

Cognizance of electronic information resources among students and scholars of University of Kashmir

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Abstract

In the era of expansion the whole world is reliant on electronic information resources. The information is a exciting and everlasting resource that affects all disciplines and walks of life. Over last decade, electronic resources have become increasingly considerable factor of academic library collection. This is due to the continual growth of Information Technology and its impact on library collection development policies due to changing demand of users for the pin pointed and comprehensive information within a short time. With the growing reputation of e-resources, the conventional libraries are gradually migrating from print documents to e-resources where providing access to information is considered more important than owning it. It has revolutionized the outlook towards academics rather we can say it has resulted in Knowledge explosion. The Allama Iqbal Library (Central Library), University of Kashmir provides access to thousands of e-journals and few important bibliographic databases as a member of UGC-Info net Consortia and also few titles through its own subscription. E-books from well-known publishers like Springer, Wiley, Emerald and Taylor and Francis have been made available for the benefit of patrons. The present study deals with the awareness and usage of e-books and e-journals by research scholars and students of University of Kashmir from the point of view of their purpose use, frequency, search techniques of searching and accessing e-books and e-journals.

Keywords: e-resources, information, journals, e-books

1. Introduction

The arrival of information and Communication technologies has seen unmatched changes in the flow and content of information and associated formats and technologies. Libraries which have been considered the repositories of information and knowledge in traditional printed book form for hundreds of years, now need to make major changes in their operations and the way by which they make information and knowledge accessible.

Information has always been regarded by economists as a scarce resource. Accordingly today, social, technological and economic changes have seen the Libraries emerging as information and knowledge centers that cater to the needs of a newly emerging information society - a society in which the creation, communication, distribution, and handling of information is a key economic activity. This economic activity is greatly facilitated by "open access" to information.

In keeping with these changes, the world is now moving towards the era of digital libraries that provides wide opportunities for well-organized retrieval and admittance to information and knowledge that can be accessed round the clock. Over the last several years, e-Books and e-Journals have gained acceptance rapidly among not only academic and research community, but even the general public. The UGC-INFLIBNET has made available about 7000 full text e-journals of well-known publishers and few bibliographic databases to different Universities. It is in this light present paper will focus on awareness and usage of electronic information resources in University of Kashmir.

Review of Literature

Madhusudan (2010) carried out a study titled "Use of

Electronic Resources by Research Scholars of Kurukshetra University" to find out the use of e-resources, users' skills in handling e-resources, and the reason of their use. The results revealed that electronic resources have become a primary part of the information needs of research scholars at Kurukshetra University.

Ojo and Akande (2005) ^[6] examined students access, usage and awareness of electronic information resources at the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, Nigeria. The study revealed that the level of usage of the electronic information resources is not high.

Bhatt and Rana (2011) ^[2] carried out a study in Rajasthan and the results revealed that academic staff was using many types of e-resources. Some tribulations in using e-resources were also encountered like technical or hardware/software problems, low speed connectivity, high cost, doubts in permanence of e-journals and e-books archive, etc. Maximum users were quite satisfied with using e-resources.

Joteen Singh *et al.* (2009) ^[3] conducted a study on the "Use of Internet Based E-Resources at Manipur University. The results revealed that 89.8% users visit library for issue/ return of reading materials and 72.6% visit to access internet. The study revealed that inconsistent power supply and lack of required full text journals are problems related to internet based e-resources.

Patil and Parameshwar (2009) ^[7] carried out a study titled "Use of Electronic Resources by the Faculty Members and Research Scholars in Gulbarga University, Gulbarga: A Survey". The results revealed that majority of the faculty members and research scholars searched printed and electronic resources and UGC- Infonet consortium was known by them.

Objectives

1. To know the awareness of e-resources particularly the e-books and e-journals by students and research scholars of University of Kashmir.
2. To find out the frequency of usage of the electronic Journals
3. To know the reasons for preferring e-journals and e-books
4. To know the purposes of using e-books and e-journals
5. To know the satisfaction level among scholars and students regarding e-resources
6. To identify the problems faced by the respondents while accessing the e-resources

Methodology

Sample Coverage

This research is descriptive cum empirical in nature. Random sampling technique was used in the study. The total sample for the study was 80. The sample population consisted of students and scholars of University of Kashmir.

Gender, Education and Residence influence usage of e-resources, sample in terms of these demographical variables were considered.

Data collection methods

Both the primary and secondary data collection methods were considered. The primary data was collected through questionnaire. 63 Questionnaires were received from the total sample of 80. Secondary data was taken from various Journals, websites, Research papers and Magazines.

Tools

The questionnaire was used to collect data. The questionnaire had two parts. First part was related to demographic factors and comprised of three questions and second part consisted of questions that dealt with awareness and usage of electronic information resources. There were total 9 items in second part.

Analysis & Interpretation

The questionnaire was distributed to 80 number of library users(students and scholars), out of which only 63 responded with the filled in questionnaire (78.75%) with this rate of response it was decided to carry out the analysis work.

Out of 63 respondents, 34 are male respondents (53.96%) and 29 are female respondents (46.03%)-Table:1.

Table 1: Gender wise distribution

S.no.	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	34	53.96
2.	Female	29	46.03
	Total	63	100

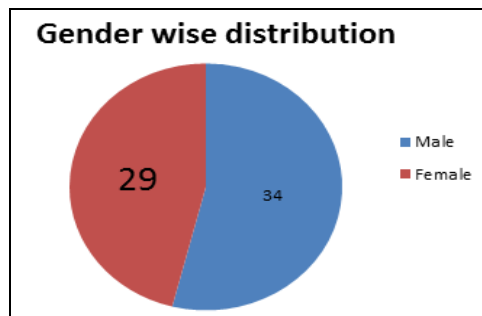


Fig 1

The Literacy wise distribution reveals that 22(34.92%) respondents are PG students and 41(65.07%) respondents are Scholars (Table-2).

Table 2: Education wise distribution

S. no.	Education	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	PG	22	34.92
2.	Scholar	41	65.07
	Total	63	100

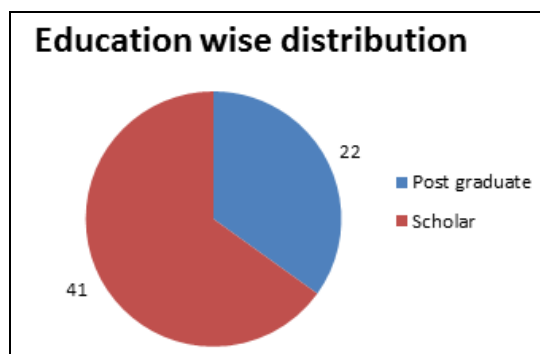


Table 3: reveals that out of 63 respondents, 21(33.33%) belonged to rural and 42(66.66%) belonged to urban area.

Table 3: Residence wise distribution

S. no.	Residence	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Rural	21	33.33
2.	Urban	42	66.66
	Total	63	100

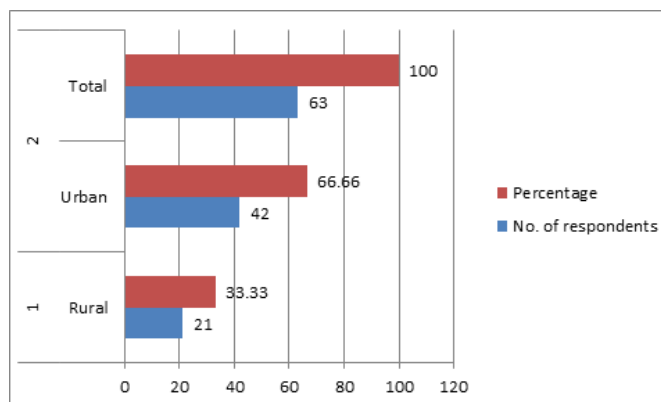


Fig 4: reveals that all respondents were aware about e-resources subscribed by Library which is a positive sign for the administrators.

Table 4: User Awareness about E-Resources Subscribed by Library

S. no.	Response category	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	63	100
2.	No	0	0

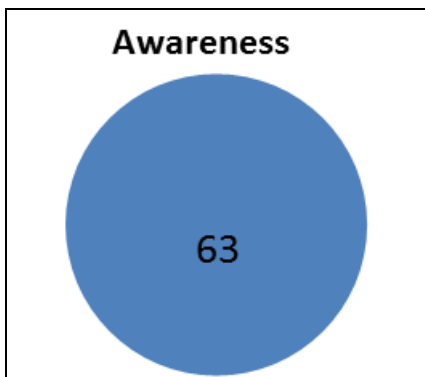


Table 5: reveals that most of the respondents came to know about the e-resources from colleagues/Friends (47.61%) followed by Institute website (19.04%), Teacher/Research supervisor (12.69%), Self-awareness (7.93%), Library notice/e-mail (6.34%), office circular (3.17%) and others (3.17%). Thus the main source of information about electronic information sources are colleagues/Friends.

Table 5: Source of Information about the E-Resources

S. no.	Source	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Office circular	2	3.17
2.	Library notice/E-mail	4	6.34
3.	Colleague/Friends	30	47.61
4.	Institute Website	12	19.04
5.	Institute Newsletter	1	1.58
6.	Self-Awareness	5	7.93
7.	Teacher/Research Supervisor	8	12.69
8.	Others	2	3.17

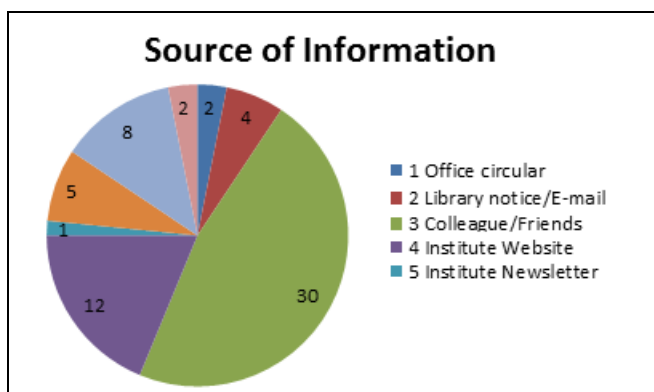


Table 6: shows that the larger number of respondents access online resources both daily basis (22) as well as when they feel like (22) followed by once in a week (8), twice in a week (8) and once in a month (3).

Table 6: Usage of Online Resources

S. no.	Usage	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Daily	22	34.92
2.	Once in a week	8	12.69
3.	Twice in a week	8	12.69
4.	Once in a month	3	4.76
5.	When feel like	22	34.92

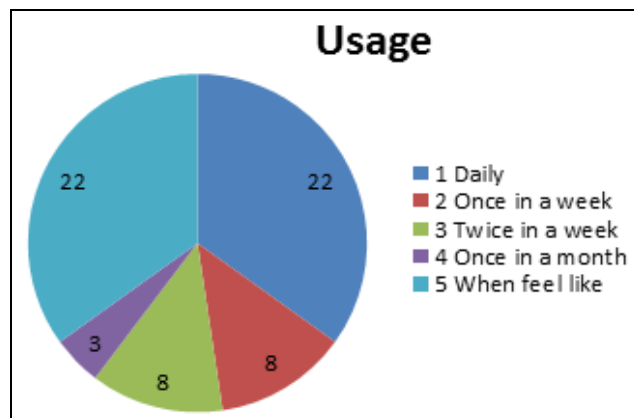


Table 7: shows that the larger number of 25(39.68%) respondents spent 2 to 3 hours per week in accessing online e-resources followed by respondents 12 (19.04%), 11 (17.46%), 6(9.52%), 5(7.93%), 4(6.34%) spent 5 to 6, less than 1 hr a week, 10 to 20, over 20 hrs a week and 7-9 hrs a week respectively.

Table 7: Time spent on using Online Resources

S. no.	Time spent	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Less than 1 hr a week	11	17.46
2.	2-3 hrs a week	25	39.68
3.	5-6 hrs a week	12	19.04
4.	7-9 hrs a week	4	6.34
5.	10-20 hrs a week	6	9.52
6.	Over 20 hrs a week	5	7.93

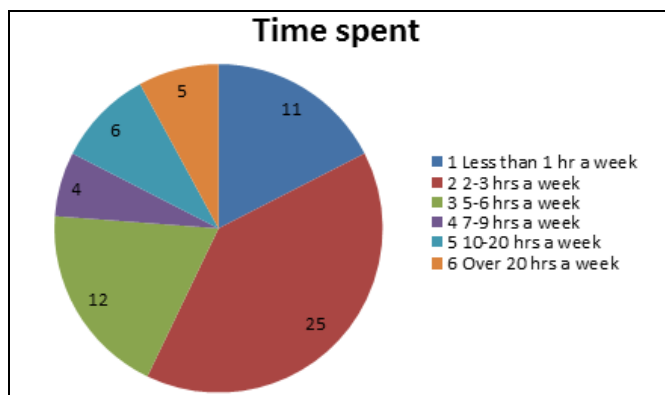


Table 8: reveals that majority of the respondents (39.68%) prefer e-journals and e-books because it is easy to search followed by Up to date Information (22.22%), Readymade source of Information (17.46%), Free access to information (15.87%) and Accuracy of information (4.76%).

Table 8: Reasons for preferring e-Journals and e-Books

S. no.	Reasons	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Up to date Information	14	22.22
2.	Easy to search	25	39.68
3.	Readymade source of Information	11	17.46
4.	Accuracy of Information	3	4.76
5.	Free access to Information	10	15.87

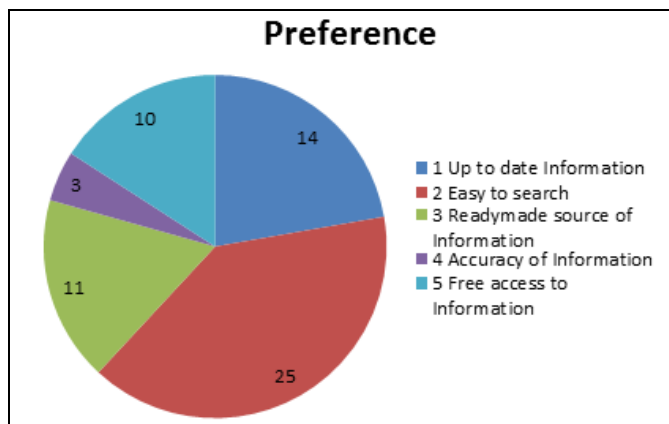


Table 9: reveals that 57 respondents were of the opinion that e-books and e-journals are important for academic and research activities and 6 were of the opinion that that they are not important.

Table 9: Usefulness of E-books and E-journals

S. no.	Usefulness	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Important	57	90.47
2.	Not Important	6	9.52

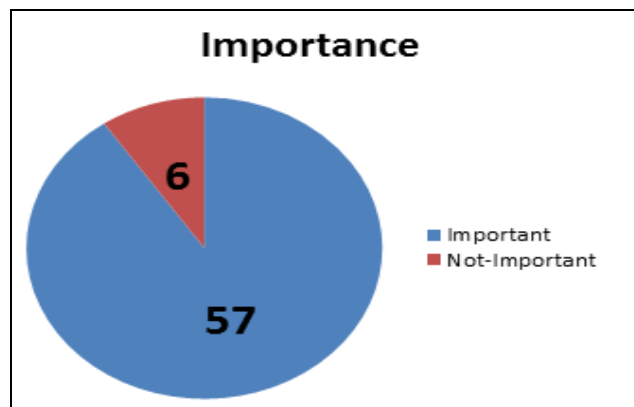


Table 10: represents the different purposes amongst research scholars and students in using e-books and e-journals. It can be inferred that 30 respondents representing 47.61% use e-resources for the purpose of literature searching in subject specialized, 13 respondents representing 20.63% use e-resources for the purpose of knowing ongoing research, 11 respondents representing 17.46% use e-resources for R&D activities, 9 respondents representing 14.28% use e-resources for preparing of projects/seminars. Finally it can be inferred from the table that a large number of users including management research scholars and students rely on e-books and e-journals for literature searching in subject specialized.

Table 10: Purpose of using electronic information resources

S.no.	Purpose	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Literature searching in subject specialized	30	47.61
2.	Research and development activities	11	17.46
3.	Preparation for projects/Seminars	9	14.28
4.	To know ongoing Research	13	20.63

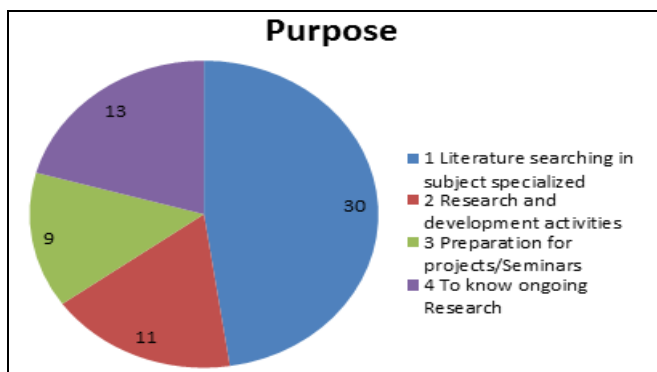


Table 11: shows the results that most of the respondents 31 (49.20%) are satisfied with all e- resources they are getting from the identified sources. Furthermore, 5(7.93%) indicated they were fully satisfied while 24 (38.09%) and 3 (4.76%) indicated less satisfied and dissatisfied respectively.

Table-11: Level of Satisfaction of E- Resources

S. no.	Satisfaction	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Fully satisfied	5	7.93
2.	Satisfied	31	49.20
3.	Less satisfied	24	38.09
4.	Dissatisfied	3	4.76

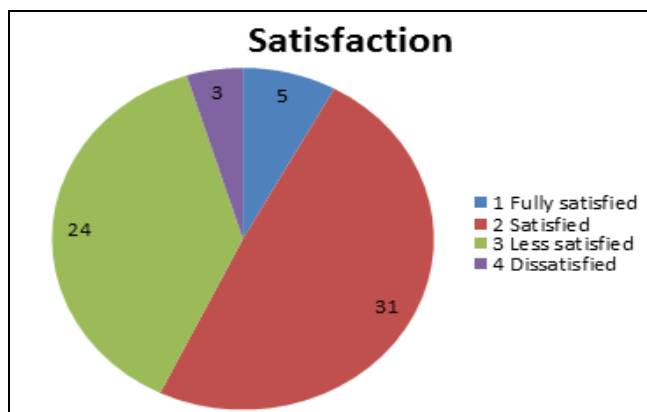
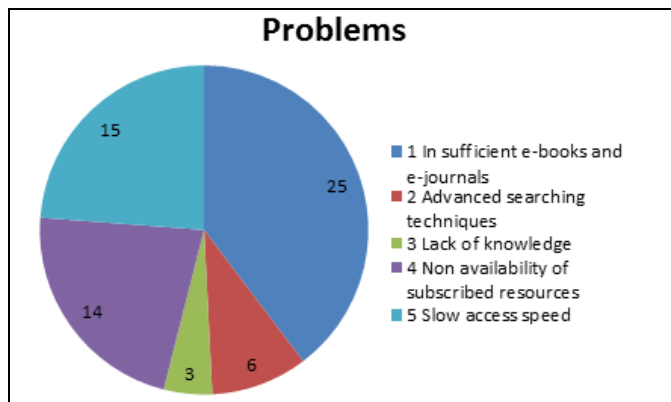


Table 12: furnishes the various problems faced by management students and research scholars while using e-journals and e-books. The problem of in sufficient e-books and e-journals is the major problem faced while accessing e-books and e-journals. 25 respondents have quoted the problem of in sufficient e-books and e-journals. Another segment of users (15) representing 23.80% of respondents stated the problem of slow access speed. Further, 22.22% of respondents quoted the problem of non-availability of subscribed resources.9.52% of respondents stated the problem of advanced searching techniques and 4.76% of respondents stated the problem of lack of knowledge.

Table 12: Problems in Accessing E-Journals Resources

S. No.	Problems	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	In sufficient e-books and e-journals	25	39.68
2.	Advanced searching techniques	6	9.52
3.	Lack of knowledge	3	4.76
4.	Non availability of subscribed resources	14	22.22
5.	Slow access speed	15	23.80



Findings

The findings of the study are summarized as follows:

- All students and scholars are aware of the e-resources.
- The members were informed about the e-resources by colleagues/friends; hence colleagues/friends seem to be the main initiator for the use of these e-resources.
- Most of the respondents access the e-journals daily, which is a good sign for any academic institutions.
- Most of the respondents access e-journals 2 to 3 hours per week, which is not a good sign for any library.
- Most of the respondents think the importance of the e-resources is very much required for study, teaching and research
- Most respondents prefer e-journals and e-books because it is easy to search
- Most of the respondents use e-journals and e-books for literature searching in subject specialized.
- Most of the respondents are satisfied with all e-resources they are getting from the identified sources
- The main problems in accessing the e-resources as pointed by the respondents is In-sufficient e-books and e-journals.

Conclusion

The study investigated the awareness and usage of library electronic resources and related issues among students and scholars of University of Kashmir. This is a matter of concern, as presently, electronic information sources and the Internet are considered extremely important tools for effective teaching and research. Accordingly, these resources have occupied a vital role in the collection and budget of almost all libraries. Students, Scholars, Faculty members are heavily dependent on e- resources for their academic activities the study reveals that students and scholars are using the available e-resources satisfactorily.

Limitations of Study

The sample size of the study was restricted to a limited number of respondents. Faculty members were not a part of this study.

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