



USE OF E-RESOURCES IN AN ORGANISATION: A STUDY

Mathematics

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ABSTRACT

Developments in information technology have helped libraries to provide timely information to the users. The role of library is to acquire, organize information and make available to the library users. Electronic resources are the most important entity in research library and used to meet the information quickly to the users. E-resources are going to continuously increased in library. In this paper we have discussed the faculty and students awareness of electronic resources in A N G Ranga Agricultural University, Agricultural College, Naira, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh. Use of E-resources in this era of information technology is a topic for study, because it supports teaching, learning and research activities of the present user community, especially that of faculty members and students. Huge amount of money is needed for subscribing to e-resources; hence need to analyze the use and outcome thoroughly. The purpose of the study is to find out the awareness, availability and the usage of e-resources by the faculty members and students of Agricultural College, Naira. It also examines the barriers the users are facing while using the E-resources and their level of satisfaction. A survey was conducted among the faculty members and students in Agricultural College, Naira. Out of 483 offline questionnaires distributed, 350 valid responses were received back. The findings show that the majority of faculty members and students are well aware about the E-resources and most of them are using E-resources.

KEYWORDS:

Agriculture, user awareness, electronic resources, ICT, E-journals, web-based resources,

Introduction:

Electronic information sources are becoming more and more important and useful for the academic community. University academics are a unique population and rely on recent and timely information. Electronic resources are now used more often than print resources. Most of our students have considerable experience with the Internet and make use of it for much of their academic work. Teachers benefit from these resources as well, by employing a series of useful tools. There is a great need to study the use of E-resources and investigate the level of satisfaction among academics in order to redefine the collection and services provided by academic libraries and to improve the technological platforms that make these electronic contents available to users.

Today information communication technology (ICT) has been playing an important role in every area and change in conventional library to electronic library. This has result to emerging the electronic resources and services. Electronic resources are defined as resources which require computer access or any electronic product and this may be delivered on CD-ROM or via internet and so on. E-resources are essential to research library for research requirements to the library users. These types of resources are easily accessible and faculty and staff prefer to use the electronic resources, because, they require information very quickly and readily format.

E-resources: The electronic resources are systems in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and computer networks. 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. Electronic resources provide access to information that might be restricted to the user because of geographical location or lack of finance. E-resources also provide access to current information as these are often updated frequently.

In addition, electronic resources are considered as important resources of teaching, research and training. Thus, most of libraries as well as the universities of the present day provide electronic resources for higher education and research. E-resources deliver the collection of information as full text databases, e-journals, image collections, multimedia in the form of CD, tape, internet, web technology etc. E-resources may include e-journals, e-discussions, e-news, data archives-mail, on line chatting, etc

SCOPE OF THE STUDY: The present study is limited to the faculty members and students of A N G Ranga Agricultural University, Agricultural College, Naira, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh. The study highlights the awareness and availability and use of e-resources by the faculty members and students, problems faced while accessing E-resources, level of satisfaction of the users, suitable recommendations to improve facilities and services.

OBJECTIVES: The specific objectives of the present study are:

- To study the purpose and utilization of e-resources.
- To identify the electronic gadgets used for accessing e-resources
- To identify awareness of different types of electronic resources in agriculture Education.
- To find out the availability and usage of these e-resources by the faculty members and students
- To find out the difficulties faced by the users while accessing and using e resources and to study the level of satisfaction of users of e-resources.
- To suggest suitable recommendations to improve facilities and services related to the use of e-resources.

METHODOLOGY

To fulfill the objectives of the study, a detailed, well-structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the staff members and students of A N G Ranga Agricultural University, Agricultural College, Naira, Srikakulam district. In A N G Ranga Agricultural University, Agricultural College, Naira, Srikakulam Faculty members' particulars are given below table.

Sl No	Position of User	Strength
1	Professors	2
2	Associate Professor	2
3	Assistant professor	14
4	P G Students (M.Sc; Ag)	6
5	UG Students (B. Sc; Ag)	459
Total Users		483

Out of 483 questionnaires distributed, 350 valid filled in questionnaires were collected. The data was analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in this paper using simple percentage technique.

DATA ANALYSIS:

The analysis and interpretation of the data collected through the questionnaires distributed to the faculty members and students of A N G Ranga Agricultural University, Agricultural College, Naira,

Table 2: Frequency of accessing e-resources N=350

Frequency	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Daily	150	42.87
Once in two days	85	24.28
2 or 3 days in week	25	7.14
Once in a week	60	17.14
More than one week	30	8.57

Table 2 shows the result that majority of the faculty members and students are using e-resources daily only 17.14% are using e-resources occasionally.

Table 2: Purpose of Using E-resources N=350

Purpose	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Teaching	16	4.57
Research	6	1.71
General Information	200	57.14
Career Advancement	128	36.57

From Table 3, it is observed that all the faculty members are using e-resources for teaching purposes. Apart from that students are also using the e-resources for their research purpose (1.71%), 57% of the student users are using for general information and 36.57 student users for career advancement.

Table 4: Electronic Gadgets used for accessing e-resources

N=350

Electronic Gadgets	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Desktop computer	56	16
Laptop	211	60.28
Tablet Computer	43	12.28
Mobile Phone	40	11.42

Table 4 shows that most of the faculty and student users (60.28%) are using Laptop for accessing e-resources. Followed by that, Desktop, tabs and Mobile phones are also used for the same purpose.

Table 5: Awareness and Availability of e-journal packages.

N=350

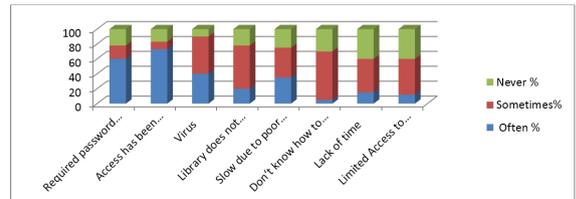
Publishers	URL LINK	Awareness about e-journal package	Percentage
Agricat	www.agricat.worldcat.org	340	(2) 97.14
Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA)	www.cera.iari.res.in	350	(1) 100
Krishi Kosh	http://krishikosh.egranth.ac.in	320	(3) 91.42

J-Gate Agriculture and Biological Sciences:	www.jgateplus.com	350	(1) 100
DELNET	http://delnet.nic.in/	350	(1) 100

Data presented in Table 5 indicate the awareness of e-journal packages among the faculty & students users. Almost all packages are well known to all faculty and student users and these packages are available in most of the agriculture colleges.

Table 6: Barriers in Accessing E-Resources

Barriers	Often %	Sometimes%	Never %
Required password not known	60	18	22
Access has been restricted to campus only	73	10	17
Virus	40	50	10
Library does not subscribe the required titles	20	58	22
Slow due to poor bandwidth	35	40	25
Don't know how to search	5	65	30
Lack of time	15	45	40
Limited Access to computers	12	48	40



Graph of the Barriers in Accessing E-Resources

Table 6 mentioned that main barriers often faced by the faculty members while accessing e - resources are restricted access in the campus, required password not known, virus problem and lack of time. Along with that sometimes poor bandwidth and lack of library subscription of the required titles also affect the user community

Table 7: level of satisfaction of users of e-resources

SA – Strongly Agree A-Agree N-Neither Agree nor Disagree D Disagree SD-Strongly Disagree

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD
The Library provides me required e-resources always	60	30	10	--	--
The Library has sufficient e-resources access facilities	50	25	10	10	5

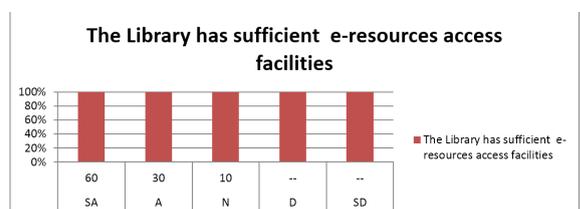


Table 7 depicts that most of the faculty & students' users are satisfied with the e-resources available and facilities for accessing the e-resources.

Submissions: Based on the findings of the study the following suggestions are made.

- The library must conduct training programs for faculty & students users at regular intervals on the use of the electronic resources effectively.
- Display of content page of the e-journals can be added to the library website home page for attracting users and thereby increasing its usage.
- Digital library management software is needed to manage the digital documents and it will help the users to access the e-resources.
- More funds should be allocated for subscribing to more e-resources for the benefit of the users.

Conclusion: The age of current scenario is electronic. Most of the persons are aware about internet & electronic resources. They are using electronic information resources in their day to day life. The study explored the awareness and utilization of electronic resources and related matters among the faculty and students users of Agricultural College, Naira, Srikakulam district. The rapid growth of information and communication technologies, particularly internet and electronic resources has facilitated the convergence of new electronic devices and formats. Now-a-days faculty and students are heavily depending on e-resources for their required information and to keep themselves up-to date in their subject area. So the role of libraries in this age of E-resources has increased tremendously, particularly in providing training and guidance to use authentic and relevant information to the users. For this purpose libraries should develop new and necessary tools to provide better services to their users.

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