



Awareness of E-resources among the Library and Information Science Students in SKB University: A Study

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Abstract

Electronic resources are becoming more and more important, necessary and extremely beneficial for the academic community. Electronic Resources (E-Resources) is come out rapidly due to the tremendous advancement of technologies especially during the last decade of 20th century and traditional print resources are gradually being replaced by E-resources. The use of the E-resources in the library has changed its services. To fulfill the challenges of electronic environment, librarians must obtain latest skills and provide latest services. The librarian of an academic institution will have to develop a balance and effective collection of information resources in the library. This study highlights that the status, user awareness and the effective use of E-resources by the Library and Information Science Students in SKB University. This paper highlights the type of E-resources available and user's awareness about E-resources, and also highlights the challenges face while using the E-resources.

Keywords: E-resources, Digital resources, College students, E-books, E-journals, Information communication technology.

Introduction

The university was founded on 6 July 2010 by the Sidho Kanho Brisha University Act, 2010, passed by the West Bengal Legislature. The university is named for three rebels who put up resistance against British rule: Sidhu Murmu, Kanhu Murmu, and Birsa Munda.

Tapati Mukherjee was appointed as the first vice-chancellor of this university. One of the important focuses of this university is to promote and protect indigenous culture and language. Its post-graduate departments started functioning from the 2011-12 session with 12 academic departments (Bengali, English, Sanskrit, Santali, History, Political Science, Philosophy, Education, Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics & Commerce). Over the years in an expansive and forward-looking drive, they grew to 19 departments with the introduction to Economics, Sociology, Tribal Studies, Geography, Zoology, Botany & Psychology department, many of which are in the frontier areas of Science and Social Sciences. And the Library and Information Science Integrated Course were introduced in the year 2021.

Electronic Resources

An electronic resource is defined as “Information (usually a file) which can be stored in the form Electrical signal usually, but not necessary on a computer. Or we can say resource which requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed.

The e-resources are basically divided in two major types are-Online e-resources, which may include E-journal (Full text & bibliographic), E-books, Online databases, Web sites and Other electronic resources which may include CD ROM, Diskettes and Other portable computer databases.

Literature Review

Maitato and Botswana (2020) have conducted a study on the frequency and purpose of use of e-resources regarding level of awareness of students in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology. This study examined the incidence and purpose of the use of eresources in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology. The study correspondingly examined the demographic outline of students and their e-resources awareness. A descriptive survey design was used for this study. The purposeful sampling technique was adopted for this study. The sample consists of 120 respondents. Three research objectives were answered and one null hypothesis was tested at the significance level of 0.05. The study has exposed that the students use e-resources on daily basis with the internet topping at 98.4% followed by e-Books at 85.6%.

Sharma and Srivastava (2019) conducted a study on “awareness and usage of online information resources in engineering college affiliated to RGPV, Bhopal”. The study aims at finding the awareness and usage of online information resources among faculty members, research scholars and post-graduate students in private engineering college libraries affiliated with RGPV Madhya Pradesh. This paper gives an overview of the awareness of online information esources among library users. An attempt was made to find out the status of eresources in engineering college libraries. The analysis of the preliminary study reveals the purpose of using online resources and the extent of user’s satisfaction towards online resources.

Soni, Gupta and Srivastava (2018) led a survey on awareness and usage of electronic resources among LIS scholars of Jiwaji University, Gwalior. The survey is an effort to determine and find the presentstatus of awareness, accessibility, and use of electronic resources among library and information science research scholars of Jiwaji University Gwalior, like; CD-ROM databases, online databases, online journals, OPAC, etc. The study was done to find out the challenges, benefits, and progress gained by research scholars while accessing the e-resources. It is found out through a study that ‘Shodhganga’ was mostly used (95 percent) by research scholars, followed by DOAJ.

Jestin and Sornam (2016) in their study “E-resources in engineering college libraries in Kerala: awareness and availability” has mentioned that today the engineering institutions are investing a huge amount for digital resources because the quality of engineering institutions is determined in terms of digital collections, e-resources, networking component, ICT tools, etc. This study aimed at finding the awareness of librarians about the various e-resources existing in the engineering education sector and the availability of these e-resources in engineering college libraries in Kerala.

Benefits or advantages of e-resources:

The following are the advantages of e-resources over the print media:

- **Accessible** – can be accessed from any media from anywhere in the world
- **Easily searchable** - each journal can be searched quick and easy often through the complete full text of articles and via online index
- **Easily available and saving time**- Articles/issues appear online before printed version is available
- **Updated**- Rapid turnaround time means articles can be read, commented by the readers, amended quickly and greater feedback thru the web
- **Links to the relevant source**- Hypertext format should be exploited and links to related articles, information on other web sites, stable URLs for individual articles and email alerts when latest issue loaded.
- **Multimedia format** - Advantages taken on the web is to add value by using animation, virtual reality and interactive mathematical charts.
- **Inexpensive** - savings can be made over printing costs, distribution costs and extra costs by new features.
- **Flexibility** - E-journals evolved quickly. They are not tied to a format, printer, and distribution network

Apart from the above some other advantages of e-resources may include: international reach, unlimited capabilities, convenience, search-ability etc.

Disadvantages of e-resources

- Difficulty reading computer screens:
- Technical barriers to use e-resources.
- Need computers, network connection, software etc.
- Infrastructural problems for using e-resources.
- Skills and training requirements.
- Cost can be high: Technology and content.
- Variable Quality information.
- Often not included in indexing and abstracting services
- Search engines ignores PDF files

Aims and Objectives

1. To find out the user awareness about the E-resources available in the library.
2. To find out the frequency of using e-resources
3. To study the purpose of utilization of E-resources
4. To find out the satisfaction level of user about e-resources.
5. To find out the barrier or challenges while using e-resources.

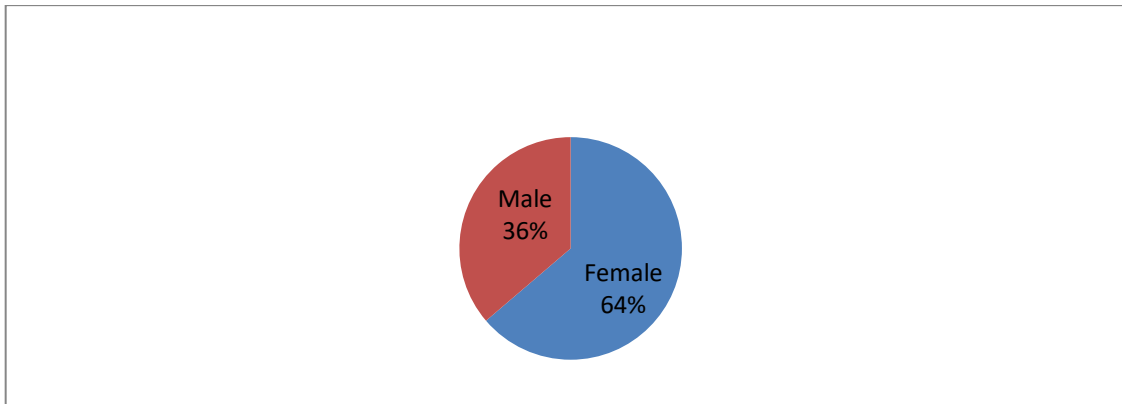
Research Methodology

A structured questionnaire was prepared to collect data from the department of Library and Information Science Students in SKB University. For this purpose I was share print as well as soft copy of the questionnaire. Out of 89 students, 80 were responded and the study is based on data received from the filled questionnaire. After collect them it was analysed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in form of my paper.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

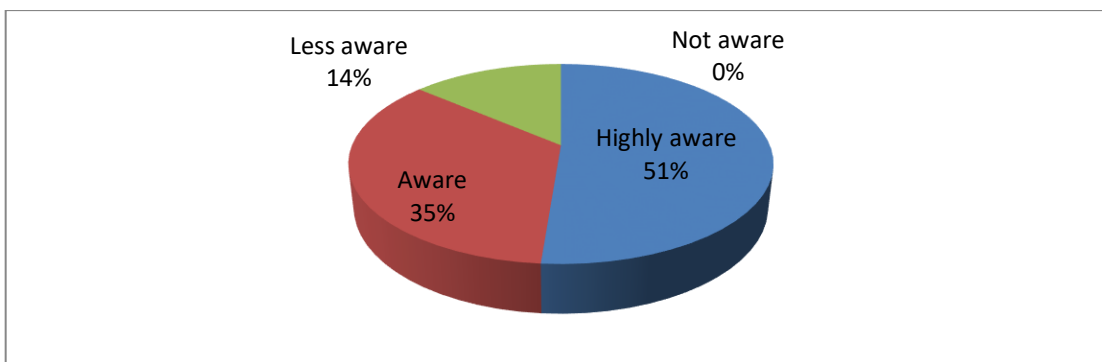
The analysis and interpretation of the data collected through questionnaires distributed among the students in Library and Information Science department in SKB University are provided below.

Figure 1: Gender wise respondents



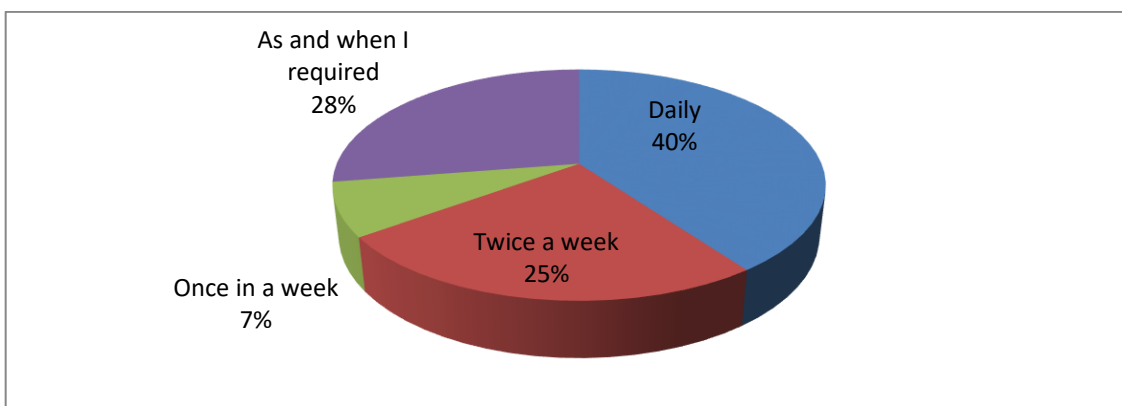
From the above figure, it is shown that 36% of the respondents belong to the male category and 64% of the respondents are from the female category. There are no transgender categories.

Figure 2: Awareness level of e-resources



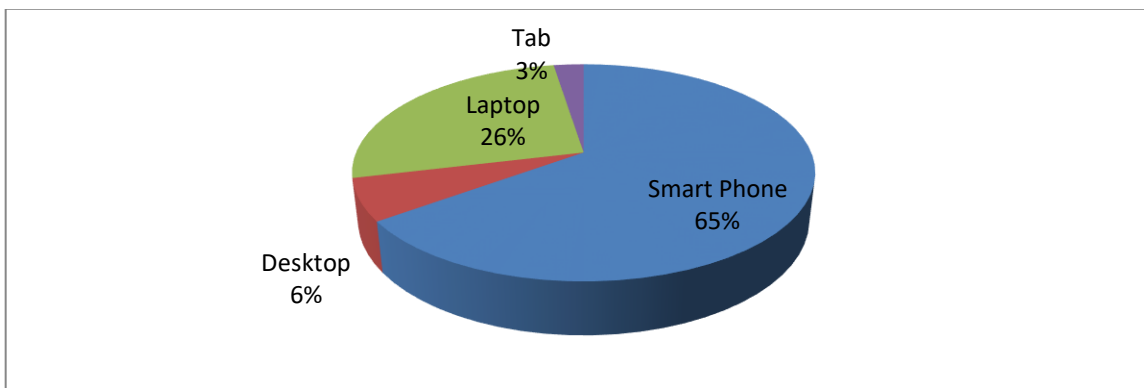
51% of the respondents replied that they are highly aware of the e-resources followed by 35% who replied that they are moderately aware of the e-resources, 14% of the respondents replied that they are little aware of the e-resources while surprisingly nobody can replied that they are not aware of the e-

Figure 3: The frequency of using e-resources



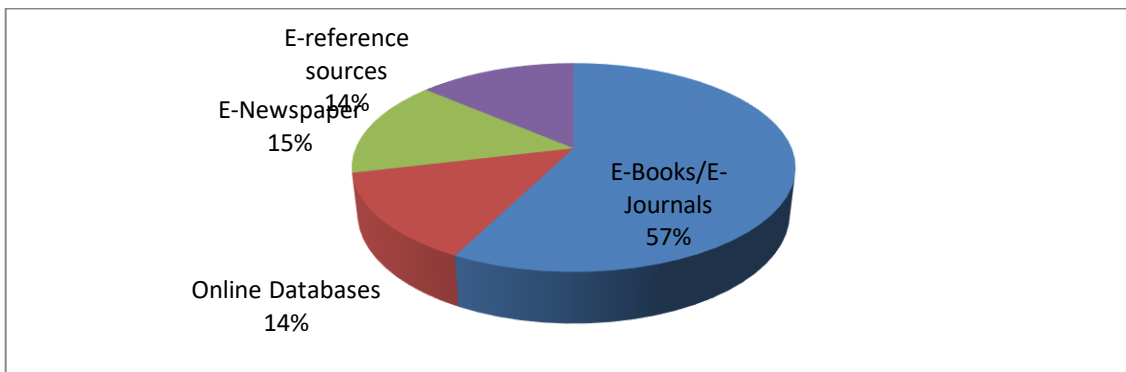
E-resources have a vast amount of knowledge and students use it according to their needs. The frequency of using e-resources was measured and data is presented in figure 3. The study revealed that the majority of respondents, 40% (N=32), use e-resources daily. There is 25% (N=20) respondents use twice in a week, 7% (N=6) respondents use once in a week and 28% (N=22) respondents use e-resources use as and when required.

Figure 4: Devices used to access E-resources



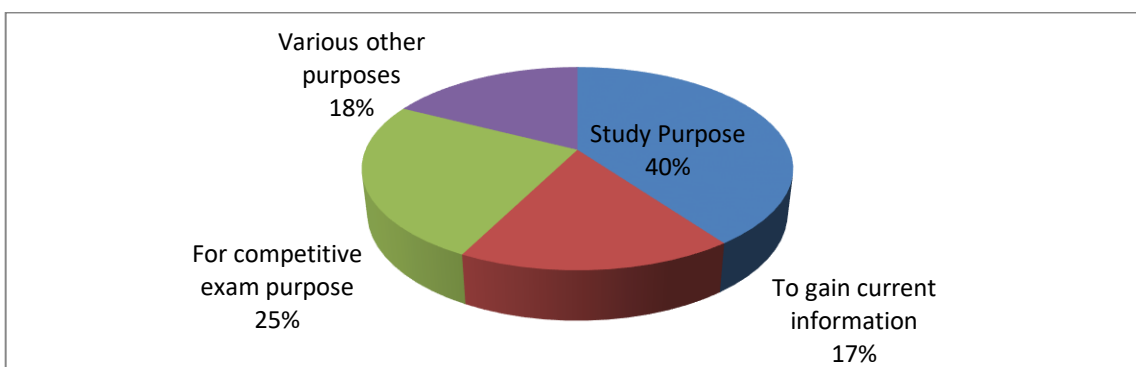
There are many devices by which respondents can access e-resources. Respondents use e-resource by PC, Laptop, Tablet or Mobile. Many respondents have a single device, whereas many have respondents use more than one device to access them. The figure 4 shows that most of respondents 65% (N=52) use Smart Phone, 5% (N=52) Desktop, 26% (N=21) Laptop and 3% (N=2) respondents use their Tablet to access e-resources.

Figure 5: Types of e-resources frequently used



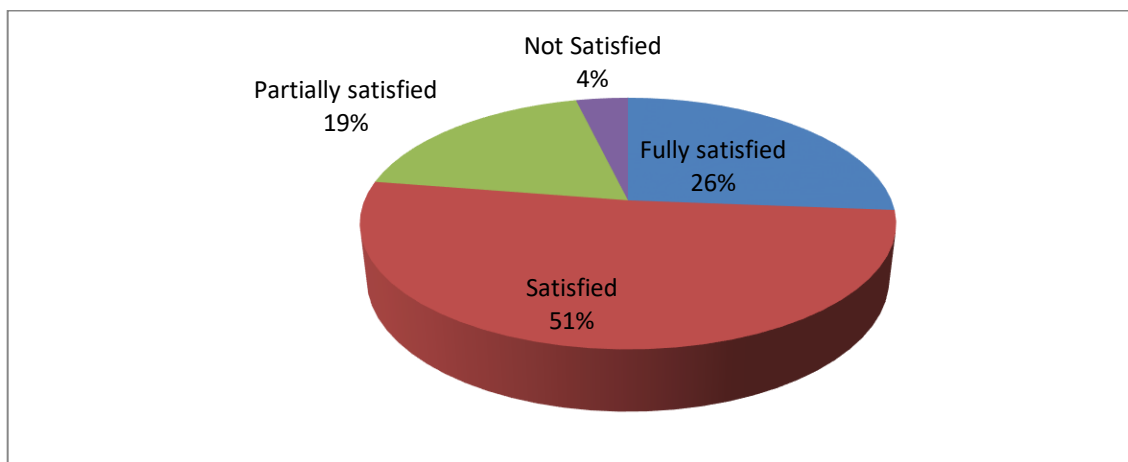
The above table highlights that 57% of respondents frequently used e-books/ e-journals, followed by 14% of respondents' online databases, 14 % e reference sources and 15% of respondents use for e- newspapers.

Figure 6: Purpose of using e-resources



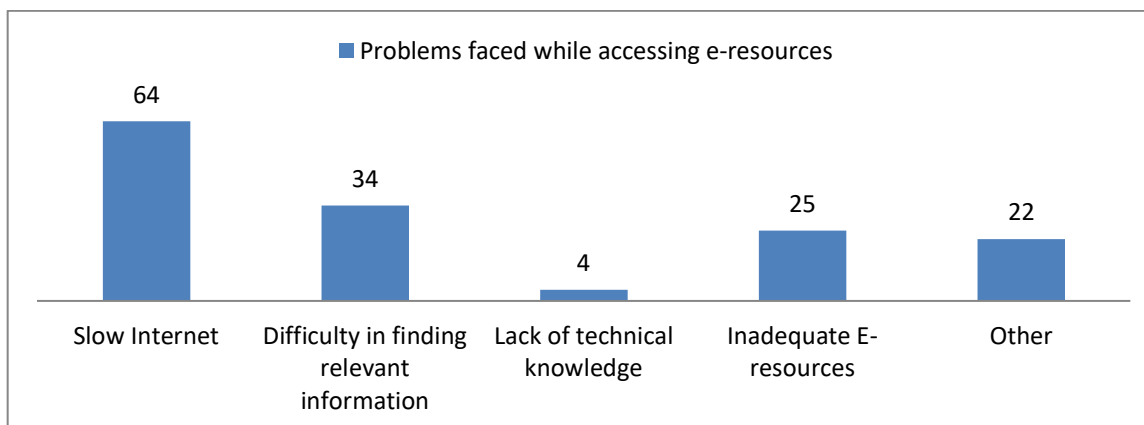
From the above table revealed that 40% of respondents using E –resources for the study purpose, whereas 25% for competitive exam purpose, 17%of respondents to gain current information and 18% of respondents using E –resources for various other purposes like to update knowledge etc.

Figure 7: Satisfaction Level



It is observed from the above chart that majority 51% of the respondents stated that they are satisfied with e-resources, while 27%) fully satisfied, 19% partially satisfied and only 4% of the respondents responded that they are not satisfied with open access e-resources.

Figure 8: Problems faced while accessing e-resources (Multiple responses were allowed)



E-resources are very convenient to use, but they required little knowledge of searching and use of them. We observed the problem facing by the respondents while accessing. The study reveals that 43 respondents face low internet speed problems, 34 respondent face difficulty in finding relevant information, and 4 respondents have lack of technical knowledge while 25 respondents do not find adequate e-resources. 22 respondents faced those problems that were not mentioned in our options and choose others.

Major Findings of the Study

- Most of the students aware about the E-resources.
- Most of the students (40%) using E-resources daily basis.
- Most of the students (57%) using E-Books and E-Journals.
- There are 40% respondents using E-resources for study purpose.
- 50% respondents fully satisfied with the browsing E-resources.
- Majority 64 respondents were problem face while browsing the E-resources for slow internet connection.

Conclusion

The usages of e-Resources are rapidly growing from last two decades. And the Department of Library and Information Science, SKB University various kind and standard type E-resources provide to its users. And also they provide good services to and various facilities to its users. The finding shows that libraries should improve the facilities and services to their users. The finding of the study shows the growing interest in the use of e-Resources among the students.

The libraries must focus on acquiring more online resources to be made available for the maximum number of users. The library also makes a helpline desk to solve e-resources related issues. Awareness is essential for maximum utilization of the e resources so, libraries must conduct awareness programs for newly admitted students every year.

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