges faced by the users) and attempted to put forward recommendations for the progress of e-resource use. Since it will be next to impossible to present a comprehensive picture of these studies, we will confine our literature review to a few previous studies, which are as follow:

Satpathy and Rout (2010) determined the aims to assess and evaluate the use of e-resources by the faculty members of C.V. Raman College of Engineering (CVRCE), Bhubaneswar view to examine the exposure of faculty and highlight the problems encountered by the users and suggests some remedial measures for its development. The authors also investigated the use of e-resources by the faculty through a survey based on a structured questionnaire and used various statistical methods for data analysis. The study confirmed that faculties are aware of the e-resources and various types of e-resources, e-database, and e-journals. It also suggests for the improvement in the access facilities with high Internet speed and subscription to more e-resources by the Central Library of CVRCE.

Islam and Habiba (2015) conducted a research on the e-resources use in a leading private university in Bangladesh and their research findings showed that, although the students and faculty members were generally satisfied with the quality of internet and e-resources, they also faced constraints like limited number of titles, difficulty in finding information, limited access to computers, slow download speed, etc. A study conducted by Mostafa (2013) on the use and impact of e-resources at some private university libraries in Bangladesh revealed that an increasing number of users are becoming dependent on e-resources for study and research purposes. However, the existing infrastructural facilities of the libraries were found to be adequate for supporting optimum use of e-resources.

METHODOLOGY

The Gujarat University Library, established in 1951, is one of the largest University in the state. The structural view of building of the library is like an open book having 4 floors in the building with a large cellar of stack area and a reading center. The present study is on a questionnaire based survey of the students of the Gujarat University Library. It also reviewed a number of relevant literatures. The study was carried out over a period of one month - October 2018. A structured questionnaire was served among 110 users of Library. Of them, 96 users returned the duly filled-in questionnaire. Respondents were chosen randomly from library. The study findings were analyzed with the help of statistical package for social sciences (SPSS).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Response rate:

Table- 1- Response rate

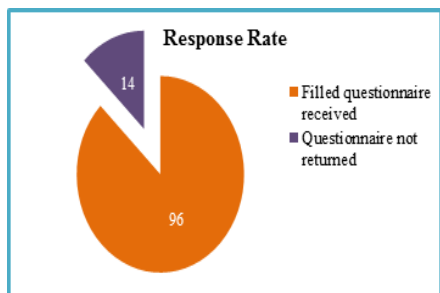| Questionnaire	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Filled questionnaire received	96	87.27
Questionnaire not returned	14	12.73

Source: Primary survey, 2018

Chart- 1- Response rate
Table and chart 1 shows the response rate by the respondents. Out of the 110 questionnaires served, 96 filled questionnaires received and only 14 were not returned. This indicated that the response rate was moderately high.

Frequency of Library Use

Table- 2 Frequency of Library Use

Category	No. of respondents	Percentage
Everyday	20	20.83
4-5 days a week	49	51.04
1-3 days a week	27	28.13

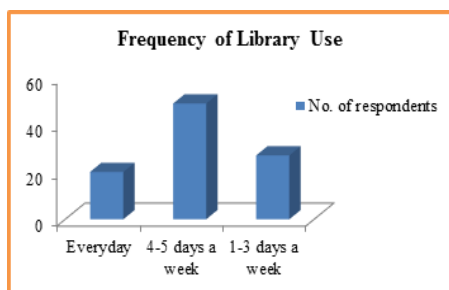Source: Primary survey, 2018

Chart- 2- Frequency of Library Use
Table and chart 2 show the frequency of library use by the Gujarat University Library Users. It shows that the highest number of respondents visit the library 4 to 5 days a week. They are followed by 28.13% of users, who visit the library 1 to 3 days a week. A considerable number of users 20.83% visit the library everyday, which is reasonably encouraging.

Perception of students about Usefulness

Table- 3 Perception of students about Usefulness

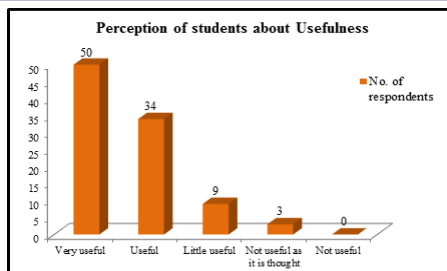| Category	No. of respondents	Percentage
Very useful	50	52.08
Useful	34	35.42
Little useful	9	9.37
Not useful as it is thought	3	3.13
Not useful	0	0

Source: Primary survey, 2018

Chart- 3 Perception of students about Usefulness
Table and Chart 3 indicates that, the students' perception about the usefulness of e-resources is very high. Mostly half of the respondents believe that ERs are useful tool for study purposes. Whereas 35.42% respondents believe that ERs are useful. Only a very small faction 3.13% of students feel that ERs are not as useful as is generally thought. One more interesting finding of the survey is that, not a single respondent feel that ERs are not at all useful.

Use of ERs by Types

Table- 4 Use of ERs by Types

Category	No. of respondents	Percentage
E-books	42	43.75
E-Journals	19	19.79
Databases	8	8.33
Education Websites	27	28.12

Source: Primary survey, 2018

Table 4 shows the use of e-resources by types. The highest 43.75% of users use e-books while websites are used by 28.12% students. The e-journals indicates that students are also used by a sizable number of respondents 19.79%. Databases are used by the very least number of students.

Perception about reliability of e-resources

Table- 5 Perception about reliability of e-resources

Category	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	88	91.67
No	8	8.33

Table 5 indicates that, an excessively high respondents 91.67% of the students are consider that e-resources as reliable source of information for their study while 8.33% students have doubts about the reliability on e-resources as source of information.

DISCUSSION
The study has come up with some major findings which provide interesting insights for the use of e-resources by the students of the Gujarat University Library. It helps to understand the perception of the library users as students regarding the recent trends of the use of e-resources. The important findings of the study can be summarized as under:

• The acceptability of e-resources as a study tool it is high amongst the students who took part in the survey. Around more than 90% of the students believe that e-resources are tremendously useful for their study. Thus, University Library authority should take steps to promote the use of e-resources by the students.

• While the use of e-book by students, the study found that, students of Gujarat University Library generally e-book is favourabl as study tools. One more interesting finding is that, students prefer e-journals as study tool, because e-journals are generally thought to be authentic resource than websites.

• The present study shows that the utilization of e-resources for

helping students for their learning stage is greatly valued. To focus here that, the Gujarat University Library authority should take steps for enriching the e-resources of the Library so that students can promote more from these resources.

CONCLUSION

The use of e-resources is on growing all over the world. The Gujarat University Library also enriching their ER collections in various traditions. Gujarat University Library has been diversified on ER collection and making available to students, teachers and other users for their advanced study. The present study results that the students of Gujarat University Library are abundantly aware of the application and importance of e-resources and support this current initiative of digitization and electronic collection. Hence, the Gujarat University responsibility have step up their effort to improve the e-resource collection of Gujarat University Library under a well thought-out plan and long term policies. This will contribute in the learning quality of student of Gujarat University.

RECOMMENDATIONS

• Gujarat University has right must allocate more budgets for growth the ER collection of the University Library.

• The movement should be taken to improve the skills and competency of library staff so that they can propose better services to the library users.

• The wakefulness rising on the significance of e-resources among the library users.

• The lots of digitization of print materials undertaking educational initiative regarding e-resources could also throw in enhancing the use and adequacy of resources.

• The training and workshop on the search and usage of e-resources should be conducted faculty wise among the students of Gujarat University Library.

• For the e-resources access the high speed of internet connection should be ensured.

• The campus of Gujarat University is under Wi-fi in order to sure the widespread use of the e-library.

• The faculties and teachers also encourage students to use the e-library materials.

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