

Awareness and Use of E-resources by the Faculty Members of Chhatrapati Sahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur

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Abstract

E-resources are easily available resources for the study and research via the Internet. E-resource Consortia provide a platform for accessing thousands of journals at the cheapest cost. This Paper discusses the use of electronic resources made available at the Chhatrapati Sahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur through the UGC-Infonet Digital library Consortium and N-List Consortium. The paper has also discussed various services offered by the library. The paper concludes with some of the findings, suggestions and recommendations which may be useful for other academic institutions.

Key words: Information Technology, Library Consortium, UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, N-LIST Consortium, E-resources, E-resources usage.

1. Introduction

New technologies have changed the information seeking process of users of the library. These new technologies have affected every function and process in universities, schools, libraries, and information centers. Computer and other instrumentation have provided libraries with many advantages. Collecting, storing, organizing, retrieving, and providing access to information are the main processes that have been positively affected. Computer and new information technologies have greatly enabled information specialists in performing their main tasks, especially in locating and retrieving information. Electronic resources (E-resources) have been developed since last two decades. Now they become very much important part of the library collection. They have more features in comparison to the printed resources. There are varieties of E-resources available through the consortium for the libraries at very low cost in India. Several consortiums are running for E-resources procurement for academic libraries.

About CSJM University

The Chhatrapati Sahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur was established by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in 1966. The university has now more than 1500 affiliated colleges in 16 districts of Uttar Pradesh. Spreading over a campus of 264 acres, the university is booming with academic activities. While the Undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in all disciplines of Art, Science, Commerce, Law, Engineering and Medicine are offered in affiliated colleges and institutions. The residential wing of the university campus includes faculties of Life sciences, Bioscience and Biotechnology, Business Management, Education and English. It also has a computer centre, a department of Adult and Continuing Education, Communication and a College Development Council. For catering to the needs of young

engineering aspirants, the university has established a University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET) in the campus offering courses in six branches of engineering viz. Chemical, Computer Science, Information Technology, Electronics and communication, Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science including BCA, MCA and other post-graduate courses. The university seeks to contribute to student an education through curriculum design, the development of new courses and the application of a forward looking and innovative teaching methodology. The university is a member of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium and N-LIST consortium. More than 7500 electronic journals and about 97,000 electronic books are available through these consortiums.

UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium

The UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium was formally launched in December 2003 by Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Hon'ble President of India. The Consortium proved to be a recipe to university libraries, which have been discontinuing subscription of scholarly journals because of "serials crisis" mainly caused by increase in subscription rates of serials and shrinking library budget. The term "serials crisis" refers to exponential and continuing increase in subscription cost of scholarly journals and institutional trend to decrease the library budget. It is estimated that the rise in cost of journals happened much faster than the rate of inflation. The UGC-INFONET Consortium provides current as well as archival access to more than 7500 core and peer-reviewed journals and nine bibliographic databases from about 20 publishers and aggregators in different disciplines. The programme has been implemented in phased manner. In the first phase that began in 2004, access to E-resources was provided to 50 universities, which had Internet connectivity right from the launching of INFLIBNET under the UGC-INFONET connectivity programme. In the second phase 50 more universities were added to the programme in the year 2005. A total of 221 Universities provided access to UGC-INFONET Consortium in the end of year 2015. These E-resources covers almost all subject disciplines including humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, chemical sciences, life sciences, computer sciences, mathematics and statistics, etc. The programme is being fully funded by the UGC and executed by the INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad, for the benefit of academic community of Indian universities.

N-LIST

National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST) being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium and INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT Delhi. It provides cross- subscription to E-resources for colleges subscribed by these two consortia. The N-LIST project provides access to E-resources to students, researchers and faculty members from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through server(s) installed at INFLIBNET Centre. The authorized users from colleges can now access E-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre.

2. Objectives

The present study was carried out to fulfill the following objectives:

1. To assess the level of awareness of available/subscribed E-resources.
2. To know the extent of utilization of E-resources by faculty members.
3. To study the intended use of E-resources by the faculties.
4. To find out the problems faced by faculties in accessing E-resources.
5. To study the level of satisfaction of the respondents.

3. Methodology

The survey based research methodology has been adopted for this study. A questionnaire was designed keeping in view the objectives of the study. The questionnaires were personally distributed among the all the faculty members of the Chhatrapati Sahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur during the April-May, 2015 and collected till the July, 2015. The simple mathematical condensed and concise data collected has been presented in the form of tables. Analysis has been used to draw meaningful conclusions.

4. Scope and Limitations

The present study focuses on the awareness and use of electronic resources by the faculty member of the Chhatrapati Sahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur. So that, the study is limited to the faculty members who are working in the university campus only. The researcher has conducted the survey of all the faculty members of the university.

5. Data Interpretation and Analysis

Population Study

The data for the present study was collected during the April to July 2015. A total of 118 questionnaires were distributed to all the faculty member of the CSJM University from various departments. A total number of 83 filled questionnaires were received during the extended period given to fill up. 80 questionnaires were included in the present study. 3 questionnaires were received incomplete so that they were discarded. The status of the respondents is a table is given below:

Table - 1

Designation	Number	Percentage
Professor	4	5.0 %
Associate Professor	9	11.25 %
Assistant Professor	67	83.75 %

According to the Table – 1, 83.75% respondents were Assistant professors, 11.25% Associate Professors and only 5.0% were Professors.

Table - 2

Status	Are you aware about electronic resources	Do you know consortia	Do you know UGC-INFONET Consortium	Do you know N-LIST Consortium
Yes	80 (100.0%)	68 (85.0%)	56 (70.0%)	62 (77.5%)
No	Nil	12 (15.0%)	24 (30.0%)	18 (22.5%)

When the respondents were asked about the awareness of electronic resources all replied “yes” we are aware about the electronic resources but only 85.0% respondents were aware of E-resources consortium. 70% respondents were aware of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortia and only 77.5% respondents know about N-LIST consortium. Therefore it is clear that majority of respondents aware about the library consortium.

Sources through which Consortium are known

Respondents were asked that how they come to know about the consortium, the 33.75% replied that they know through the Library Professionals, 30.0% know through the Research Guide, 25.0% know through their Colleagues whereas 11.25% respondents know about the consortium through the advertisements.

Table - 3

Sources	Number	Percentage
Library Professionals	27	33.75
Research Guide	24	30.0
Colleagues	20	25.0
Advertisement	9	11.25

Use of Various kinds of E-Resources

Table – 4 reveals that 86.25 % respondents used Electronic/Online journals, 72.5% respondents used Electronic Book, 31.25% respondents used Electronic Thesis/Dissertations, 67.5% respondents used Electronic News paper, 33.75% respondents used Electronic Magazines, 42.5% respondents used Electronic Patents and 22.5% respondents used Electronic Standard. Therefore it shows that the electronic resources are being used by majority of Faculty members of C.S.J.M. University, Kanpur.

Table - 4

E-Resources	Number	Percentage
Electronic/Online journals	69	86.25
Electronic Books	58	72.5
Electronic Thesis/Dissertations	25	31.25
Electronic News paper	54	67.5
Electronic Magazines	27	33.75
Electronic Patents	34	42.5
Electronic Standards	18	22.5

Frequency of Use of E-Resources

It was observed from the Table – 5 that 21.25% of respondent access E-resources daily, 38.75% respondents access weekly, 20.0% respondents access once a month, 12.5% respondents access occasionally whereas 17.5% respondents have not yet accessed any E-resource till they filled up the questionnaire.

Table - 5

Frequency	Number	Percentage
Daily	17	21.25
Weekly	31	38.75
Monthly	16	20.0
Occasionally	10	12.5
Not Used	06	7.5

Compatibility with Library Resources

Table – 6 reveals that 100% respondents would like to use print resources while 88.75% respondents feel compatibility to use electronic resources also.

Table - 6

Print		Electronic	
Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
80	100 %	71	88.75

Favored place for the use of electronic resources

When respondents were asked to indicate the preferred place to use the E-resources, 55.0% respondents preferred their own department, about 56.25% respondents accessed E-resources at the Central Library, 16.25% respondents accessed E-resources at their home whereas 5.0% respondents accessed it at other places where the facility of access the E-resources.

Table - 7

Location	Number	Percentage
Central Library	19	23.75
Own department	44	55.0
Home	13	16.25
Other Places	4	5.0

Mode of searching adopted for the use of E-resources

Respondents were asked about the mode of searching used for search E-resources, 52.5% respondents replied that they used search engine, 31.25% respondents used Publisher's website where as 16.25% respondents used University/ Library website.

Table - 8

Methods	Number	Percentage
Search Engines	42	52.5
Publisher's Website	25	31.25
University/ Library Website	13	16.25

Purpose of Using E-Resources

The data given in Table – 9 presents the purpose of using E-resources by the respondents. It was found that 47.5% use E-resources to update their knowledge, 37.5% use for current information, 61.25% used for writing research papers, 82.5% used for research work, 20% used for teaching whereas 12.5% respondents were not sure of any specific purpose. So that we can say that there are multiple uses of consortium resources.

Table - 9

Purpose	Number	Percentage
Update knowledge	38	47.5
Current information	30	37.5
Writing research papers	49	61.25
Research Work	66	82.5
Teaching	16	20.0
Other purpose	10	12.5

Note: Due to the multiple choices percentage exceeds more than 100.

Frequency of visit to Central Library

Table – 10 shows that 21.25% respondents visited Central library daily, 20% respondents visited 3-4 days a week, Majority 33.75% respondents visited twice a week, 15% respondents visited once a week whereas 10% respondents visited Central Library occasionally.

Table - 10

Frequency	Number	Percentage
Daily	17	21.25
3-4 days a week	16	20.0
Twice a week	27	33.75
Once a week	12	15.0
Occasionally	8	10.0

Use of other Library Services in Context of E-resources

Table – 11 Shows about the use of other library services offered by the Central Library. It was found that 90% respondents were using OPAC, 85% respondents were using E-Alerts Service, 61.25% respondents were using E-learning, 45% respondents were using various repositories, and 32.5% respondents were using new arrivals.

Table - 11

Library services	Number	Percentage
OPAC	72	90.0
E-Alerts	68	85.0
E-learning	49	61.25
Repository	36	45.0
New Arrivals	26	32.5

Status of ICT Literacy among Faculty Members

Table – 12 indicates the status of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) literacy among the Faculty Members. It was revealed that 22.5% respondents were excellent, 52.5% were good, 18.75% were average, 3.75 were poor and 2.5% respondents were not sure about their status of ICT literacy.

Table - 12

Levels	Number	Percentage
Excellent	18	22.5
Good	42	52.5
Average	15	18.75
Poor	3	3.75
Can't say	2	2.5

Problem faced by the Respondents

When the respondents were asked about the problems faced during the access of E-resources, there were many problems noticed. 46.25% respondents told that access terminals are limited, 30.0% respondents told slow bandwidth, 51.25% told limited resources, 33.75% told retrieval problem, 25.0% told lack of relevant resources whereas 27.5% respondents have other kind of problems.

Table - 13

Problems	Number	Percentage
Limited access terminals	37	46.25
Slow Bandwidth	24	30.0
Limited resources	41	51.25
Retrieval problem	27	33.75

Lack of relevant information resources	20	25.0
Other problems	22	27.5

6. Findings

- Frequency of usage of E-resources is increasing day by day.
- Majority of users are aware of E-resources available through the UGC-INFONET Consortium and N-LIST Consortium.
- The majority of the respondents (33.75%) opined that Library professionals were the major source of information about the library consortium.
- The Majority of respondents (86.25%) were of the view that Online Journals was the highest utilized resource among other E-resources.
- The majority of respondents (55.0%) preferred using E-resources at their own department/ computer lab.
- Majority of respondents (38.75%) were using the E-resources almost once a week.
- The search engines were most used mode for searching E-resources by majority of respondents (52.5%).
- The Majority of respondents (82.6%) said that E-resources were used mostly for the purpose of research work.
- A majority of respondents (33.75%) visited Central Library twice a week for the use of various resources available in the library.
- In respect to other library services related to E-resources, OPAC was used by most of the respondents.
- Majority of 52.5% respondents considered themselves that they were good with ICT.
- Majority of respondents faced the constraints of limited resources, limited computer terminals.

7. Suggestions

On the basis of the present study following suggestions were made by the researchers to improve the E-resources and services in the library:

- The university library must organize awareness programmes regarding the available E-resources.
- The university must conduct training programmes for explaining users, how to use E-resources available through the UGC-INFONET Consortium and N-LIST Consortium.
- Installation of more computer terminals with increased speed of Internet access.
- Establish computer room at the hostels with at least 10 computers with high speed Internet connectivity.
- Expansion of Wi-Fi connectivity throughout the university campus.
- The Central Library requires sufficient power backup with a high power UPS in order to overcome the problem of frequent power cuts and power supply disruption.

8. Conclusion

E-resources are being valuable resource when online content reaches to a critical mass. Each scholarly community and discipline will have its own specific legacy of journals, reading patterns, publishing and research practices. The study shows that there is an upward trend in the usage of E-resources among the faculty members as the demand for e-resources is continuously increasing. There has been a keen interest in using various types of E-resources available through the consortium. It will be important to distinguish the e-resources which having maximum and minimum usage, and more importantly the user satisfaction

level in using such E-resources. There is a need to conduct such kind of user studies from time to time which will be useful for critical decision making for subscribing the e-resources in the university as well as within a consortium.

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