



USE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AMONG RESEARCH SCHOLARS IN UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

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Abstract

In this article, we take a look at the various ways in which researchers at the University of Kerala make use of the electronic resources that are available to them. The purpose of this study is to determine whether or not people are aware of electronic resources, how the Research Scholars make use of electronic resources, the types of electronic resources that are available, and the motivation behind their utilization, which may include factors that motivate the use of digital resources. Additionally, the study will determine the types of electronic resources that are available. The following assertions are made throughout the document. Study Scholars at Kerala University make use of electronic resources for study and other activities since they are able to access these materials quickly and from any location in the world. These resources include e-journals, e-books, and electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs). Customers are flocking to internet resources in overwhelming numbers due to the fact that the information that these resources provide is always up-to-date and simple to utilize.

Keywords e resources ,research scholars, University of Kerala ,use and awareness

Introduction

The progress of technology has had some degree of impact on the increase in the number of written works that have been produced. At the present time, enormous swaths of content encompassing all of the academic subjects are being published across a wide variety of electronic media in a number of various forms. These electronic publications come in a variety of file types. The ease of administration, organisation, and provision of access to the information that is made available by e-resources has resulted in an increase in the number of electronic documents that are being purchased by libraries. This has led to an increase in the amount of space devoted to the storage of these electronic documents. There has been a rise in the quantity of electronic documents that have been bought, which can be attributed to the fact that they are easier to use. Another option that has the potential to become a reality is the provision of access to a wide variety of previously published works. This possibility can be realised with the assistance of digital libraries and other similar resources. Users have also benefited from the growth of electronic resources, which has been seen as advantageous in general. This is because electronic resources are easier to use. This is something that has been seen as a trend that is heading in the right direction. This has been accomplished by constructing a library that does not have any walls or borders, which as a result gives the way to access to a limitless amount of information that may be accessed.

When working in this sector of the economy, making use of the electronic resources that are currently on offer paves the way for gaining access to materials originating from all over the world. In universities, activities such as teaching, learning, and research are all carried out, and all of these activities require information that is as current as it is practically possible to be. The information that is made available via electronic resources is one example of a form of media that permits information that is current on a global scale and can be received in a fast. Another example would be the internet. Electronic resources provide access to this kind of information that can be found. In this regard, an attempt has been made to explore the utilisation of online resources by social science Research scholars at Kerala University. This investigation is being carried out within the context of the research that is now being conducted. To be more explicit, the primary focus of this investigation is on the ways in which research researchers in Kerala make use of the resources that are accessible online.

Review of literature

Anasuya (2017) examined how Karnataka doctors used electronic resources. The study examined how and when people used electronic resources, their frequency of use, their purpose for gathering resources, and their challenges. Questionnaires collected basic data. Medical professionals answered 300 questions. 76.66% responded. Percentage analysis was used. The analysis found inadequate finances to buy resources. Users need ICT training and instruction. User-educate the proposed technology change. The study found that most consumers got medical information online. The study found that library workers helped overcome technical and ICT constraints.

Jebaraj (2018) studied how Research Scholars and Students used electronic resources at the Central Library of Alagappa University in Karaikudi. The study's objectives included monitoring and evaluating electronic resources in a library environment, identifying challenges faced by users, and gauging satisfaction. The respondents were chosen by random sampling, and the findings of the survey revealed that academics often utilize electronic resources for a number of goals, including expanding their expertise and getting ready for seminars.

Kumar (2010) conducted research into how professors at the University of Agriculture and Technology in Meerut, which is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India, make use of the internet resources that are made available by the university's library. In this article, the author shows how individuals make use of the internet, many famous search engines, and other sources of information on websites. In addition to this, it examines the difficulties that internet users face, the degrees of pleasure that they experience, as well as the services and infrastructure that are provided by libraries.

In the Punjab Agricultural University library, Kumar and Sharma (2010) carried out a study to investigate the degree to which electronic resources are being utilized. The results of the study indicate that the internet is the electronic resource that is utilized most frequently by people nowadays.

An assessment of the utilization of the Consortium of e-Resources in Agriculture was carried out by Francis, A.T. (2012) within the context of the Kerala Agricultural University. According to the findings, the vast majority of the students had prior experience using digital information resources that are available online.

Objectives of the study

1. To assess the level of patron awareness regarding the availability of electronic resources in the library
2. To determine the goals that will be accomplished through the utilization of the electronic resources
3. To identify the utilization of electronic resources.

Methodology

The goal of this research project is to explore the levels of awareness, utilization, and impact of electronic information resources among users of social science research scholars within the scope of University of Kerala. It was concluded that the best method for doing research for this particular investigation would be to make use of questionnaires. Keeping in mind the objectives of the research, a standardized questionnaire was constructed with the assistance of a tool found online, and it was then distributed using the internet. During all stages of the data collecting procedure, a total of 110 questionnaires featuring full and accurate responses were obtained.

Analysis

Gender-Wise Distribution of the Respondents

Table 1 Research Scholars - Gender-wise analysis

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	52	47.3
Female	58	52.7
Total	110	100

Table 1 shows that male respondents were 47.3% of the total population, while female respondents were 52.7% of the total population. The gender-wise distribution of the Research scholars from Kerala has a representation from both sexes that is close to being equal.

Table 2: Awareness about Electronic Resources

Response	Research scholars	Percentage
Aware	106	96.4
Not aware	4	3.6
Total	110	100

Table 2 reveals that 96.4% of the total population of research academics were aware of the existence of electronic resources. 3.6% of the general population was comprised of academic researchers who lacked awareness of the availability of electronic resources.

Table 3: Purpose of Using Electronic Resources

Purpose	Research scholars	Percentage
For conferences and seminars	37	33.6
To prepare journal article for publication	41	37.3
For thesis writing	32	29.1
Total	110	100

Table 3 demonstrates that the majority of research researchers are now using electronic resources for the writing and publication of journal articles (37.3%), as well as for conferences and seminars (33.6%).

In addition, 29.1% of research scholars who write their theses using electronic resources

Table 4 Choice for using various forms of electronic resources

Type of e resources	Research scholars	Percentage
E books	32	29.1
E journals	35	31.8
ETD (electronic thesis and dissertations)	25	22.7
E newspapers	8	7.3
E databases and OPAC	10	9.1
Total	110	100

Table 4 shows that the majority of research scholars (31.8%) use electronic journals, 29.15 use electronic books, 22.7% use electronic thesis and dissertations, 7.3% use electronic news media, and 9.1% use electronic databases and OPAC.

Table 5 Reasons for Using Electronic Resources

Reason	Research Scholars	Percentage
Easy to search /Use	101	91.8
Time saving	99	90
Latest information /Up to date information	104	94.5
Easy copy/ space saving	98	89.1

According to Table 5, the vast majority of research scholars (94.5% of them) use electronic resources because they have access to the most recent and up-to-date information providers; 91.8% of them use them because they are simple to use; 90% of them believe that using them saves them time; and 89.1% use them because they save space.

Table 6 Barriers faced while using e resources

Barriers	Reserch scholars	Percentage
Technical issues/ Server down	98	89.1
Internet speed / cannot able to download	41	37.3
Restrictions to download e documents	103	93.6

Table 6 shows that majority of users (93.6%) encountered restrictions from concerned publishers while trying to download documents; 89.1% had technical difficulties; and 37.3% experienced slow internet speeds.

Findings

Majority of users (96.4%) are aware of e resources

Majority of users (37.3%)using e resources for preparation of journal article , (33.6%)users using for seminars and conferences and 29.1 % of users using for research /Thesis Purpose

Majority of users using e journals ,eBooks and ETD

Majority of users using e resources because of its latest/up-to-date information ,easy use, Easy space saving facilities

The barrier faced by the users reported that restrictions for downloading documents and internet speed.

The majority of users (96.4 percent), are familiar with online resources.

The majority of people who use electronic journals, eBooks, and ETDs

Suggetions

For new library users, library orientation programmes and need-based selections of electronic resources are two essential components of a successful library experience.

Conclusion

The fast development of information and communication technology over the past few decades has resulted in its emergence as the most important medium for the storage and retrieval of data. As a consequence of this, electronic resources are becoming an increasingly important source of information for all existing as well as novel ideas and concerns in the fields of education, study, and research.

The way things are going in the digital environment right now points to a complete shift in the way collection development is proceeding. As information technology (IT) continues to advance, the primary focus of academic libraries has switched to the intrinsic quality of collection creation that is suitable for electronic resources. According to the findings of the research, a significant proportion of PhD scholars were familiar with electronic resources. The utilisation of electronic resources has been the primary topic of this research. Academic researchers express a generally positive attitude towards the utilisation of electronic resources. It is advised that they make use of electronic resources in order to maintain their expertise; nevertheless, they are deficient in the areas of effective instant communication, easy access, and database search. As a consequence of this, students need to be encouraged to use electronic information resources and taught how to make such resources useful for a variety of different goals.

It has been suggested that the university library set up a user awareness programme in addition to training programmes in order to better assist postgraduate students in making use of online resources.

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