Use of E-Journals by the Research Scholars of Banaras Hindu University: A Survey

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ABSTRACT

Electronic resources are playing vital role in the enhancement of research and development in the education system. Most of the universities are utilizing electronic resources, which are subscribed by the various medium like consortia, individual publisher, etc. It is very important to evaluate the usage of e-resources because huge amounts are involved in the subscription of e-resources. This paper deals with the evaluation of usages of electronic Journals by the research scholars of the Banaras Hindu. To complete this study a survey has been conducted at the Banaras Hindu University. This study examines regarding the use, awareness, mode of searching, purpose and most preferred file format of e-journals. It also highlights the opinions about printed and electronic journals. It also explored that the researchers are facing various problems in accessing of e-journals.

Keywords: Banaras Hindu University, e-resources, e-journals, e-books, user studies

Introduction

Implementation of Information Communication Technology in libraries has totally changed the concept and functions in the process of storage, retrieval and dissemination of electronic resources such as e-books, e-journals, e-databases, CDROM, DVD etc. Electronic journals are usually available on line but it also can be access offline in the library as well as through CDROM, DVD. In the simplest terms, an electronic journal can be access form the anywhere of the world and its meet out all the requirement of the publication like print journals. Electronic journals are having the features of print journals such as title, publishers, editor, ISSN. Some of these journals may be not available in the print form. Some of the electronic journals are the replica of the print journals with additional features of searching and browsing. The libraries which provide the facilities for accessing e-journals have made impact on researchers, students and teachers to access current information and research activities. New challenges are standing before the library and information professionals to
provide the services of full text access to scholarly publication both in print and electronic version to its end users.

Literature Review:

Raza and Upashyay (2006) conducted study on the usage of e-journals by the researchers at Aligarh Muslim University. The study explored that all the researchers were aware of e-journals and many research scholars were consulting journals from their departmental labs and computer centers, for research as well as to update their knowledge. Chirra and Madhusudhan study (2009) found that Springer and Kluwer was the leading publisher of electronic journals. Boolean Search was the most popular advance search technique. It also reveals that scholars were facing difficulty in accessing full text and unsatisfied with the internet facilities. Khan and Ahmad (2009) examine the use of e-journals by the researchers of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and found that e-journals have improved the quality of research work. Baljinder and Verma (2009) conducted study on the usage of electronic journals and the services. It reveals that the use of e-journals have increased due to fully aware of e-resources and services. Nikam and Kumar (2013) examine the behavior of research scholars and faculty members of selected departments at the University of Mysore. They found that colleagues have played an important role in the effectively utilization of e-journals and users use both print and electronic sources of information. Devi and V.K (2013) critically examines the use of e-journals among faculty members of University of Kerala and found that majority of the faculty members use e-journals for their research needs and career information. Mostafa (2013) conducted study on the use and impact of e-resources of selected private Universities in Bangladesh and found that the use of e-resources is very common among the library users and most of the students are dependent on e resources to get relevant desired information. Bala and Mittal (2013) studied on the use of e-Resources by the research scholar, students and faculties in universities and colleges. It reveals that researchers are utilizing e-resources for educational and research purposes. It also highlighted that users required special training to use e-Resources. Parmar and Patel (2013) have made an attempt to study the use of e-resources and its impact on the collection of e-resources. It highlighted that most of the users (42%) like to read print version because of easy and convenient. Tripathi and Jeevan (2013) highlighted the importance of quantitative and qualitative analysis of the usage of e-resources in academic libraries. The study reveals that the usage statistics help in evaluating the users' behavior in an online environment.

Objectives of the Study

- To determine the use and awareness of e-journals by the research scholar.
- To explore the purpose and usage of e-resources among the researcher.
- To find out opinion about printed journals and e-journals available through library.
- To know the methods for reading and searching of e-journals.
- To find out the problems faced by the research scholar in accessing e-journals.

Methodology:

The survey method has been used for the completion of the study. The detailed questionnaire was prepared with closed and open ended questions. The researcher personally visited to the BHU for the collection of the data and the results are shown by means of charts. The study is limited to the research scholars of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
Distribution of Questionnaire:

In BHU 250 questionnaire were distributed to the Research Scholars out of which 220 questionnaires were received. Users of this university were well disciplined and their responses were very satisfactory.

**Awareness about E-journals**

The above Chart shows that all the research scholars are aware about e-journals, which shows the popularity of e-resources among research scholars. It also predicted that majority of the researchers are utilizing e-resources.

**By Whom do you know about e-journals**

Experience in using E-journals

The above chart reveals the source from where they know about e-journal. It is observed from the graph that the majority of the scholars 139 (63.18%) sources is the internet, 115 (52.27%) is Friends, 43 (19.54%) is Library Staff and 5.9% user selected any other option. Users are allowed multiple options.
The above chart reveals the experience in using e-journals, maximum 44% of users using e-journals for more than 2 years, 25% users use from 1 year to 2 years, 20% users uses 6 months to 1 year and 9% user uses less than 6 months. It shows that students are using e-journals for long time.

**Time Spending for e-journals**

The above charts depicts that maximum 101 (45%) user spends time 1-2 Hour. 50 (22%) users spend time above 3 Hours. 39 (17%) users spend time under 1 hour and 30 (13%) users spend time 2-3 Hours.

**Mode of Searching e-journals Articles**

The above chart-revealed the mode of searching e-journals, it shows that 121 (55%) maximum users search by title, 110 (50%) users search by keyword, and 103 (46.81%) users Referred article and 73 (33.18%) users search by author.
The above chart revealed the various barriers in accessing e-journals. 42.32% users agree lack of literacy program, 54% agree with lack of internet speed, 41.36 accepts lack of system availability, 46.36% lack of WI-FI network, 24.09% users accept the lack of time, 46.81% users agree with the lack of relevant resources.

**Reasons for Preferring e-Journals**

The above chart indicates the reason for preferring e-journals, it shows that 84.09% users accept that e-journals are easy in use, 72.72% users agree that e-journals are wide access and 71.36% users are agreed that it is rapidly updated.

**Choice of E-Journals**
The above chart revealed that 84.09% users consult foreign journals and 65.45% users Indian journals. It shows that scholars preferred foreign journals compared to Indian Journals.

**Purpose of Using e-Journals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For Research Purpose</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Based Access</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Updating</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above chart revealed the purpose of using e-journals, it shows that 94% user use e-journals for research purpose, 81% user used syllabus bases, 79% user uses the e-journals in project work and 86% user uses e-journals for updating knowledge.

**Favourite Link for Access e-Journals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Link</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No of Respondent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Link through Library Website</td>
<td>140</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link through Search Engines</td>
<td>170</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link through UGC-Info net</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link through Publisher</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Other</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table reveals the favorite link for accessing e-journals 140 (63.6%) users linking through the library website, 170 (77%) users tick link through search engine, 80 (36%) user link through UGC-Info net website, and 75 (34%) users link through publisher website and 15 (6%) user through any other link.
The above chart indicates that 167 (75.90%) users accept that need to training and 53 (24.09%) users say they don’t need training. It shows that majority of the scholars need training to use e-journals.

The above chart revealed opinion about e-journals available in the library; it shows that 40% users satisfied with the e-journals, 41% partially satisfactory and 11% user non satisfactory, 15% user cannot say anything.

The above chart highlights the preferred file format to read e-journals, 83% user prefer .pdf format, 25% user prefers .html format and 9.54% user prefer .doc format and 0.95 users any other option. It shows that majority of the scholars preferred pdf format.
Opinion on E-Journal Available in UGC-INFONET Consortia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</th>
<th>FULL SATISFACTORY</th>
<th>PARTIALLY SATISFACTORY</th>
<th>CAN NOT SAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>73</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above chart revealed the e-journals available under UGC Infonet Digital consortium, it indicates that 33.18% Research Scholars are fully satisfied, 46.36% users’ partially satisfactory and 20.45% users cannot say.

Priority on E-Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIORITY ON E-RESOURCES</th>
<th>FREQUENTLY USED</th>
<th>OCCASIONALLY</th>
<th>NOT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-JOURNALS</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-BOOKS</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-DATABASES</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above chart depicts the priority on using e-resources, it shows that 84.09% user frequently uses e-journal, 46.36% users using e-books occasionally, 5.68% users using e-database occasionally.

Suggestions:

Collection development policy in respect to e-resources should be framed in the library so that the relevant e-resources can be procured. Information professionals have to create more awareness to market their new e-journal services provided in the library. Regular updating and hosting in Library’s web pages will enhance the use of e-journals. In order to improve the efficiency of the use of, accessing e-journals, the library should provide hands on experience, short term courses or workshops and conduct user orientation programmes for the students and faculties of the institution. This will help users to know various developments and searching techniques for accessing the desired information. The bandwidth of the internet in the institutions to be increased in order to facilitate expedite access and downloading. Wi-Fi network facility should be provided within the campus of the institutions which will facilitate easy accessing of the e-journals anywhere in the campus. Sufficient number of user systems should be provided for extensive use of e-journals.
Conclusions:

Information in digital form has functional properties that can save time and provide value to the users in decision making. It is progressively important for research scholars to understand the structure of information or content which enhance additional capabilities that can be lead to development of new levels of efficiency. Making an acquisition of electronic resources in the libraries enhance the study and research of the institution as well as nation. E-journals are more famous among all the electronic resources due to its features.

References: