Awareness And Use Of Electronic Resources In Govt. Degree Colleges Affiliated To Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Agra (U.P.)

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents an analysis of the awareness and use of electronic resources & their impact on the collection of e-resources. The present study was designed to find out the necessity and usage of e-resource by the faculty member undertaking the Govt. Degree Colleges Affiliated to Dr. B.R.A. University, Agra. It also discusses the purpose of using e-resources, benefits, subject coverage status, overall user satisfactions, problems that are faced by these college users while accessing e-resources and the perceived impact of e-resources on users. Finally, it reports the results from questionnaire-based survey of e-resources use and its impact on college users.

KEYWORDS

Govt. Degree College, Electronic Resources, Electronic Services, Organization and Management of E-resources.

I. INTRODUCTION

The library and information centre is a part of any educational institution, which is the hub of the teaching, and learning activities where students, teacher and researchers get their required information according to their need. In the traditional libraries, users have to spend much more time for searching a small piece of information, and for that, they have to depend mainly on the library professionals or library staff. But in the age of information communication technology, computers are being used for day-to-day housekeeping activity of the library, which saves the time of the end users, and library professionals also and at the same time avoid duplication of work and make the library service.

Development in information technology has changed the way of information storage and disseminated in libraries. We are getting flooded with a lot of attractive electronic for of publications.

The most significant advantage of online information resources is that they can be accessed from anywhere, anytime & any number of people to reach their desired information. Modern information communication and technology are capable of handling information of any kind and size but it is unable to judge the quality of a document or a book can be judged using the well-defined criteria such as authority, scope, treatment, arrangement, and special futures. Online electronic information resources are those resources, which include e-document in electronic format where you can search the contents of journal articles and material on a particular topic that can be accessed via digital library environment, electronic information resources include networked text, images, maps, sounds , videos and other multimedia product like numerical, graphical mode available for library and information centres. These may be delivered or transferred to other place through CD-ROM/DVD, over the internet and so on.

The study has been created out by survey strategy using a separate questionnaire for faculty members of Govt. Degree College affiliated to DR. B. R. Ambedkar University, Agra. Only 150 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty members of the college. Out of the total respondents only 110 were returned the questionnaire. The present study has been undertaken to answer what is the impact of e-resource and identify through study to enhance the usage and impact of electronic resources.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of this study was to explore the awareness pattern of usage awareness, impact and problems of e-resources to further enhance the utility and impact of e-resource.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has been designed with a view to achieving the following objectives:

➢ Find out the present status of e-resources facilities and services provided by the Govt. Degree Colleges;

➢ Study the purpose and frequency of using the electronic resources available in the library;

➢ Locate the impediments faced by the users while accessing and using the e-resources in the library;

➢ Study the impact of electronic resources and services on the academic work of the users and

➢ Provide suitable suggestions and recommendations to improve the e- resources and e-services for the benefit of users in Govt. Degree Colleges.

II.   METHODOLOGY

A methodology used for collecting data was questionnaire based. All the questions were specifically prepared and closely related to the use of electronic resources and their impact. These questionnaires were randomly distributed to the Govt. Degree Colleges users and were successfully retrieved from users.

A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed **14 each to the Govt. Degree College** users. Out of which 110 were returned and used for analysis. A methodology used for collecting data was questionnaire based. All the questions were specifically prepared and closely related to the use of electronic resources and their impact. These questionnaires were randomly distributed to the Govt. Degree College users and were successfully retrieved from users.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

So far, colleges have invested a lot in providing infrastructure for e-resource as of now there are no attempts made to realise 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-resource in the colleges. This study would help to assess the impact of these e-resources on college users. and also this study will help improve the collection and utility of e-resource.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The collected data are organized and tabulated by using statistical methods, tabbies and percentage.

Table-1   DISTRIBUTIONS OF QUESTIONNAIRES

Library users	Questionnaires Distributed	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Faculty Members	150	110	73%

Table -1 Indicated that a total 110 Questionnaires were completed which consisted faculty members of the various Govt. Degree College of Affiliated Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Agra. it was 73% Responses from faculty member of the various Govt. Degree College of Agra University under study.

Table-2   GENDER WISE RESPONDENTS

Type	Male	Female	Total
Faculty Members	68 (62%)	42 (38%)	110

It is found from table -2 that out of the 110 respondents, 68 (62%) of the respondents are Male faculty and 42 (38%) Female faculty members.

Table-3 FREQUENCY OF RESPONDENTS TO USE THE LIBRARY

Frequency	Respondents 110	Male 68	Female 42
Every Day	12 (11%)	09 (13.3%)	10 (23.8%)
If required	25 (22.7%)	15 (22%)	05 (12%)
Frequently	43 (39%)	32 (47%)	16 (38%)
Most of the day	30 (27.3%)	12 (17.7%)	11 (26.2%)
Total	110	68	42

As Indicated in Table-3, most of the respondents, 43(39%) Frequently use the library resources whereas, 30(27.3%) Most of the day, 25 (22.7%) If required and 12 (11%) Every Day use the library resources. It is observed that majority of respondents frequently use the library resources and services.

Table-4 FREQUENCY OF ONLINE INFORMATION RESOURCES

S.No.	Frequency	Total no. of users (110)
01	Daily	53 (48.2%)
02	2/3 Times a week	22 (20%)
03	Once a week	14 (12.7%)
04	Once a month	12 (10.9%)
05	Occasionally	09 (8.2%)

Table-4 shows that majority of the faculty members, 53 (48.2%) Using Electronic Resources Daily, 22 (20%) Faculty using E-resource 2/3 Times a week, and 14 (12.7%) Faculty members using once a week, 12 (10.9%) or 09 (8.2%) Faculty members using e-resource once a month or occasionally.

Table-5 PLACE OF ACCESS ONLINE E-RESOURCES

S.No.	Description	Percentage %
01	Internet Lab	35 (31.8%)
02	Digital library/College library	17 (15.5%)
03	Department/College Campus	42 (38.2%)
04	Other Places	16 (14.5%)

Table-5 revealed that 42 (38.2%) respondents preferred access to e-resources and services in college/department, further 35 (31.8%) faculty members used online resources from an internet lab, 17 (15.5%) preferred college library/digital library to use e-resources and 16 (14.5%) said that they only used resources from other places.

Table-6 PURPOSE OF ACCESSING ONLINE E-RESOURCES

S,No.	Description	Total- 110
01	For Study	13 (11.8%)
02	For Research	19 (17.3%)
03	For Teaching	42 (38.2%)
04	For Writing an article	36 (32.7%)

Table-6 indicated most of the faculty members 42 (38.2%) are spending time using electronic resources for teaching, 36 (32.7%) faculty member use e-resources for writing an article, 19 (17.3%) use e-resources for research, and 13 (11.8%) use e-resources for study/updating knowledge.

Table-7 USED ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES

S.No.	e-Resources	Total (110)
01	e-Book	28 (25.5%)
02	e-Journal	35 (31.8%)
03	e-Thesis	08 (7.3%)
04	e-Mail	19 (17.2%)
05	Online database	20 (18.2%)

Table-7 revealed the e-resource used by the faculty members. It was found that 35 (31.8%) e-Journals, 28 (25.5%) e-Book, 20 (18.2%) Online database, 19 (17.2%) e-Mail and 08 (7.3%) e-Thesis used as electronic information resources.

Table-8 SATISFACTION LEVEL OF LIBRARY USERS PROVIDING ONLINE SERVICE

S.No.	Description	Satisfied	Not Satisfied
01	Computer based information service	78 (70.9%)	32 (29.1%)
02	Awareness of E-Resources	65 (59.1%)	45 (40.9%)
03	Skill of library staff	70 (63.6%)	40 (36.4%)
04	Awareness about new arrivals	60 (54.5%)	50 (45.5%)
05	Training Program	64 (58.2%)	46 (41.8%)

It is indicated in Table-8 that 78 (70.9%) respondents are satisfied provided computer based information, 70 (63.6%) followed skill of library staff, 65 (59.1%) Awareness of E-Resources, 64 (55.2%) Awareness training program and 60 (54.5%) respondents followed Awareness about new arrivals by the colleges.

Hence, it is clear that respondents are satisfied with everything listed above.

III. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

➤ The result of the present study revealed that a majority of faculty members seek information due to research activities and update subject knowledge.

➤ Most of the respondents are aware of subscribed E-Resources and they access them in their department.

➤ The study revealed that a majority of respondents found the most frequently used subject E-Journal, E-Textbook, Research report and thesis/dissertation in the college libraries.

➤ The majority of respondents were satisfied to provide computer based information service provided by the library and skill of library staff.

➤ Preparation of lecture notes, Teaching and writing research article most preferred purpose of which E-Journals are mostly used respectively.

➤ On the frequency of usage, it is clear that most respondents use E-Resources daily.

IV. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

This paper confirms that a large number of e-resources are made available in colleges. This study reveals that, a majority of the users of college use e-resources for their learning purpose. It was found that e-resources materials in college are available and users are generally satisfied with these materials. Although it lacks of infrastructure facilities, the existing e-resources can fulfill user needs. Moreover, it should arrange more training programs for users, appoint trained professionals with ICT skills, and accommodate users' opinions on subscribing to new e-journals. With the growing popularity of e-resources, the following recommendations are made for improvement in the use of e- resources in college:

➤ Development of infrastructure facilities for accessing electronic resources by the users and to cover all the subjects content of Govt. Degree Colleges, the library should subscribe more e-journals.

➤ College should increase the budget for subscribing more electronic resources. Without an adequate budget, a library cannot cover all subjects content. The e-journal cost is increasing day-by-day and among these, the current issues are more costly than back issues. Most of the researcher's and faculty member's requirements are current issues of article.

➤ Before and after the electronic resources subscription, a survey on users should be done at regular intervals. The Library should also receive information and suggestions from the faculty members and the students about what journal to choose?

➤ College should organize training program for the faulty members and the students so that they can know about different search interface, the latest changes of the journal's site, and develop sophisticated searching and retrieval skills or techniques.

➤ Bandwidth of internet connection must be increased in Govt. Degree Colleges. Faster internet access should be offered to minimize downloading time.

Since Information technology has become very fast, information can easily be accessed with just one click through various searching, linking facility. Users' preference towards e-resources is rising and their demand for providing electronic information services in the library is increasing. Therefore libraries, in particular are concerned in building and purchasing e-resources. But one of the challenges that librarians are facing in this electronic era is how to make the users known of the availability of the e-resources and the skills to acquired appropriate information from the collection of e-resources. Hence, information literacy plays a vital role in this electronic era.

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