

E-Resources Searching Behaviour of UG Students in BTC College of Agriculture and Research Station, Bilaspur (C.G.)

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Abstract

In the information explosion age e-resources play a vital role in all the disciplines and provide current and relevant information to the users on wider range. The paper aims to examine usage of e-resources by undergraduate students of BTC College of Agriculture & Research Station, Bilaspur. Data have been collected from students through questionnaire. It also discusses the purpose of using e-resources, benefits, satisfaction; problem faced by users and impact of e-resources. The study revealed that B.Sc. (Ag) students are aware of the e-resources and using it for their study purpose. There is need to provide high speed internet and also subscription of more e-resources for the students.

Keywords: Electronic Resources, User Studies, Search Behaviour, BTCCARS.

1. Introduction

In the present digital age, there is a shift from traditional library resources to electronic resources. In the traditional libraries users have to depend on library staff as well as have to spend more time in searching their required information. But in the digital age, after using computer they are saving their precious time. Users are using library resources in their colleges' library. Now a day's number of e-resources is available in every discipline which covers a huge portion of library collection and day by day its utilization is increasing. These e-resources are playing an important role in finding relevant information of the users in very easy and faster way. Slowly and gradually e-resources are replacing the importance of print documents. Today a large amount of scholarly literature is publishing in electronic medium. It has an impact on every part of academic activity. Library users are not habituated to visit the library, even they prefer to use internet to search online databases and browse electronic journals for their work. Therefore there is need to study the different aspects of e-resources and issues relating to the utilization of e-resources by users.

2. About BTCCARS, Bilaspur

The BTCCARS Library is a important facility for the students of the college currently has more than 7000 volumes, including textbooks, reference books, manuals, reports etc. The Library also subscribes about 25 current periodicals for the researchers. All operations of the Library are automated with the help of an open-source Integrated Library System software package. The database for the entire collection has been created and available through On-Line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) to the users. The library has free Internet and Wi-Fi facilities for its users. E-journals consortium (CeRA) service of NAIP (National Agricultural Innovation Project) through ICAR has been made available to

its users. Access of full text and statistical databases, such as “Science Direct”, “CAB Abstracts”, “CAB eBooks”, “e-KrishiShiksha”, “Krishiprabha” and “OPAC” were made online available to the users. The URLs of available e-resources are given for instant access. Library provides reprography facility to its users on subsidized rates along with current awareness and SDI services. The Library also extend the facilities to access E-journals consortium (CeRA) service of NAIP (National Agricultural Innovation Project) and “Krishiprabha” online on IP based accesses.

3. Objectives of the Study

The Study was conducted with the following objectives:

1. To identify the different types of e-resources available in library.
2. To identify the awareness of e-resources among the students.
3. To identify the purpose and frequency of using the e-resources.
4. To identify the problem faced while using the e-resources.

4. Limitation of the Study

The present study is to find the uses of e-resources in BTC College of Agriculture & Research Station, Bilaspur. The study was able to find of the major limitations such as:

1. The present study consists of only B.Sc. (Ag) students.
2. The study is restricted in BTC College of Agriculture & Research Station, Bilaspur.

5. Data Collection

The Study is based on survey method and questionnaire tool. The target population of this study was B.Sc. (Ag) students. Thus total 200 questionnaires were distributed, out of which 115 filled questionnaire were received from the respondents data usable for the analysis and interpretation of data.

6. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The Collected data was organized and tabulated by using tables and percentages.

Awareness of e-Resources

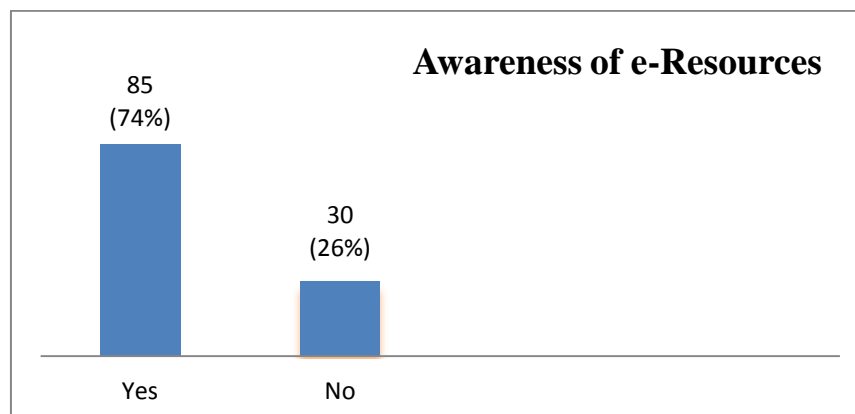


Figure 1 Awareness of e-resources

The figure 1 shows that **85 (74%)** students are aware about e-resources, whereas Only 30 (26%) students are not aware about e-resources.

Frequency of Library visit

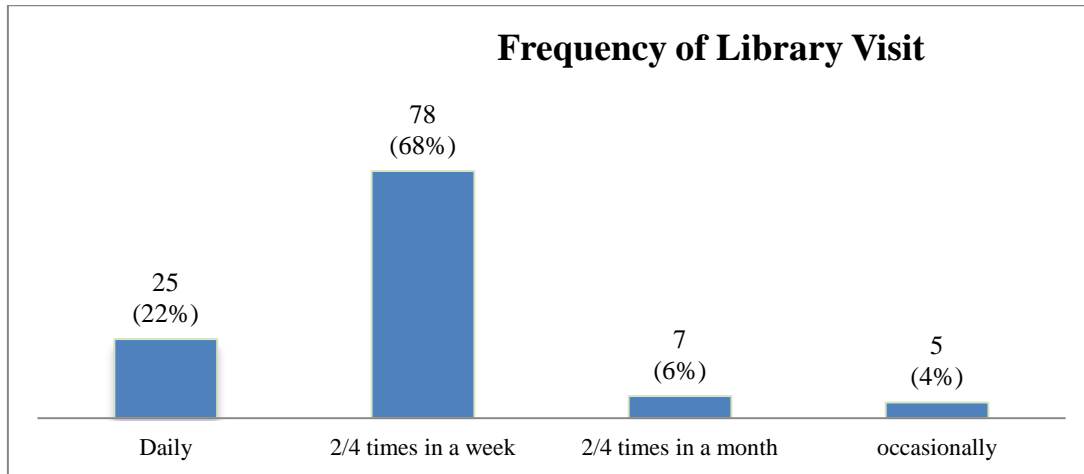


Figure 2 frequency of Library Visit

The above Figure 2 shows that 25 (22%) Students are visit library daily 78 (68%) Students are visit library 2/4 times in a week, 7 (6%) students are visited library 2/4 times in a month and 5 (4%) students are visited library occasionally.

Purpose of using e-resources

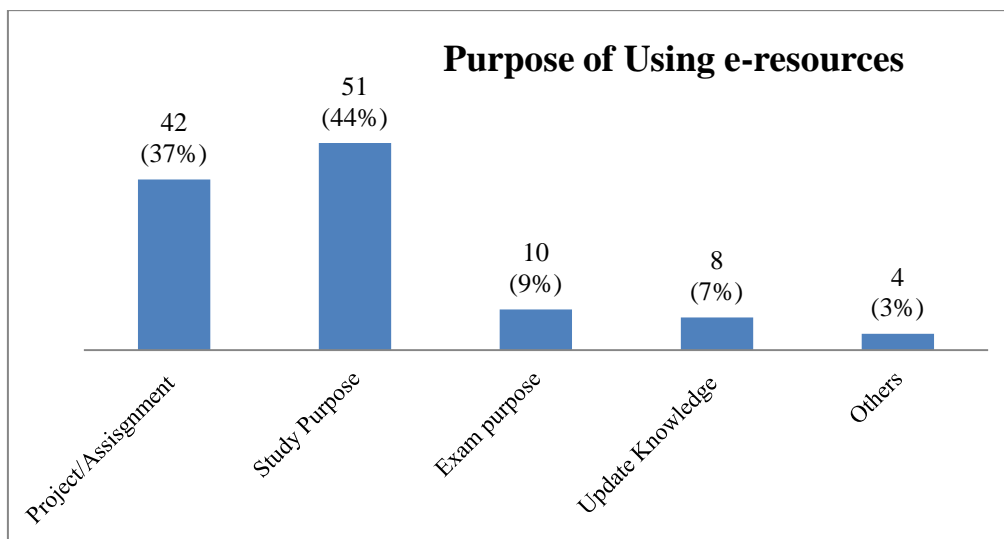


Figure 3 Purpose of Using e-resources

The Figure 3 shows that 42 (37%) students are use e-resources for Project/Assignment purpose, 51 (44%) students are use e-resources for study purpose, 10 (9%) students are use e-resources for exam purpose, 8 (7%) students are use e-resources for update knowledge purpose and 4 (3%) students are use e-resources for other purpose.

Types of e-resources accessed

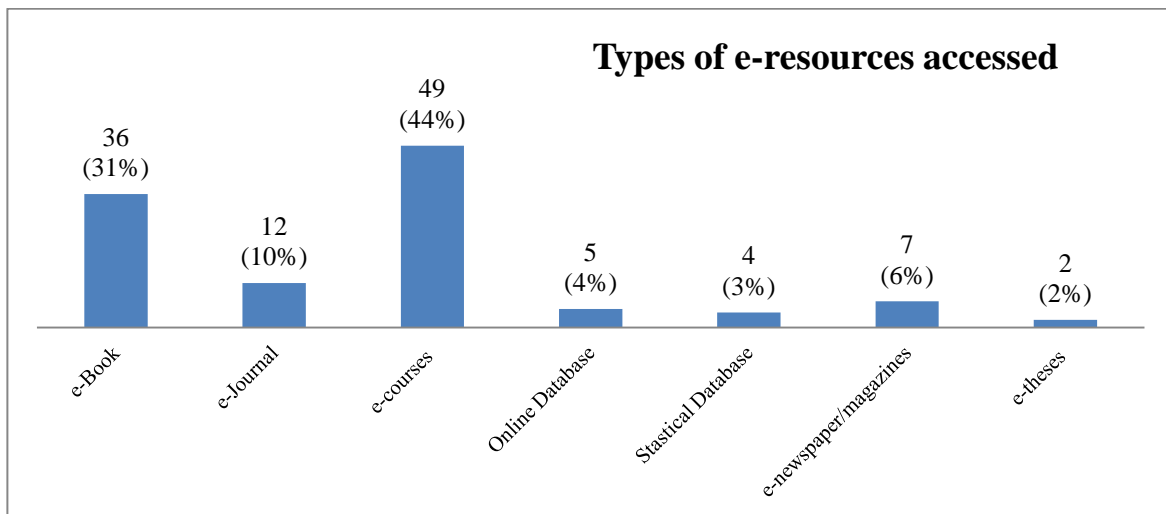


Figure 4 Types of e-resources accessed

Figure 4 shows that 36 (31%) students are access e-resources for e-book purpose, 12 (10%) students are access e-resources for e-journals, 49 (44%) students are access e-resources for e-courses, 5 (4%) students are access e-resources for online database, 4(3%) students are access e-resources for statistical database, 7 (6%) students are access e-resources for e-newspaper/ magazines and 2 (2%) students are access e-resources for e-theses.

Benefits of e-resources

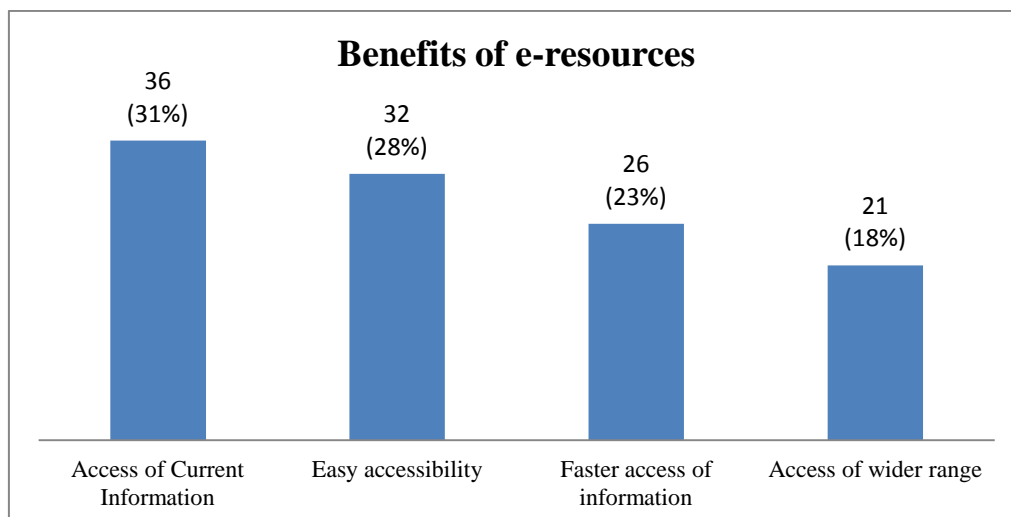


Figure 5 Benefits of e-resources

Figure 5 shows that 36 (31%) students are benefit of e-resources for Access of Current Information, 32 (28%) students are benefit of e-resources for Easy accessibility, 26 (23%) students are benefit of e-resources for faster access of information, 21 (18%) students are benefit of e-resources for access of wider range.

Problems in accessing e-resources

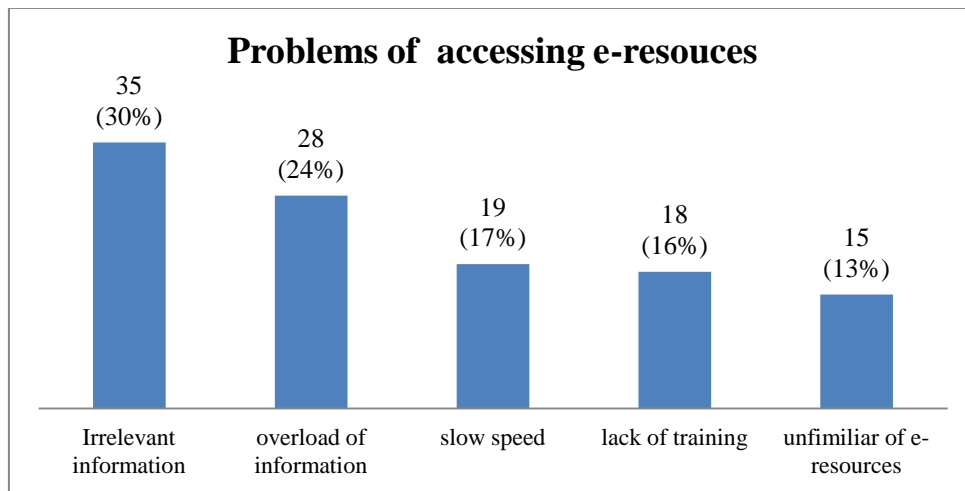


Figure 6 Problems in accessing e-resources

Figure 6 shows that 35 (30%) students are faced difficulty in finding irrelevant information, 28 (24%) students are faced difficulty in finding overload of information, 19 (17%) students are faced difficulty in finding Slow speed of downloading, 18 (16%) students are faced difficulty in finding lack of training and 15 (13%) students are faced difficulty in finding unfamiliar of e-resources.

Level of satisfaction about e-resources



Figure 7 Level of satisfaction

To identify the level of satisfaction about the e-resource shown that majority of the students 87 (76%) were fully satisfied and 28 (24%) of students were moderately satisfied with the e-resources.

7. Finding and Suggestions

It is clear from the study that the students appreciate the e-resources facility and they are aware about it but at the same time they expect more e-resources related to their discipline.

Most of the students visited the library 2/4 times in a week. They found current, reliable and authentic information from e-resources for their study purposes to update their knowledge. e-courses and e-Books fulfill their requirements to great extent. The students are mainly dependent on e-resources for their required information. They pointed the co-operation from staff to make e-resources facility more effective as well as training program for them too. Based on the findings of the study and to improve the quality of education, there is need for the following recommendations:

- Speed of internet and intranet connection should be increased for quick access to available e-resources.
- Library staffs have to create more awareness on e-resources.
- The library has to arrange various user orientation and training programmes for the students to use the availability of e-resources.

8. Conclusion

The Web has become a complex and very large repository of documents in the form of hyperlinked web pages. The present study has presented an analysis of the students' web search behaviour. The findings arrived are corresponds with global trends. Students use the Web for everything and especially for academic tasks, prefer particular favorite search engines, though the reasons they give for their preferences are common across almost all search engines. They usually perform basic search and satisfied with retrieved information. It was found that students believe the web to be a valuable resource for educational activities and use it for purpose of research and learning.

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