

## **Use of E-Resources by Users of Temperate College of Fisheries (J&K): A case study**

**Asifa Jan**

Asstant Librarian

Faculty of Fisheries, SKUAST-K  
Rangil, Ganderbal, Kashmir, J&K State  
e-mail: asifakhan15@rediffmail.com

**Abstract** - *The aim of the survey was to assess the use of electronic –Journals by the academic community of the fisheries college (J&K).A questionnaire was distributed among the faculty members, research scholars and post graduate students to collect desired data. From the study it was found that most of the users are aware of e-journals and they are not only using them for building & updating their knowledge but also for collecting relevant material for their study & research purpose as information can be acquired expeditiously through e-journal. However this study also reveals several inherent problems especially with the use of e-journals e.g. slow downloading as revealed by maximum users. Other mechanical deficit like non availability of a particular issues lack of training. The paper provides suggestions derived from the analysis of data which in turn will help to enhance the use of e-journal services and fulfil the needs & requirements of users.*

**Keywords:** E-Journals, Use, Internet, College Library, SKUAST-K, Electronic Resources

### **Introduction**

Technologically speaking, several experiments, innovations, and practices were tested in the field of publishing of journals and their access by the libraries. The advent of electronic or digital journals, online journals, magazines, etc., have necessitated a thorough redefining of the serials control system of the libraries as online magazines or journals are disseminated through internet websites. The information and communication technologies have made radical changes in the conventional system of information processing and its delivery and most of the universities offer courses in their multiple campuses and also through their affiliated or recognised colleges/institutions. In many universities, courses are extensively being offered through distance education mode also. Indian universities constitute one of the largest higher education systems in the world. Although, it is a great challenge to ensure effective coordination and communication, several programmes have already start in India to provide a seamless supply of information resources by way of access to journals and databases, course materials, online lectures, etc., in electronic format to the academic and research community. The UGC, ICAR, AICTE, National Knowledge Commission, National Knowledge Network, National Innovation Council, etc., have done leading roles towards this end. As the universities in India are broadly controlled by two agencies like UGC and ICAR, the library and information resources management and services are also performed differently. While the universities under UGC have formed UGC Info net for consortia mode of journal subscription and electronic information services, the agricultural universities and agricultural research institutes formed CeRA1 for the same purpose.

### **Agriculture University Kashmir (SKUAST-K)**

SKUAST-K is multi campus university and the central library is located at Shalimar, there are number of faculty libraries located in their respective location .The faculty of fisheries

library is located at Rangil . The faculty of fisheries was established in 2006 and library came in existence in April, 2006 with collection 1000 books, journals and other research material. The faculty library has good collection of books and journals in print as well as in online format. The electronic resources available with the library are as follow:

**E-Books:** the subscription of world's leading e book collection in agriculture & allied discipline. the provides access to 850+ refereed e book of 16 years coving the period Jan 2000-Feb 2016.

CeRA (consortium for e resources in Agriculture) access to +3000 journals to agriculture and allied disciplines was smoothly provided to the scientists and students of the university all across its campii.

**Institutional Repository:** the library system has developed an institutional repository on open source digital software D Space. By the end of year 2015-16 the full text of 743theses (510Master+233 PhD thesis) .More than 2821 research papers and 76 seminars are also available for use of readers.

**Krishiprabha (now Krishikosh):** full text e-database of Indian Agricultural Doctoral Dissertation submitted by research scholars to the 36 state/deemed Agricultural Universities since 1.1.2000.

**Indexing and Abstracting Database:** the library is also subscribing 11 CD ROM Databases bibliographical details and abstracts of journal articles of old famous titles in digital/electronic form subscribed from 2003 with retrospective data from 1972 about 15.15 million research articles are available in these database.

## **Literature Review**

There have been a number of studies that discussed the impact of e –resources use in the universities worldwide. Shuling (2007) analyzed the use of e-resources in Shaanxi university of science and technology. The sample consists of 909 respondents of all types of library users. the study found that 80% of respondents knew little about e-resources. Ray and Day(1998) on the other hand, conducted their study to determine the level of use of e-resources & how students feel about various issues surrounding e –resources, The finding of their study are 91%of respondent acknowledged access to a networked computer/University and also that more internet access is from workplace than from home. only 37.5% of the sample population used e-journals as information tool.

Ali (2005) found out that 83% of students surveyed felt that using this source saved them time, and found it relatively easy to use. Two thirds of those surveyed stated that if the CD-ROM was busy, they would wait for it to become free rather than use the print tool. However, a study of online searching of scientific information in science and technology libraries of Delhi reveals a sizeable number of users (almost 60%) are facing numerous problems while browsing electronic information, such as lack of knowledge about the resources, lack of trained staff and inadequate terminals).

Kebede (2002) carried out a survey of the use of ICTs in ten African Public Library Services. The survey found that, although most libraries had internet connectivity, very few were offering web-based information services to their users. The study however, identifies four barriers to the effective provision of electronic resources in those libraries, namely: lack of strategic planning; lack of adequate or reliable funding; lack of use of Internet to provide information services to users and a lack of consistent training for users in new ICT services.

Rao(1997) on the other hand, has discussed the impact of CD-Rom databases internet and digital libraries on collection development. He has reported that it is quite significant. Finally, there is lack of research on electronic resources in Bangladesh. So, this study has been attempted discuss the electronic resources and its use in one of the premier universities in the country.

Bhat and Ganaie (2016) conducted a survey at Dr. Y.S.Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry. The study showed that e-Journals and online databases are frequently used by the students. On the other hand, a small % of students use e-books and e-theses. The prime tendency was to prefer online mode of resources.

### 3. Objectives of the study

- The study has been designed with a view to achieving the following objectives
- The main objectives of the present study are as follows:
- To find out the awareness of users' about available e-resources.
- To study the purpose and utilization of e-resources.
- To find out the frequency of using e-resources.
- To find out the hindrances and problems faced by the users while accessing and using e-resources.
- To study the level of satisfaction of users about availability and coverage of e-resources.
- To study the preferred format for using e-resources.
- To study the satisfaction level of users about infrastructure to support the access of e-resources.
- To suggest suitable recommendations to improve facilities and services related to the use of e-resources

### 5. Methodology

A methodology used for collection data was questionnaire based. The entire question were specifically papered and closely related with the use of electronic resources and its impact. These questionnaires were randomly distributed to the faculty of fisheries users and were successfully retrieved from users. A total Of 38 questionnaire were distributed and 27 copies were turned and found valid for analysis. The data collected were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages.

### Data Analysis

**Table1:-Sex Wise Distribution of Respondents**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>No. of Repondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	9	33.33
Female	18	66.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1: It is shown in table1 66.67% users were female and 33.34% male who can use e-resources available through library for different purpose.

**Table 2:-Professional Qualification in Fisheries respondent**

Qualifications	Faculty Members	Research Scholars	Masters	%
Graduate	-	-	15	55.6
Post Graduate		6	-	22.2
M Phil	-	-	-	
PhD	6	-	-	22.2

Table2: shows that 55.56% of the respondents were graduate and 22.22% teacher and 22.22% scholars were post graduate.

**Table 3:- Time Duration of Knowing Internet**

Awareness of Internet	Faculty Members	Research scholars	Masters	%
1Month-1 Year	-	-	02	07.40
1 year-2 years	01	03	05	33.34
2 years-4years	02	03	05	37.04
More than 4 years	03	-	03	22.22
Total	06	06	15	100

Table The distribution of respondent according to the frequency of access of e-resources is shown in table 3.It is evident that (37.04%) respondents were accessing e –resources since from 4years.(33.34%) accesses since from 2 years, while as 22.22%access from more than 4 years, only (6.40%)access from 1 year.

**Table 4:-Purpose of using E-Resources**

Purpose	Faculty Members	Research Scholars	Masters	%
For research thesis/Dissertation project work	02	06	03	40.75
Publishing Articles	02		-	07.40
Keep up to date subject information	02			07.40
Finding Relevant Information			02	07.40
Preparing Assignment seminar presentation			10	37.05

Table 4 (40.75%) respondents are using the electronic journals for various reasons such as to carry out their own research, Whereas (37.05%) respondents using e-resources for keeping themselves updated with the new information appearing in their subject of interest. While as (7.40%) using e -resources for finding relevant information and for publishing articles.

**Table 5:- Use of Search Strategy**

Use of search	Faculty	Research	Masters	%
Keyword	02	04	08	51.85
Subject	03	02	03	22.23
Author	01		02	18.52
Date of publication	-			-
Journal Title			02	7.40

Table 5: shows (51.85%) respondents search e-journals through keywords, while as (22.22%) Respondents search information through subjects,(18.51%) respondents using authors for searching e-journal and (7.40 %) searches information by title of journals.

**Table 6:-Use of advance Search Strategy**

Advance Search Strategy	Faculty	Research	Masters	%
Boolean Operator	03	04	09	59.26
Truncation				-
Phrases	01	-		3.70
Field Searching	02	01	02	18.52
Wild Card	-	01	04	18.52

Table 6 shows that (59.26%) respondents use Boolean operator as advance search in e-resource access.(18.52%) respondents uses field searching and wild card as advance search only (3.70%) user uses Phrases as searching operation for e-resources.

**Table 7:-Using of Abstracting & Indexing Database**

Indexing & abstracting	Faculty Members	Research scholars	Masters	%
Agris	4		10	51.85
CABI	1	2	2	18.52
FSTA	1			3.7
Agricola	-	3	2	18.53
Biosis	-	1	1	7.4
Total	6	6	15	100

Table 7 shows Agris (51.85%) are the majority used I &A database. It is obvious from table that CABI (18.52%) and Agricola (18.52%) are used by respondents. The other two databases are used by (7.40%) and (7.40%) of respondents.

**Table 8:-Barrier in Using E-Journals**

Barrier in using-Journal	Faculty members	Research Scholars	Masters	%
Unfamiliar to e-journals	-	-	06	22.22
Lack of training/Guidance	-	01	03	14.81
Lack of terminal				
Non availability of particular issues	05	02	04	40.75

Slow downloading	01	03		14.81
Lack of knowledge			02	7.41

Though e-resources have become a common source among the academic and research communities, the majority of users stated that they have difficulties to use e-resources. The specific problems faced by the users are given in table-8. It was observed that majority of respondents are not satisfied with availability of particular issues in their subject followed by unfamiliar to e- journals and slow downloading .less number users define lack of knowledge to access the information.

**Table9:-Use of Specific type of Fisheries & Allied Areas**

Fisheries & Allied Area	Faculty members	Research Scholar	PG Students	%
Subject specific information websites	-3	1	2	22.2
International/regional institutional websites	-			-
E-Journal	3	2	4	33.3
CD Rom database	-	2	2	14.8
Research project sites	-		4	14.8
Professional Associates websites	-			
Online bibliographydatabase	-	1	3	14.8

In fisheries institution, the respondents use a variety of electronic information source to ascertain various demands, the respondents were asked to state their subject internet in use of specific type of electronic information sources. From the table 8 it is clear that a majority of respondents (33.33%) use e-journal, followed by (22.22%) for subject specific information websites, followed by (14.82%) for CD Rom database and Research project sites .similarly (11.11%) use online bibliography database. Only (3.70%) user uses professional associate websites. There is no doubt that the internet has assumed the role of providing a medium of scientific information today, The user can no longer depend on conventional information sources.

**Table 10:-Benefit of E-Resources**

Benefit of E-Resources	Faculty members	Research project	PG Students	%
Better access to information	3	3	7	48.2
Time Saving	1	1	4	22.2
Access to current data information	-	1	3	14.8
Improved professional competency	-	-	-	-
E –Book	2	1	1	11.1

Perceives electronic information sources to be beneficial in their teaching, research & other developmental activities. From the analysis it is evident that a large majority percentage (48.14%) of respondent got better access to information. Again (22.22%) saved their time by using e-resources.(14.81%) respondents agreed to have the benefit of better access to current up-to-date information and improved their professional activities due to access to e-books.

**Table 11:-Location of Accessing E-Resources**

Location of Access	Faculty Members	Research Scholars	Masters	%
Computer Centre	2	2	1	18.5
College Library	-	3	10	48.2
Hostel		1	2	11.1
Home	4		2	22.2

Table11:-show the probable place where the respondents are accessing e-journals. It shows that (48.15%) respondents access e-journals from institute's library. Whereas (22.22%) users access e-journals at home.(18.52%) access e-journal from computer centre.

### Findings

- From the research paper it was found that 40.75% user using e-resource for preparation of thesis/dissertation/project work.
- 'Boolean searching' is the most favourable advanced searching techniques followed by Phrases is carrying small percentage.
- The overall analysis shows that e-journals emerge out as the most widely used e-journal. Whereas e-books are not yet used to a desirable magnitudes. These findings resemble to the outcome of a number of research studied reviewed in this part. So this hypothesis is proved.
- The study showed that majority of respondents (48.15%) are able to access e-resources from their institute library.
- The study showed that (40.75%) respondents pointed out non availability of particular issue in library which creates problems among respondent.
- The searching methods reveal that more (51.85%) respondents laid strongest support to searching through "keywords" whereas the data on Journal title carrying too least favour among the respondents are more inclined toward searching through keywords and subject.
- The study showed that (48.15%) respondents are benefitted by e-resources to get better access to information. Whereas (11.11%) of respondents have used e-books.the users appear to be less familiar about freely available full text book collection.

### Suggestions

The present study sought to examine the usage of e-journal by the users of Fisheries College in the J & K State. The survey reveals that all the respondents are much aware of e-Journals in a valuable service among the Agri/Fisheries community. This study confirms that e-journal' usage is constantly increasing. The following suggestions are made to enhance their use.

- It is suggested to increase the quality of computer terminal & speed of internet browsing to overcome the problems of limited access of terminals & slow downloading.
- The library should introduce feedback system to know about the proper use of e-journal service & problem of users.



- There is need of more trained & skilled staff well aware of the functioning of electronic resource specially e-journals.
- It is suggested that central library should acquire e-journal accessibility & provide link to all sister institutes under its control
- The library timing & services facility should be increased by the institutes' libraries.
- Library can take initiatives to organize orientation programmes & user awareness program.

## **Conclusion**

The fast development of the information technology in this age has changed the functions and definition of librarianship. The e-resources have become the vital part of the every kind of library. Print format of Documents are being changed into electronic form. E-journals have become a need of the library. E -journals have several advantages over the print counterparts. The present study was conducted on the use of e-journals by users Faculty of Fisheries Libraries in Rangil. Ganderbal, J&K State. It indicates that e-journals have played a major role in information dissemination process. The study concluded that almost all users of Fisheries Libraries are well aware about the availability of e-journals at their institute library and they are using these journals for research needs. The study will be beneficial for the libraries to know the needs of users for better use of e-journals service provided by Libraries.

## **References:-**

1. Ali, Naushad ,(2005) The use of electronic resources at IIT Delhi Library; a study of search behaviours. *The Electronic Library*, 23(6), pp 691 – 700.
2. Bala,Suniti & Lal,Payare,(2016) .use of electronic resources and their impact on reading culture: a case Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. *International Journal of Digital library Services*, 69(3), pp 59-66.
3. Bhat,Nazir .& Ganaie,shabir,(2016) Use of e-resource by users of Dr.Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry. *DESIDOC JI of library & Information Technology*, 36(1), pp 17-22.
4. Fancis,(2012)Evaluation of use of consortium of e- resources in agriculture in context of Kerala Agricultural University.*DESIDOC Journal of Information Technology*, 32(1), pp 38-44.
5. Habiba,Umme & Chowdhury,Salima,(2012) Use of electronic resources and its impact: a study of Dhaka University Library User. *The Eastern Librarian*, 23(1), 74-90.
6. Hemantha &Subramanyan, (2012) Use and awareness of internet at university of agricultural Sciences,Banglore: a study .*International Journal of Information Research* ,2 (1), pp 87-97.
7. Kau & Verma.(2009)Use and impact of electronic Journal in the IIT, Delhi India. The Kerala Agricultural University. *DESIDOC Journal of Information Technology*, 32(1), pp



8. Kebede, G. (2002) The changing information needs of users in electronic environments. *The Electronic Library*, 20(1), pp 19 – 21.
9. Madhusudhan, M.(2008) Use of UGC infonet – journals by the Research Scholars of University of Delhi. *Library Hi Tech*, 26(3), pp 369 – 386.
10. Nisha,NF & Naushad Ali,P.M.(2012) Use of e-Journals by IIT Delhi and Delhi University library users. *International Journal of Digital library Services*, 2(3), pp 23-42.
11. Okello-Obura, C & Magara, E.(2008) Electronic Information access and utilization by Makerere University in Uganda. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2-0>
12. Oduwole A. A.& Akpati, C. B. Accessibility and retrieval of Electronic Information at the University of Agriculture Library Abeokuta, Nigeria;2003,52(5),228 – 233, <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/researchregister>.(Accessed 8th November, 2011).
13. Ray, K. & Day J. (1998) Student attitudes towards electronic information resources. *Information Research*, 4(2).
14. Singh & Prasad, (2013) Use of electronic research: a study of Indian Agricultural Research Institute. *International Journal of Information Research*, 3(2), pp 141-168.
15. Sujatha,H.R & Mudhol,Mahesh, (2006) Use of electronic Information sources at the college of Fisheries, Mangalore,India. *Annals of library & Information Studies*, 53(June), pp 96-102.

