

USE AND AWARENESS OF E-RESOURCES: A CASE STUDY OF SANT GADGE BABA AMRAVATI UNIVERSITY, AMRAVATI

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Abstract : *This research paper is to do analysis of use and awareness of e-resources available in Knowledge Resource Centre (KRC) among the post graduate students of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati. The focus of the work is to study and observe different ways in which e-resources used by post graduate students which are available in KRC for their academic and research requirements. The study carried out not only to study the awareness of e-resources among post graduate students of teaching departments of SGBAU and but also to study the awareness gender wise.*

Keywords : *E-resources, Awareness, Knowledge Resource Center*

Introduction :

E-resources are the electronic information resources that can be access on the web, on or off campus. Electronic resource requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data be it referring to full text databases, electronic journals, image collections, and other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. AACR2, (2005) defines an electronic resource as “Material (data and/or program(s)) encoded for manipulation by a computerized device. This material may require the use of a peripheral directly connected to a computerized device (e.g., CD-ROM drive) or a connection to a computer network (e.g., the Internet).” This definition does not include electronic resources that do not require the use of a computer, for example, music compact discs and video discs. Nowadays students and researcher use e-resources for their academic and research purposes.

E-resources play important role in learning and research activity. E-resources are widely available on internet of which some were freely accessible and some can be accessed by subscribing it. Various national institutes, universities, digital libraries and other organizations provide e-resources to their user. Most of the e-resources offered by these institutions are freely accessible for the users. But the awareness and use of these e-resources are remains unknown. Institutions spends huge amount of money and resources to acquire and subscribe these e-resources. Similarly Knowledge Resource Centre of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University had various e-resources which were available to post graduate students, faculty, research students and other users.

Review of Literature :

Bellary, R. N., & Surve, S. (2019). In this study, efforts had been made to study the use and awareness of e-resources by the engineering faculties of NMIMS (Deemed to be University), Mumbai. The information and communication technology tools have changed the mode of communication and availability of information in a digital environment. The result shows that majority of the faculty members i.e. 85.71 % access e-resources for the research and learning purpose, it is also found that busy schedule in the institute prevents the effective and efficient use of the i.e. 52.38 % respondents.

Bajpai, P. (2017). The study also explored the purpose and problems in using e-resources and satisfaction level of the users with the available electronic resources. The study shows that 58.5% users visit library daily. 84.2% aware about e-journals and 80% users are aware about e-books. 75.4% users are using search engines followed by e-books (71%) and e-journals (64.7%). Majority of the respondents (61%) use e-resources for their course work/ study material followed by research work (57.7%). It has been found in the study that 49.2% respondents are satisfied whereas 40.3% respondents are partially satisfied with the available e-resources.

Kulatunga, K. R., & Kumar, S. (2017). A survey of eight librarians from four Sri Lankan university libraries revealed that there are variations with regard to the awareness and usage of the e-resources in the four libraries. Off-campus use of the resources was limited owing to lack of internet facilities among other issues

Kaur, K., & Kathuria, K. (2016). Availability of various ICT tools and accessibility of electronic information resources across the world has fuelled the growth of e-learning. The research paper was focused on the use and awareness of various e-resources available in the Punjab Agricultural University library. The findings of the study reveal that the electronic resources have become an integral part of the information for various features such as 'easy download', 'fast searching capability', etc. Despite the fact that e-resources have eased the task of research, respondents still prefer information in both formats 'print as well as electronic'.

Srinivasulu, P., Balu, C.C., & Narendra, A. (2019). The present study was an attempt to examine the awareness and use of e-resources by the faculty members of Vardhaman College of Engineering (Autonomous), Hyderabad and also focuses on the various types of their availability in the library. The structured questionnaire was designed and distributed among the faculty members with different cadres across the departments seeking their opinion on e-resources subscribed by the Central Library. The questionnaire was tagged on 192 faculty members who were randomly selected for the study.

Mani, M., & Padma, P. (2019). The purpose of this study was to examine the use and perception of e-resources by the College Students in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. In the study descriptive survey method was used and it covers 120 students who were randomly selected. Data was collected using questionnaire. Therefore one fourth of the male and female students visited the library daily, 35 (29%) respondents are highly satisfied with use of e-

journals, 48.34% majority of the respondents search for the articles by keyword wise in the college libraries, 48.33% majority of the respondents faced problem for using e-resources because of slow speed of systems.

Singh, M., & Srivastava, R. (2018). The study investigates the use of electronic resources by the users of Amity University Lucknow, BBDNITM Lucknow and Kanpur Institute of Technology, Kanpur. It surveyed the user's awareness about available e-resources in these libraries, purpose and frequency of using e-resources by the users, the factor affecting resource utilization, impact of e-resources and services on the academic work of the users.

Kuri, R., & Maranna, O. (2017). In the changing environment, e-resources play's important role among students, research scholars and the faculty members of Universities. Vishveshwarya Technical University was one of the premier and largest university of in India. In the study researcher aimed to find awareness and use of e-resources among library users of the Vishveshwarya Technical University (VTU). The result 88.33% of respondents revealed the purposes of using e-resources, frequency of use, location of accessing e-journals, problems encountered in using e-resources and extent of user's satisfaction towards e-resources.

Sivakami, N., & Rajendran, N. (2019). This paper described the awareness, access and usage of E-resources available in the Arts and Science Colleges Faculty Members in Erode District. Questionnaire method was used to examine and collect data from the Faculty Members of Arts and Science Colleges. A total of 300 Questionnaires were distributed to the Sample of Faculty Members of Arts and Science Colleges; 280 Valid Samples were collected. Hence, the total respondent for the study is 280 (93.33%). The collected data has been analyzed with the help of a tool called as Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). This paper findings shows that the majority of Male respondents using e-journals (20.83%) tool frequency and E-Books are use Female respondents (26.25%) of e-resources by Faculty Members in Gender-wise. Majority of the male users (86.59%) and (84.48%) of the female users were aware about the availability of E-resources. The analysis reveals that most of the respondents (31.43%) use E-resources only for Lecturer notes.

The study examines the use and awareness of e-resources among post graduate students of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University available in Knowledge Resource Centre. Study was particularly focused to study how frequently Post Graduate students use e-resources which are available to them, to know more about their awareness about e-resources and observe different ways in which e-resources was used by them for their academic and research requirements.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To know the present status of e-resources in Knowledge Resource Centre in SGBAU.
2. To study the databases and its content coverage.
3. To study the awareness of e-resources gender wise.

4. To study the awareness of e-resources among post graduate students of teaching departments of SGBAU

Scope of the Study :

There are 28 teaching departments in Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University under four faculty disciplines i.e. Faculty of Science and Technology, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies and Faculty of Commerce and Management. The scope of this study was limited only for the post-graduate students, who are studying in various departments of SGBAU.

Sample Size :

The sample size of the study was 300 post graduate students from the teaching departments of SGBAU. The questionnaires has been distributed among post graduate students in teaching departments of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University. The study was based on the E-Resources available in Knowledge Resource Centre and use and awareness of E-Resources among Post Graduate students of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University.

Research Methodology :

Descriptive research method has been applied for the present study. The population of this study was limited to post graduate students from different teaching departments of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati. As it is not possible to study the entire population in view of time and cost, a sample of 300 post graduate students has been selected by random sampling method. The post graduate students covered in the study are from four different faculty disciplines i.e. Faculty of Science and Technology, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies and Faculty of Commerce and Management. From this four faculty disciplines students are completing their post-graduation courses which includes M.A., M.Sc., M.Com, MBA, MCA, MLIS etc. in various subjects specialization viz., Marathi, English, Hindi, History, Political science, Sociology, Education, Economics, Home Science Biotechnology, Botany, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics, Statistics, Zoology, Computer Science, Commerce, Business Administration and Management, Physical Education and Library and Information Science. Out of the 300 selected post graduate students, 274 post graduate students have returned the questionnaire, with an overall response rate of 91.33%. The sample for the present study was composed of 274 post graduate students.

Tools for Data Collection:

The required data has been collected through the questionnaire as a tool for data collection. The questionnaires have been distributed among post graduate students in teaching departments of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati. The survey methodology is guided by principles of statistics from the moment of creating a sample, or a group of people to represent a population, up to the time of the survey results' analysis and interpretation. The survey method is proven to be an effective technique to gather necessary information.

Institutional Profile: SGBAU

Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University (SGBAU), Amravati is one of the major center in western region of Vidarbha known for its teaching and learning for higher education. Amravati University was established on Maharashtra Day, the 1st May 1983 to cater to mostly the educational needs of rural and urban population of western Vidarbha. The university has its jurisdiction within five districts of Vidarbha viz. Amravati, Akola, Yavatmal, Buldana and Washim. The University has a big green campus of 470.63 acres with 28 Teaching Departments, a conducted Model Degree College at Buldana and nine Faculties satisfying the knowledge appetite of the students.

The Motto of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University is “Education for Salvation of Soul”. The University is recognized under section 12(B) of UGC Act. The University is also an associate member of Association of Commonwealth University; London (U.K.) The University pays special attention towards education upliftment of the backwards and the downtrodden. Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University has been determined and committed to create a human resource capable of converting challenges into opportunities through imparting training to youth in various aspects of skill development. As such it addresses to all dimensions of higher teaching learning process towards making of the learners; the ideal citizens, the academic leaders and the global entrepreneurs to represent the Leader Indian in the 21st Century. Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University has mission to contribute to the society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest level of excellence. The vision of the University is student centric. The Students Welfare Section truly incarnates this vision by providing the students, a platform for multidimensional and multi-faceted development. For University, the youth is a source of strength, where their vigor is harnessed to nation building and socially relevant activities to build and egalitarian society. University's efforts towards excellence are supplemented by substantial grants from various funding agencies like UGC, DST, DBT, AICTE, DRDO, DAE, RGSTC, etc. the university has a special recognition by way of collaborations with the premier institutes in and outside the country. The university has been inclined to create necessary infrastructure conducive to the teaching learning.

The Knowledge Resource Centre (University Library) is a fundamental source of knowledge that helps students from different corners in their Endeavour of learning. The library has been almost computerized and the students can access the desired information from home with the ease of a click. The library has voluminous online journals facilitating the researchers across the nation. The Knowledge Resource Centre of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University provides various e-resources to students and researchers which were used by them for their academic and research purposes. It is not only the academics but the co-curricular and extra-curricular activities also been given prime importance in developing student's personality and character. Facilities for games and sports like swimming pool of international standard, playfields for various games and a boost to cultural activities are well reflected in participation and performance of the students at national and international level.

The Knowledge Resource Centre of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University provides different services which includes Reference service, Inter KRC loan, Lending service,

Reprographic service, Current awareness service, Internet service, WebOPAC, Remote access service, Consortium service for colleges, E-clipping service. Along with that Knowledge Resource Centre offers various e-resources like e-ShodhSindhu Consortium, ABI, LISA, ACM Digital Library, IEEE Xplore database, Indiastat, E-Journals, Sage Journals, Scopus Database, World E-Book Library, Not Nul, SRELS Journals of Information Management Archives, EBSCOHOST Academic Search Ultimate, Oxford University Press (OUP), Oxford University Press E-Books and Emerald Collection. These e-resources are accessible to the post graduate students and research scholars within campus of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.

Analysis :

Gender of Respondents :

It shows the gender wise distribution of the sample and it is shows that out of 247 respondents, majority of 148 (54.01%) are females and 126 (45.98%) are male. Gender of respondent plays important role while studying use and awareness of e-resources among post graduate student, gender wise.

Age group of respondents :

Shows the age wise distribution of respondents, it is evident that, in the Sant Gadge Amravati University, the highest frequency of respondent 206 (75.18%) belongs to the range of age group of 20-23 years, 46 (16.78%) belongs to the range of 23-26 years, and 22 (8.02%) belongs to the rage of 26-29 years.

Faculty of Respondents:

There are 28 teaching departments in Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University under four faculty disciplines. The Table 4.3 shows that faculty wise distribution of respondents and it shows that 86(31.33%) belongs to faculty of Humanities, 106(38.68%) belongs to faculty of Science and Technology, 52(18.97%) belongs to faculty of Commerce and Management and 30(10.94%) belongs to faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Awareness about the term e-resources:

It reveals that most of the respondents 260(94.89%) are aware about the term e-resources whereas only 14(5.10%) respondents are unaware about it. It clearly indicates that most of post graduate students highly aware about e-resources.

Awareness about e-resources available in Knowledge Resource Centre:

It clearly indicates that there is awareness about e-resources available in Knowledge Resource Centre among post graduate students as 89.78% of respondents said that they are aware about it and about 10.21% of respondents said they are unaware about it. Figure 4.5 clearly shows that high percentage of respondents 94.89% and 89.78% are aware about the term e-resources and e-resources available in Knowledge Resource Centre respectively.

Awareness about some of the e-resources available in Knowledge Resource Centre among post graduate students:

It can be concluded that more than half (51.45%) respondents are fully aware about e-journals those are available in Knowledge Resource Centre, followed that (27.37%) of respondents are aware about Shodhganga, which a digital repository of e-thesis and dissertation. It is observed that respondents are somewhat aware about Shodhganga (36.86%), e-shodhsindhu (33.57%) and e-journals (29.92%). Most of the respondents said that they are unaware about LISA (66.78%), ABI (63.50%), Indiatat (59.49%) respectively.

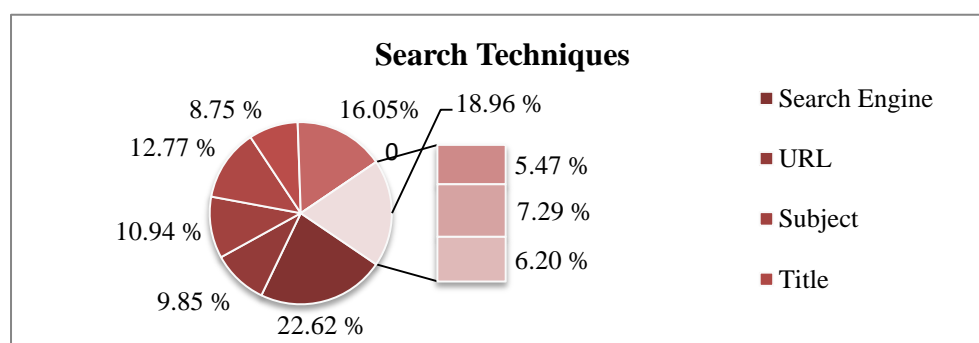
Preferred search engine used for accessing the e-resources:

Most of the students replied that Google is the preferred search engine 178 (64.96%), they used for accessing e-resources those are available in Knowledge Resource Centre. Only one fifth of the respondents said that they used Yahoo search engine for accessing the e-resources.

Preferred search technique used for accessing the e-resources:

It can be observed from the table 4.8 that respondents used different search technique. Most of the respondents used search engine (22.62%), title (12.77%) and subject (10.94%) as the preferred search technique for accessing the e-resources. Whereas some of the respondents uses multiple searching technique subject and title; subject and keyword; title and keyword which constitute about 18.96% (Figure 4.8)

Figure Preferred search technique used for accessing the e-resources :



Use of some of the e-resources available in Knowledge Resource Centre among post graduate students:

Nowadays libraries and information centers are evolving, so are the information needs and information access pattern of the user's has been highly shifting towards e-resources. The open sources initiative has brought a drastic shift in the usage pattern of e-resources. Users preferred e-resources like e-journal and e-books over the print version as the e-resources can be easily accessible on the computers and even on mobile. It can be observed from the table 4.9 that the frequency of using e-resources those are available in Knowledge Resource Centre, 47.81% of respondents used e-journals regularly, 27.37% of respondents used Shodhganga regularly. Whereas and of respondents said that they often used Shodhganga

(35.76%), e-shodhsindhu (28.28%) and e-journals (24.45%) respectively. Figure 4.10 represents that LISA (51.45%), ABI (49.63%) and Indiatat (47.81%) respectively was rarely used by the respondents

Conclusion :

The advent of Information and Communication Technology has shown a great impact on the library services. The position of the libraries and information centers has immensely changed during last decade due to the appearance of electronic resources. The main purpose of this research work was to study use and awareness of e-resources A Case study of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.

Most of the post graduate students were highly aware about the term e-resources whereas most of the post graduate students were aware about e-resources available in Knowledge Resource Centre Majority of post graduate students were fully aware about E-Journals those are available in Knowledge Resource Centre, followed that post graduate students were aware about the Shodhganga, which is a digital repository of e-thesis and dissertation. Along with that most of the post graduate students are somewhat aware about Shodhganga, E-Shodhsindhu and E-Journals. Most of the post graduate students were unaware about LISA, ABI and Indiatat which were available in Knowledge Resource Centre. Majority of post graduate students used Google as a preferred search engine for accessing e-resources those were available in Knowledge Resource Centre, whereas some used Yahoo as a preferred search engine.

Most of the post graduate students used E-Journals those are available in Knowledge Resource Centre, followed that Shodhganga was used by the post graduate students. Majority of post graduate students rarely used LISA, ABI and Indiatat which were available in Knowledge Resource Centre. Less than a third of respondents used e-resources for their research work/project, followed by course work and writing papers/article. It is evident that most of the respondents said that Knowledge Resource Centre has adequate collection of e-resources whereas very few respondents said that Knowledge Resource Centre has inadequate e-collection. Majority of post graduate students said that they feel satisfied while using e-resources whereas one fourth of respondents feel fully satisfied. Very few post graduate students feel not satisfied while using e-resources. Some of the respondent cited the problems like no proper guidance, training and slow internet speed while accessing e-resources those were available in Knowledge Resource Centre. Most of the post graduate students both male and female were aware about e-resources available in Knowledge Resources Centre which indicated that there is no significance difference between the gender and awareness of e-resources among post graduate students.

It is observed that both male and female post graduate students used e-resources for learning but one fourth of male respondents and one fourth of female respondents didn't use e-resources available in Knowledge Resource Centre which indicates that there is significance difference between the gender and use of e-resources for learning and research.

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