e-Resources for Academic Research in Digital Age

Smt. Asore Manisha Digambarrao

Assistant Professor Department of Education
Dr. BabasahebAmbedkar Marathwada University Sub Campus-Osmanabad

ABSTRACT *In this technological era, teaching-learning & evaluation processes are continuously updating & modifying according to available technical software & tools.*

For many years, it is to be considered that academic research is a serious job which should be performed lonely, sincerely & secretly. But now days, due to knowledge sharing with the help of digital drives, academic research becomes a collaborative and group work in which researchers from different institutions of the world contribute to it. There are many online resources which makes tedious work of research somewhat easy. There are e-resources which are useful for preparing a research proposal, reviewing related literature, its citation and for writing research papers and reports also.

This article described e-sources & tools for academic research, some of the useful websites & online tools with its relevance in the academic research in digital age. It would be helpful for the researchers for various disciplines.

Introduction

As we know that the academic research is a logical and continuous activity in which there are several steps linking to each other. It has been started with finding a problem and ended with some findings relevant to the problem in the form of solutions. In between these two phases, there are several another steps which are figured in following figure.1.

Fig.1: About here

By following above steps of research, any individual can complete academic research but it takes many efforts in the form of time &energy. Now days, the tedious work of academic research can be done easily with the help of online resources. Some of those e-resources are mentioned and described with its' relevance.

1. Survey Monkey

- A software program that allows its users to create and design, distribute and analyze a survey and report on result.
- It allows user to get better understanding of customers or of target audience.
- It creates unique link that we can send to anyone we choose. We can send these links in a number of ways like- e-mail, FB, blogs, websites etc.
- As soon as survey is completed, a custom report is created so that we can view through charts or graphs or individual result.

Classroom and educational uses

- Pre-test or pre/ post- class survey e.g. a multiple choice quiz
- Practice exam
- Student/teacher evaluations
- Educational survey from Educators.
- Quick survey for learning outcomes of the participants.
- Feedback from the participants.

Relevance:

- **Ease of Use -** It's because of the features of software that one feels quickly at ease with the steps required for an online survey at survey monkey.

- **Quality survey templates**- One of the important benefit of using Survey Monkey now is its many years of experience it draws on for your benefit. It provides quality; run-of-mill study out quickly.
- **Question banks**- The wrong wording and style can easily render questions useless. This is an important part of Survey Monkey's success. Even relatively inexperienced person can create and conduct a survey that contains questions guaranteed to deliver the intended results.
- **Useful reporting**- Any market research is only as valuable as the decisions it inspires. Reporting can be a drawn-out, tedious affairs in the physical world. But Survey Monkey does not fall over this final hurdle. With a correctly set- up survey asking the right questions, result that make sense come easy at the analysis phase.
- **It's Cheap**- Although the first level of Survey Monkey is free, you need more you have to pay very less amount comparatively but then it lasts for a year.

2. Google Docs

- A Free, web-based word processor, spreadsheet, presentation and form application by Google.
- We can create basic document from scratch or start from a template.
- We can upload or share our files with others instantly.
- We can publish directly to web & can edit & access from anywhere along with easily saving & exporting copies.
- Can collect data for survey on forms unlike any other online survey tool.

Classroom and educational uses

- Perfectly suitable for all levels of School/Colleges/Students& Teachers who want to work in a real time quick paperless environment.
- It is very useful for teacher-educators to teach students to make different formats for evaluating school students.

Relevance:
- We can prepare weekly assignment & Schedule
- We can collect feedback & data for survey
- We can share thoughts & other ideas real-time
- When working on across platform is needed (MAC/Windows)
- Where chatting with other collaborators is required for verifying & proof reading any document is required
- Educators can keep a track of students' activity in real-time.
- Can also use it with End Note & Ref Works.
- Where exporting of document in other formats is required like: RTE, PDF, HTML, and MS Word/Open office).

3. Plagiarisma.net
- It is a free option to popular paid plagiarism testing software like Turnitin.
- One can use it to check papers, blogs, write-ups, articles, thesis chapters etc. Against available database for plagiarism.
- It supports 190 language including many Indian languages.
- Software also gives you suggestions on how to avoid duplication and suggests synonyms if needed.

Relevance:
- It is used to generate reports to be submitted along with research and PhD thesis.
- Before sending any research work for publication, it can be run through Plagiarisma to check any duplication.

4. Mendeley
- It is a reference manager that allows educators to store, write search research work.
- It is by far one of the most popular tools used by higher educators for the academic research purpose. It comes in online as well as desktop versions and it is available at no cost to users.

Relevance:
- It allows you to store and collate research work at one place. This way you can access the papers and citations anytime.
- You can add notes and comments on PDF research papers to refer to for later use.
- Some work can also be shared with all and select researchers.
- You can generate citations and bibliography automatically as you keep on writing.
- Publish the work to all members of Mendeley community and get the visibility to your research work.
- You can also collaborate with fellow researchers over Mendeley.

5. EazyPaper
- It is a research paper formatting software that is used to rapidly generate research paper without having to worry about standard formats. It compiles by standard research formats like APA, AMA etc.
- Where to use:
- It takes care of research paper formatting when you get time to focus on actual research aspects!

Relevance:
- This can be used in tandem with word processor so that as you go about writing the paper, formatting is automatically taken care of.
- It also helps you review the content in the paper and gives you suggestions as needed to improve the paper content.
- You can import references from global libraries giving your paper more authenticity.
- You can use their paid service to get better output and format if required.

Conclusion
There are many resources available for the academic research, but most relevant and easy to use websites and resources are explained here. Apart from these, the websites like citefast, google scholar are helpful in citing and indexing of published research work and websites like researchgate, linked-in are also helpful in academic research work in many ways. Though there are the resources to ease the human efforts in research, the interpretative and application part is always related to the human beings in social science researches.

Fig.1: Steps of Academic Research

REFERENCE • www.citefast.com | • http://docs.google.com | • www.eazypaper.com | • https://in.linkedin.com | • www.mendeley.com | • www.plagiarisma.net | • www.researchgate.net | • http://scholar.google.co.in | • http://www.surveymonkey.com |