

AWARENESS AND USE OF CERA AMONG FACULTIES AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS AT THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HASSAN

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ABSTRACT

Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA) was initiated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. It was focused on researching the methodical literature in the National Agricultural Research System. The consortium grants access to numerous research works, articles and journals. It contains over 3000 journals in the various sections of agricultural sciences. Around 194 journals are related to farm animal's management, animal husbandry and poultry sciences. These journals contain details about animal nourishment, foodstuff, dietary additives, and so on, along with fisheries, horticulture, dairy farms, veterinary discipline, sericulture, aquaculture, among many. This paper attempts to study the awareness and use of electronic information resources (CeRA) available in the College of Agriculture, Hassan, Karnataka by the Faculty and research scholars.

Key Terms: CeRA E-Journals, University of Agricultural Science, Hassan, E-journals, Awareness and Use

I. INTRODUCTION

Over centuries and millenniums, oral communication was considered as very vital for social interaction between various sorts of people, even in ancient civilizations. As science and technology developed over past few decades, the process of communication became more advanced, from papers, magazines, to more hi-tech computer, internet, software, etc.

India is basically an agricultural country. The progress and evolution of agriculture has a positive and predominant effect on the country, with good yields of various types of crops which relies on numerous natural and man-made conditions. Agricultural growth in the country is achieved through Agricultural research. The researches periodically update the information and agricultural trends and revolutions. Generally, the institutions in National Agricultural Research System (NARS) used to procure study materials in the form of printed papers, books, newspapers and magazines. But now, majority of the institutions opt for digital

media and e-books through internet and other web-based services, for scientific research and development.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has a well-established network with State Agricultural Universities and government and private institutes; accordingly the Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA) was initiated in November 2007. The main objective of CeRA was to facilitate easy access to scientific journals for scholars and faculty members of National Agricultural Research System. CeRA offers crucial research materials and online journals to scholars for their research and development.

The E-resources in the library are quite significant in providing important research information to the scholars. Moreover, the scholars don't have to waste time in travelling to the library and searching for required books and materials. The digital libraries contains large amount of information, which are easy to search, access and borrow. Thus, the internet based digital resources material has

gained immense popularity in academic research. It has become one of technological advancement in libraries & Information centers. In general, the E-Resources are available in the form of websites, CD-ROM, e-books, newspaper, e-Journals, thesis, research papers, online databases, dissertation, etc. The popularity of online resources is growing day by day, and more advances will be made in this regard.

1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

- To find out the awareness about CeRA among Faculties and Research Scholars in the College of Agriculture, Hassan.
- To investigate the extent of use of CeRA among the Faculties and Research Scholars in the College of Agriculture, Hassan.

1.2 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The study is to find out the awareness and use of the electronic information resources by the research scholars and Faculty members of College of Agriculture, Hassan, Karnataka. The scope of the study is limited to the electronic information resources mainly available in College of Agriculture, Hassan, Karnataka.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Subramanian and Priyadharshini (2017) studied the 'Use Pattern Of Consortium Of E-Resources Among Users At Forest College And Research Institute, Mettupalayam: A Case Study'. The authors conducted a survey on usage of various kinds of electronic information resources and digital resources which are freely accessible on internet and digital libraries. The study was focused on the Post Graduate students and research scholars. The offline repositories such hard disks, compact disks, etc., which were available in the college were also considered for the study. It has been analyzed from the study that majority of the participants were familiar with the ICT tools. Majority of the participant's motives for adopting e-resources were, 'Allow remote access' 88.89%, 'can be used concurrently by more than one user' 87.30%, 'Provides well-timed access' 76.19%. Majority of the students were accessing and using e-resources which were freely available over the internet. (Dr.N.Subramanian, R.Priyadharshini, 2017)

Priyadharshni et.al (2015) carried out a survey on the usage of E-resources among the faculty and research scholars at the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai. The researchers contend that most of the participants were completely aware of the available E-resources, like, E-books, E-journals, E-data archives, E-thesis, E-magazines, doctoral dissertations, E-dictionaries, E-newspapers, digital-encyclopedia, literature databases on internet and CD-ROM. They also concluded that almost all doctoral candidates and other faculty were using the digital study materials which were freely available over the internet, mostly through Yahoo, Bing, and Google. Apart from that, they were using e-resources from CeRA, along with e-books and other digital literatures from CABI, Springer, Wiley and Black and TNAU libraries.

Chandra et al. (2014) analyzed the use pattern of e-resources among faculty members in Arts and Science Colleges in Chennai. It was found that most of the participants were familiar with digital resources which were accessible in their college libraries. Such resources were used by students for study and research purposes. The students have also suggested that digital resources are more helpful for them and found it very important for their academic development.

Pauline Adeniran (2013) investigated the use of electronic resources by undergraduates at the Redeemer's University, Nigeria. It was analyzed that the electronic resources played a significant role in enhancing the academic performances of the undergraduates in the University. Nonetheless, the scholars required more computer knowledge and skills to access such resources.

Francis (2012) investigated the use of consortium of e-resources in agriculture at the Kerala Agricultural University, Thissur. The study evaluated the use of consortia-based digital research materials by the post-graduate and PhD students. Data was collected through pre-structured questionnaire. The study revealed that all the participants were aware of the online digital information sources. Moreover, around 87.14 %

were using CeRA, and over 82% participants were familiar with it. More information and data are being added to CeRA, to make it more resourceful.

Kumbar and Hadagali (2009) surveyed the use of UGCINFONET e- journals consortium by faculty members and research scholars of Karnataka University, Dharwad. They analyzed from the study that most scholars and faculties were familiar with the importance of consortium project and they welcomed the consortium with positive acknowledgement. Suggestions have been given on few training/awareness programs. They have also presented some guidelines for using the consortium more effectively.

Kannappanawar and Swamy (2008) investigated the 'Online access to electronic information resources and services in agricultural sciences: through internet' and they have illustrated about the online information resources with respect to agricultural sciences, such as, databases of agriculture science, e-journals, virtual libraries, online e-libraries, and many other digital study materials. Furthermore, they have also explained the significance of digital information systems such as, AGLINET, AGRIS, CRIS, etc. These digital information systems are popular on global online domain. Even though there are numerous constraints, the online agriculture library can be helpful in providing access to worldwide information repository. Furthermore, all digital sources and electronic literature on several agricultural aspects, categories and systems are made accessible from any point on the world.

III METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted among the research scholars and Faculty members of College of Agriculture, Hassan, Karnataka. Survey method of data collection has been adopted. Primary data has been collected by making use of pre-structured closed-ended questionnaires. 43 questionnaires were distributed and 31 duly filled in all respects were received. The data collected has been tabulated, critically examined and presented in percentage.

Table 3.1 Distribution of questionnaires to various categories of users

Categories	Questionnaires Distributed	Responses Received
Research Scholars	12	05
Faculty Members	31	26
Total	43	31

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Status of the respondents

Table 4.1 Status of the respondents

Status	Frequency	Percentage
Faculty Members	26	84%
Research Scholar	5	16%
	31	100

As per the table 4.1, 84% of the respondents were faculty members and rests were Research Scholars of the Agricultural College Hassan.

Awareness of E-Journals

Table 4.2 –Awareness of E-Journals

Awareness of E-Journals	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	31	100%
No	0	0%
Total	31	100

Table 4.2 indicates that, 100% of the respondents were aware of the E-Journals available in the library.

Use of E-Journals

Table 4.3 –Use of E-Journals

E-Journals Usage	Frequency	Percentage
CeRA E-Journals	25	81%
Library subscribed journals	12	39%
Open access journals	25	81%

Table 4.3 depicts that majority i.e. 81% of the respondents are using both CeRA E-Journals and open access journals and rest 39% of the respondents use library subscribed journals. Result shows that CeRA E-Journals and Open access journals are predominantly in use by faculty members and research scholars.

Location of Accessing E-Journals

Table 4.4 – Location of Accessing E-Journals

Location of Accessing E-Journal	Frequency	Percentage
Library	14	45%
Computer Centre in the Campus	2	6%
Department	18	58%
Any other	4	13%

Table 4.4 indicates that 58% of the respondents are accessing E-journals from department, 45% of the respondents accessing E-journals from the Library, 13% are accessing e-journals through their personal computers and laptops and fewer respondents are accessing e-journals from computer centre on the campus. Department and Library are the places where faculty members and research scholars are commonly accessing the E-journals.

Preference for printed v/s E-journals

Table 4.5 - Preference for printed v/s E-journals

Preference for Printed v/s E-Journals	Frequency	Percentage

E-Journals/Databases

Table 4.7 – E-journals/Databases

E-Journals and Databases	Not at all		To a very little extent		to some extent)		To a great extent		To a very great extent	
	Fq	%	Fq	%	Fq	%	Fq	%	Fq	%
A A A S	1	3.2%	3	10%	8	26%	3	10%	6	19.3%
A S M	2	6.4%	3	10%	7	22%	2	6.4%	0	0%
A S A	4	13%	3	10%	5	16%	4	13%	2	6.4%
Annual Reviews	0	0%	1	3.2%	10	32%	7	22%	5	16%
BioOnBe	3	10%	2	6.4%	7	22%	1	3.2%	1	3.2%
Cabi	3	10%	1	3.2%	4	13%	6	19.3%	0	0%
CSIRO	3	10%	1	3.2%	3	10%	6	19.3%	2	6.4%
Elsevier	1	3.2%	0	0%	8	26%	8	26%	9	29%
ISHS	1	3.2%	1	3.2%	3	10%	9	29%	1	3.2%
IWA	2	6.4%	3	10%	6	19.3%	4	13%	1	3.2%
Indian Journals	0	0%	2	6.4%	8	26%	5	16%	10	32%
NPG	2	6.4%	2	6.4%	4	13%	5	16%	5	16%

Printed Journal	3	10%
E-Journal	5	16%
Both	23	74%
Total	31	100%

It is found from the table 4.5 that 74% of the respondents prefer both printed journals as well as E-Journals whereas 16% of the respondents prefer to use E-journals and rest 10% prefer to use printed journal. It is clear from the analysis that majority of the faculty members and research scholars prefer to use both Printed journals and E-journals.

Awareness of CeRA E-Journals

Table 4.6 – Awareness of CeRA E-Journals

Awareness of CeRA E-Journals	Frequency	Percentage
Aware & Use	24	78%
Aware and do not use	6	19%
Not Aware	1	3%
Total	31	100%

As per the survey results represented in the table 4.6, 78% of the respondents are aware of availability of the CeRA E-Journals subscribed by the library, 19% of the respondents are aware but they do not use the CeRA E-Journals subscribed by the library. The analysis shows that majority of the faculty members and research scholars are well aware of the availability of CeRA E-journals prescribed by the library.

OUP	0	0%	3	10%	7	22%	3	10%	4	13%
Springer	2	6.4%	1	3.2%	3	10%	8	26%	8	26%
Taylor & Francis	3	10%	1	3.2%	9	29%	4	13%	3	10%

AASS (American association for the advancement of science), ASM (American Society for Microbiology), ASA (American Society of Agronomy), ISHS (International Society for Horticultural Science), IWA (International Water Association), NPG (Nature Publishing Group), OUP (Oxford University Press)

Table 4.7 depicts that 26% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) 'to some extent', while 22% of the of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by American Society for Microbiology and 16% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published.

by American Society of Agronomy, 32% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by Annual reviews, 22% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by BioOneBe. It is seen that 'to a great extent', 19.3% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by Cabi, 19.3% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by CSIRO, whereas 29% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by Elsevier. 29% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by International Society for Horticultural Science 'to a greater extent', 19.3% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by International water Association, 32% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by Indian Journals, and 16% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by Nature Publishing Group. 22% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by Oxford University Press to some extent, 26% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by Springer, and 29% of the respondents are accessing and using E-journal published by Taylor and Francis to some extent.

It is clear from the analysis that research scholars and faculty members are using A A A S, ASM, Annual Reviews, BioOnBe, Elsevier, OUP, Indian Journals, Springer, Taylor & Francis publication journals.

Locating articles in the E-journals

Table 4.8 – Locating articles in the E-journals

Locating articles in the E-journals	Frequency	Percentage
Directly from the publishers website	15	48%
From the CeRA project Website	15	48%
Subject list located on CeRA Project website	9	29%
Link provided by the library intranet website	10	32%

Table 4.8 shows that 48% of the respondents locate the required articles in the E-journals directly from the publisher's websites and CeRA project websites, 32% of the respondents access it from the link provided by the library intranet website and 29% of them are accessing it from subject list located on CeRA Project website. Publisher's website and CeRA project websites are the most accessed links to get required articles in E-journals.

Availability of Journals in CeRA

Table 4.9 - Availability of Journals in CeRA

Availability of Journals in CeRA	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	14	45%
No	17	55%
Total	31	100

Table 4.9 shows that, 45% of the respondents opine that they are getting all the important journals of their discipline in CeRA and rest 55% of the respondents said that they are not getting all the important journals in their discipline. More journals pertaining to their respective disciplines are to be added to the CeRA consortium.

Format of CeRA E-Journal

Table 4.10 - Format of CeRA E-journal

Format of CeRA E-	Frequency	Percentage
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journal	y	ge
PDF	30	97%
HTML	2	6%
Any other	0	0%

Table 4.10 shows that, 97% of the respondents are using PDF format of CeRA E-journals and 6% are using HTML format. It can be observed from the analysis that PDF format is the more familiar format and majority of the faculty members and research scholars are mainly using PDF format of CeRA E-journal.

Required orientation to access CeRA E-journal

Table 4.11 Orientation to access CeRA E-journal

Orientation to CeRA E-journal	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	24	77%
No	7	23%
Total	31	100

Table 4.11 depicts that, 77% of the respondents have shown positive response to have orientation for the effective use of CeRA E-journals and rest i.e. 23% of the respondents have not shown interest to have orientation on use of CeRA E-journals.

It can be observed that majority of the faculty members and researches scholars are in need of orientation regarding the use of CeRA E-journal to overcome the difficulties in the proper utilization of CeRA E-Journals.

Constraints in accessing the CeRA E-journals

Table 4.12 Constraints in accessing the CeRA E-journals

Constraints in accessing the CeRA E-journals	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	19	61%
No	12	39%
Total	31	100

Table 4.12 indicates that, 61% of the respondents are facing difficulties while accessing and using CeRA E-journals and rest 39% respondents are not facing any difficulties. It is clear from the facts that majority of the faculty members and research scholars are having constraints while accessing and using CeRA E-journals.

Problems while accessing CeRA E-journals

Table 4.13 problems while accessing CeRA E-journals

Problem while accessing CeRA-journals	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of computer knowledge to use it	3	10%
No proper assistance by library staff	6	19%
Do not understand the process involved in using CeRA	9	29%
Problem with the connectivity	8	25%
Difficulty in finding relevant information	6	19%

Table 4.13 points out that, 29% of the respondents are facing problem as they do not understand the process involved in using CeRA whereas 25% of the respondents are facing problem with the connectivity and again 19% of the respondents are facing problem as they are not getting proper assistance by library staffs and rest 10% of the respondents facing problem due to lack of computer knowledge to use it.

It can be observed from the analysis that majority of the faculty members and research scholars are facing difficulties as they do not understand the process involved in using CeRA and also facing technical problems as there is no proper connectivity. So it can be suggested that orientation program is necessary to overcome these issues.

V. MAJOR FINDINGS

The following are the key observations based on the study:

- The study revealed that majority of the respondents was aware of the E-Journals available in the library.
- The study showed that majority of the respondents is predominantly using CeRA E-journals and Open access journals.

- Majority of the respondents are accessing the E-journals from the department and the Library.
- The study showed that maximum respondents prefer to use both Printed journals and E-journals
- Majority of the respondents are well aware of the availability of CeRA E-journals prescribed by the library.
- The study showed that majority of the respondents are using A A S, ASM, Annual Reviews, BioOnBe, Elsevier, OUP, Indian Journals, Springer, Taylor & Francis publication journals.
- Publisher's website and CeRA project websites are the most accessed links to get required articles in E-Journals
- More journals pertaining to their respective disciplines are to be added to the CeRA consortium
- The study indicated that majority of the respondents are mainly using PDF format of CeRA E-journal.
- The study indicates that maximum faculties were interested in attending the orientation in the use of CeRA E-journal.

- The study indicated that majority of the respondents are facing difficulties in accessing and using CeRA E-journals as they do not understand the process involved in using CeRA and also facing the technical problems as there is no proper connectivity.

VI. CONCLUSION

Electronic journals are an invaluable source of up-to-date scholarly information. Present study reveals its impact in terms of awareness and effective use of the CeRA Consortium E-journals, with a few constraints reported by the respondents. The CeRA has brought a revolution in access and delivery mechanisms in the field of agriculture. The faculty members and research scholars are benefited by accessing CeRA consortia for the purpose of their academic and research activities. The users specifically research scholars and faculty members contributing to academic and research oriented publications in various journals by having knowledge about availability and accessibility of CeRA E-journals. It is concluded that CeRA E-journals is being used efficiently by academic members and research scholars.

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