

Impact and Usage of E-Resources in Academic Libraries

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Abstract:

The term "e-resources" refers to electronic resources, also known as electronic information resources. An electronic resource is any information source that can be accessed electronically through the library. To provide you with free access to a variety of electronic information resources, the library has either paid for subscriptions or made these resources available as open source collections. Libraries are continually adding electronic resources to their collection in order to meet the needs of their users. These resources include electronic books, journals, periodicals, newspapers, reference sources, e-theses and dissertations. All of these resources are electronically stored on computers in "online databases." These online databases are best utilized for purposes that advance academic success and the quality of their user community. This study of the literature examined the use of electronic resources in university libraries. It highlights how important they are for providing scholars and researchers with rapid access to a variety of resources and how they have an impact on the academic community by altering collections and services. The advantages of using electronic resources, the difficulties users encounter when doing so, and the viewpoints of academic library users on the influence of e-resources are also highlighted in this study.

Keywords:

Electronic Resources, E- Journals, E- Books, Online databases, Digital Library, Academic Libraries

Introduction:

The library is the hub of every educational institution and is in charge of gathering the print and digital information resources needed for efficient teaching, learning, and research. Academic libraries' main objective is to serve the academic community by providing information resources to students, teachers, and researchers. The evolution of computer and network technology is altering the nature of education and moving the process of teaching and learning from the conventional physical setting to a digital one. Contemporary academic libraries include collections of printed books and periodicals along with electronic resources (e-resources), allowing for the storage, retrieval, and delivery of both types of information as needed. A sufficient amount of resources for research, teaching, and learning should be available at the library. E-resources provide creative approaches to modify research,

instruction and learning procedures while simultaneously boosting accessibility. The contents of e-resources may be read on computers at any time. E-books are always in demand and can be readily updated with new versions.

The development of information technology has led to libraries being smaller now a day. These tiny, contemporary libraries really provide a wealth of knowledge. The information digitalization has made it feasible. Paper-based records have gradually been superseded by electronic data, which forms the basis of digital and electronic information. The increasing popularity of visual information systems over text-based information systems has led to the transformation of traditional libraries into digital libraries. These libraries are undergoing document digitization and transitioning to electronic library status.

Objectives:

1. To study the impact of e-resources on academic works.
2. To know the different types of electronic resources in academic libraries.
3. Knowledge of how to use electronic resources in digital libraries.
4. Analyze the advantages of electronic resources over traditional information sources.

Literature Review:

1. Kaur and Verma (2009) make an effort to investigate topics such as the utilization of electronic information resources, their influence on print resources, user awareness, and access points. The results demonstrate that all user categories were aware of and proficient in using electronic resources. The number of print journals has decreased while the number of electronic journals has increased, indicating the influence of e-resources. Results indicate that a large number of users have begun keeping electronic journals. Compared to libraries, users access e-resources more frequently from computer centers and hostels.
2. Ansari and Zuberi (2010) they worked together to conduct a study on the usage of electronic resources by University of Karachi professors discovered that while most respondents lacked understanding about electronic resources, they did possess computer abilities that made it easier for them to utilize them. This is not a discovery that is encouraging. According to the poll, research and lecture preparation are conducted using electronic resources. The survey also found that users are hindered by network problems and inadequate training. Every responder expressed satisfaction, if not extreme satisfaction, with the materials in their library.
3. Gbaje and Okojie (2010) contend that academic libraries ought to offer information services and resources that let users search for, assess, and retrieve data in a variety of formats. Taking this into account, university libraries must offer all the information resources and services required to better satisfy the diverse information demands of their patrons. As the amount of information increases, academic libraries should work to provide better services to meet the problems posed by this boom.
4. Gururaj S. Hadagali and others (2012) investigated how PG students from several Karnataka State institutions used electronic resources. The user feels that online materials are more useful than printed ones. The majority of those surveyed searched for bibliographic information in libraries. The main issue that the library's patrons dealt with was the unavailability of computers and internet access to access electronic materials. Because of this, it is difficult to use library resources efficiently.

5. Chikkamanju & Kumari (2014) performed research at First Class Colleges—University Colleges, Government Colleges, Aided Colleges, and Unaided Colleges—affiliated with Tumkur University. The purpose of this study is to investigate facilities, internet usage, information resources and services, variables that determine the best way to utilize N-list services, and access issues. 94.18% of faculty members visit the college library while 11.62% does not, according to the study results. The majority of faculty members—315, or 96.62%—use the internet to communicate data. Compared to other institutions, university colleges have a higher faculty utilization of the N-list.
6. An investigation by Lewis and Mallaiah (2014) on how research scientists, instructors, and students used information resources in the engineering college libraries in the districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi in August of 2013. The results of the investigation demonstrated that the respondents' college libraries do not have enough information resources. The results of the research demonstrated that users of different categories varied significantly in their degree of satisfaction with information resources. The research made the case that, in order to adapt to users' evolving demands, information resources, facilities, and services should be regularly assessed.
7. Ramakrishna, K., Sasikala, C., & Gowridevi, R. (2016) conducted a survey to find out how libraries and information sources are now being used in Andhra Pradesh, as well as what services and sources people are choosing from. The primary aim of the research is to gather information about the infrastructure, collection, personnel, services, and facilities available in libraries, as well as the viewpoints of library users regarding these resources, services, and facilities. The study's conclusions demonstrate that all university libraries have extensive collections and happy patrons who take advantage of their resources. Patrons express satisfaction with the library's textbook collection and loan services. According to most users, print materials are more beneficial than electronic resources.
8. The study by Singh, A. G., and Sinha (2017) examined how academic staff members and researchers use electronic resources on campus, mostly in departmental and central libraries. Younger people who utilize libraries are quick to adopt online and offline electronic resources, the Internet, and web resources. However, research indicates that older users prefer to utilize conventional printed materials since they feel less at ease utilizing social media and the internet.
9. Ugwu, Cyprian Ifeanyi and Orsu, E. N. (2017) conducted research at the University of Nigeria on the direct and indirect factors that contribute to students' difficulties using online information resources. It was found from the data that certain online resources were accessed more frequently by participants from cyber cafés. Indirect factors that contribute to students' difficulties utilizing online resources include lack of internet access at home, absence of online assignments, low internet bandwidth, and low ICT infrastructure. Most students also lack personal laptops. Direct factors that cause problems for students using online resources include low internet bandwidth, inadequate ICT infrastructure, and lack of browsing skills.
10. Varadaraju (2017) conducted a survey on how PG students and instructors at Loyola Academy of Degree and PG College used the library's materials and services. Finding out about the degree of satisfaction and issues encountered when utilizing library resources and services was the primary goal of the study. The study's conclusions show that over 90% of patrons go to the library to check out books rather than use electronic resources. The majority

of users were happy with the library's circulation service, according to the findings. The research recommended that in order to maximize the use of library resources and services, physical facilities like space, furniture, etc., should be expanded and frequent orientations should be held.

11. Kiran Kumar (2017) carried out a study to find out how University of Agriculture, Dharwad PG students and Research Scholars used the information resources in the library. According to the data, 97% of patrons go to the library to check out books. The results also show that patron satisfaction with library information resource use is high. The user community is drawn to well-furnished and structured libraries. Reduced user knowledge of library resources and services which results in less utilization of electronic information resources.

12. Maruthi and Biradar (2017) in their study investigated the different aspects of information sources, information demands, information-seeking behaviour, and the usage of electronic resources by Kuvempu University-affiliated graduate college library faculty members. According to the report, 70.56% of respondents prefer print and electronic resources, while 78.89% of respondents frequent libraries to borrow books. According to the report, over 60% of respondents spend up to four hours on the Internet, and 96.67% of respondents utilize Google search engines.

13. Jayaram Naik (2020) conducted research on how well Bangalore University Library students used its resources and services. Finding out how Bangalore University's PG science students use the library's materials and services is the major goal of this study. Based on the data, it can be concluded that while scientific students are happy with the Bangalore University Library's resources and services, the library should get the most recent textbook and reference collections.

14. Bansode, Sadanand & Jadhar, (2020) determine the faculty members' knowledge of and utilization of the N-LIST Consortium among the colleges that are associated with Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. The poll indicates that faculty members are aware of the N-LIST resources and mostly use them for teaching and to refresh their topic expertise. Some faculties encountered difficulties using the N-List e-resources, such as sluggish internet speeds and a lack of understanding on how to access the materials. According to the study, faculty members must participate in frequent training sessions in order to receive the necessary training for using the N-LIST resources.

15. Asid (2021) conducted an investigation to determine the level of satisfaction and the opportunities and difficulties experienced by its stakeholders. Based on the results, instructors and students in the academic community can benefit greatly from an online library cart enabled by a social media platform. Some issues mentioned were inadequate staffing for online delivery and poor internet access. Enhancing staff abilities, expanding the culture of partnership and cooperation, and increasing the purchase of e-resources are all critical components in providing high-quality library services.

16. According to a study conducted in (2021) by B. Partap & Manju, over 90% of the students at Chandigarh College of Architecture were aware of the utilization of technological resources. According to the survey, the majority of users encountered difficulties using these online services.

Information Resources and Services in Academic libraries:

Technology, research support and information resources have all been combined in novel ways by academic libraries. Adopting the concept of the information commons or a central area that provides computers, information resources in many forms and human support, some have changed their services and restructured their physical space to fulfil the new responsibilities. Academic institutions' information commons have been designed, funded, and staffed in a variety of ways, despite the fact that they may have certain commonalities and comparable purposes. Through the selection and organization of information resources that support the institutions research, education, and extension initiatives the library plays a significant role in offering invaluable services to the academic libraries.

E-Resources:

An electronic resource is one that is accessible in digital or electronic format. Academic libraries have a wealth of electronic resources. This is the section on resources that is the most crucial. These days, the number of library collections has been supplanted by quality. Because it is dependent on the needs of the users, quality has a direct relationship to the types of library collections. An electronic database is a well-structured compilation of extensive material on one or more topic areas. An electronic database may be searched and its contents retrieved. Online books, Journal articles, newspapers, book reviews, conference proceedings, etc. are among the contents. E-databases are typically updated every day, every week, every month, every half-year or every year.

Types of E-Resources:**E- Books:**

A digital publication consisting of text and images that can be seen on computers and other digital devices is called an electronic book. E-Readers sometimes referred to as e-book readers are specialized hardware devices used to read e-books. For academic instructors, students and many other users, e-books are a highly helpful tool. E-book reader software allows users to read books on their mobile devices. Users prefer e-books because of features like customizable font size, citation capabilities, and links to related websites, search functionality and also the ability to share books with other users. Users can transfer e-books from the library catalogue to their e-readers for a set lending duration, after which they are automatically returned.

E-Journals:

Research articles, reviews and academic communication are frequently published in an electronic journal that uses a digital library. A very wide definition of e-journals would include any online journal, magazine, e-zine, webzine, newsletter or other electronic serial publication. In general, e-journals are a helpful resource for scholars. E-journals affect writers, publishers and libraries in addition to other parties. Because of this, the majority of users nowadays expect libraries and information centres to provide fast and accurate information. Journals that are available in electronic format allow for the simple, rapid, precise and distant retrieval of information from them. E-journals are too valuable to be excluded from special and academic library collections. It is the responsibility of librarians and library employees to give their patrons access to electronic resources.

Consortia:

It is getting harder for librarians to meet users growing information needs as a result of the information explosion. No library is able to obtain all of this information in print or another media due to financial constraints. Consortia are forming among librarians to share resources

since they are more economical. INDEST Consortium, UGC-INFONET e-journal Consortium, FORSA, IIM Library Consortia, CSIR Consortia and other consortia that serve various types of institutions in India.

E-Thesis and Dissertation:

These days, e-theses and dissertations are highly helpful tools for gathering a lot of material on a certain topic. For users, who are mostly researchers, this is a really helpful tool. It also assists library users in choosing their study field and minimizes the duplication of research efforts. The reference staffs efforts are greatly reduced because these may be searched subject-wise.

E-Zine:

Online publications distributed via the World Wide Web are referred to as E-Zines, which are also known as Web-Zines. It stands for electronic magazines. This type of content is kept on a server and is accessible via a computer network. This online magazine may be published on the internet using bulletin board systems or another public network. The primary benefit of downloading magazine online is that users may leave comments for the writers of a certain piece, which is available to them whenever and wherever they want.

E-Newspaper:

An electronic newspaper is a version of a traditional newspaper that is self-sufficient, reusable, and reloadable that gathers and stores content electronically. Every day the editorial board of the respective publications update the e-newspapers, which may contain text, audio, or video content. The news of the day could have arrived in the mail the next day in the past, but modern technology has completely transformed the globe and anybody with access to the internet can easily access an e-newspaper. This type of paper is updated automatically, allowing the editor to post any significant news items for the users to read and download at any time.

E-Reference books:

Reference materials are often referenced for exact information rather than being read cover to cover. Because there are so many reference books available online, knowledge will be readily available when needed. These works use an educational inscription method. A group of contributors whose efforts are supervised by one or more editors constitutes an entity author instead of the source of several reference works that are gathering. As new students demands change academic libraries broaden their services to meet those requirements. By creating electronic reference books that copy the features and functions of printed books and making use of computer capabilities to improve learning and research.

Databases:

A database is a mechanism for maintaining documents digitally. It is essential that a database allows for the collection, receiving and altering of data. The databases are two types they are analytical databases and operational databases. Resources from databases in digital libraries play a major role in encouraging a research culture in higher education. Through the use of digital databases it is possible to understand planning, user information demands, productivity in research and intellectual development. By evaluating the effectiveness of user database resource utilization and research, database management produces excellent academic activities. It is an informational collection arranged such that needed facts may be

rapidly selected by a computer program. Databases are similar to electronic filing systems in several ways.

Digital Library:

An electronic information space that accommodates a variety of information and library applications is the digital library service environment. As learning resources become more widely shared digital libraries will have a very positive influence on education. The demands of the professional staff and library patrons, as well as the talents and requirements of those who supply the library with information materials and systems are all taken into consideration throughout its creation. It understands that the advancement of digital technology and our understanding of their possible uses to encourage cultural engagement and education will happen quickly. Libraries need to take evaluate the essential elements of their programs as an increasing number of their services are being offered online. Its most important component is a digital library collection. Its feasibility and degree of utility are determined by the critical mass of digital library resources. Almost any type of electronic resource text, images, videos, abstracts, etc., as well as licensed databases including journals, articles, abstracts and descriptions of printed collections also found in a digital library. The academic library community must design and manage a feature that defines a single distributed digital library.

Importance of E- Resources:

Electronic resources are essential in today's society; users should be aware of their significance. Due to their cost, accessibility, usability and readability the e-resources are recognized by individuals from diverse backgrounds.

1. Electronic resources are not affected by environmental exposure and with careful handling. They may demonstrate significant stability that is not possible with print medium based on paper.
2. Information is stored in electronic medium at regular intervals and is constantly available.
3. Greatly reduces processing, printing, binding and delivery times by enabling quick and simple access without sacrificing time.
4. It also conserves the library space.
5. There is no need for printing and binding because the user has access to all the data in digital format.
6. Print resources are more costly than electronic resources.
7. A variety of search engines are accessible to find and retrieve relevant content.
8. It enables a large number of people to access simultaneously.
9. Many access points that make it simple to use constrained networks.
10. It permits remote access at any time and from any location.

Advantages of E-Resources:

Electronic information has several advantages over traditional print resources, including fast access to e-resources, simplicity of use, quick e-print access, and e-archive access. Users who have access to electronic information sources today can benefit from these benefits as they conduct their research. E-resource categories that users can frequently use to collect, store, and organize digital information. This will encourage the efficient and affordable dissemination of information to all users and foster cooperative efforts aimed at distributing and preserving the resources allotted to computing, research and communication networks, so

that multiple users can access a source of information. Online materials may be found with ease. These are easily located by the user. Large amounts of these materials can be stored.

Issues and Challenges by using E-Resources:

There are a few problems and obstacles that come with using the facilities needed to access e-resources; these include searching for relevant information, taking a while to view, not being accessible at all, having trouble using digital resources, having limited computer access, having time constraints, computer viruses, etc. Libraries provide materials related to information technology. The availability of these resources in libraries may encourage users—especially students—to utilize electronic journals more frequently. Some libraries still do not have the computerized classrooms that are necessary for patron use of technology.

Suggestions for use of E- Resources:

It is important to raise awareness about using e-books and e-journals to get up-to-date information. The necessary preparations should be undertaken to gain access to other publications pertaining to their disciplines in full text. Increase the quantity of computers, accelerating the internet link's speed requesting an easy-to-read journal format from the provider. If the library can provide Wi-Fi, it will be really beneficial. Users can access all of the online databases in the library by using the OPAC and institution website. The college website should have access to all online database news, and it should be updated often. Employees with IT training must assist users in the digital library. To find an accessible program that teaches and orients participants in search techniques, more information has to be made available to the users. Improved understanding of the electronic materials made accessible by the academic library system, as well as instructions on how to use them.

Conclusion:

The e-resource usage has provided the foundation for a multitude of new technological tools and tactics. The importance of using e-resources for research is growing. Participants in the survey were able to indicate their satisfaction and hopes for future developments and e-resources are believed to have a positive impact. Because e-resources offer legitimacy and allow users to search for study and participate in the creation and reuse of materials, almost every aspect of modern education and learning systems including how people interact, communicate and exchange information have changed. Individuals interact, communicate and share knowledge. Digital libraries are currently undergoing a transformation, despite the fact that the librarians goal of fully integrated online digital gateways took many years to accomplish. In order to preserve their integrity and offer their patrons value-added services, libraries that already own a particular journal in print are frequently obliged to subscribe to the journals online version for the same term.

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