
USE OF E-RESOURCES AMONG THE RESEARCH SCHOLARS AT THE B.B.KHARDEKAR KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE CENTRE,SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY KOLHAPUR

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Abstract: *E-resources (electronic) are an important tool by which research scholars get solutions to their problems with just a click, and also defined as a resource that 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.*

This Research paper focuses on the use of E-resources among the research Scholars at the B.B.Khardekar Knowledge Resource Centre Shivaji university, Kolhapur.

Keywords: *E-Resources, Open access, Free access, Digital resources, Resources)*

Introduction:

An e-resource is defined as a resource that 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 advent of the Internet has dramatically changed the way people and institutions function. It has led to tremendous change in the way libraries function and offer services to their users. At present, the libraries actively procure, organize, display, and issue e-forms of books, journals, newspapers, theses, and dissertations. This is also due to changes in the information-seeking behavior of users. The new generation of users prefers online resources as they want all information at the click of the mouse. The e-resources have certain inherent characteristic features that offer convenience to the users.

Objectives:

The objectives of the study are as follows,

- To know about E-Resources
- To describe various E-Resources available on the BBKRC Portal

- Use of E-resources among the research Scholars in the B.B.Khardekar Knowledge Resource Centre, Kolhapur

Barr.BalasahebKhardekar Knowledge Resource Centre:

Shivaji University in Kolhapur was established in 1962. The university library started its operations in June 1964. In the research life cycle, libraries have brought about positive changes by introducing advanced models for disseminating research information by making research results available to the scientific community. Researchers around the world have adopted various formats and media for the publication process to share and disseminate their research findings. In the 21st century, a networked digital environment provides researchers with the opportunity to develop platforms for direct publication of their research findings and ideas for further research. In general, there are two types of documents available to users: e-resources and Closed Access. In e-resources system, readers can freely use the documents according to their needs. In this digital age, e-resources are a process by which scholarly, peer-reviewed journal articles are made freely available to anyone via the World Wide Web.

Libraries and Open Access:

E-Resources are essential because university libraries are research-intensive and the primary role of a library is to support the teaching, learning, and research activities of its users, E-resources is essential to research scholars. Due to the increased cost of journals and books, annual budget cuts, and inflation, libraries are unable to fully meet the information needs of their users and continue to struggle to provide customer-focused services. E-resources are the latest effort to support research activities by making information available in the right format at the right time in a cost-effective and time-efficient manner. E-resources have several implications for academic libraries: economic, technological, collection development and management, reference services, information literacy, and peer evaluation. E-resources are a prerequisite for academic libraries to survive and thrive (Giarlo, 2005).

All e-resources are arranged under each category like Free E-Databases, E-thesis, e-repositories, digital Libraries, e-books, e-learning platforms, etc. Remote access to e-resources subscribed by Br. Khardekar Knowledge Resource center is also available to BKKR users (User will use email ID as a username and email password as password). The BKKRC also provides plenty of resources through the portal. The Research scholars, students, and faculties are using the above resources for research, education, and academic purposes. To find out such various e-resources availability, the investigator visited the University website. The large number of e-resources are identified and discussed here.

E-Resources:

An e-resource is a material that requires computer mediation to access its content and make it useful. Both online and offline resources such as CD-ROMs fall within the scope of e-resources. The term e-resource refers to all the products that a library provides through a computer network. Electronic resources are also known as online information resources covering bibliographic databases, electronic reference books, search engines for full-text

books, and digital collections of data. They include both "born digital" materials which have been produced directly online. For example, e-journals, databases, and print resources which have been scanned and digitized. The electronic resources, e-journals, and online databases are not "owned" by the libraries as they own the print material. Ownership of electronic resources lies with the providers of these resources. Access to the electronic resources may be free via the Internet or may be available against a fee. Some examples of e-resources are magazines, encyclopedias, newspapers, journals, or articles published in them. These may be accessed on Internet-connected devices such as computers, tablets, smartphones, etc.

Methodology and Tools used for Data Collection:

For this research, a descriptive method has been used. For collecting data, a questionnaire (Google form) has been used.

Scope and Limitations:

The Selected Research scholars (Ph.D. Admitted) were taken up for the research and limited for only up to the academic year 2021-22.

Result and Discussion:

The present professional challenge is that resources may not be available in their own collection, but are to be made accessible wherever these are available. As such dependence on external resources is increasing day by day.

1. Distribution of Research scholars based on Familiarity with Computer

Computer literacy or familiarity with computers is a major factor in the effective use of e-resources and educational resources by the research scholars at Shivaji University. Respondents for the study are classified into three groups based on their familiarity with computers. The details are given in Table No. 1.

Table No.1

Distribution of Research scholars based on Familiarity with Computer

S.No.	Computer Familiarity	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Well familiar	253	63.10
2	Somewhat familiar	127	31.63
3	Not familiar	21	5.27
Total		401	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 indicates that 253 Research scholars out of 401 (63.10 percent) are familiar with computers and its various operation and this is followed by 127 out of 401 (31.63 percent) who are somewhat familiar with computers. Only 5.27 percent (21 out of 401) of the Research scholars are not familiar with computers. Hence, it is interpreted that the majority of the Research scholars (63.10 percent) are familiar with computers.

2. Most Preferred Search Engine for Accessing E-resources:

Search engine plays a key role in accessing e-resources effectively. Now-a-days, a number of search engines are available for accessing electronic resources. The most preferred search engines used by the Research scholars are given in Table No.2.

Table No. 2

Most Preferred Search Engine for Accessing E-resources

Sr.No	Most Preferred Search Engine	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Google	365	90.93
2	Yahoo	25	6.26
3	Alta Vista	3	0.66
4	MSN	7	1.65
5	Others	2	.50
Total		401	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 indicates that 90.93 percent (365 out of 401) of the Research scholars prefer Google as the most preferred search engine for accessing e-resources. It is followed by Yahoo at 6.26 percent, MSN by 1.65 percent, Alta Vista by 0.66 percent and others at 0.50 percent. Thus Google is the most preferred search engine for accessing e-resources.

3. Preferred Search Techniques used to Access e-resources:

There are several techniques and approaches for the effective retrieval of required information from e-resources. These search techniques adopted by the Research scholars for accessing e-resources are presented in Table No. 3

Table No.3

Preferred Search Techniques used to Access e-resources

Sr.No	SearchTechniques	Yes	No
1	UniformResourceLocator(URL)	241 (60)	160(40)
2	SearchEngine	365 (91)	36(9)
3	Subject	344 (85.84)	57(14.16)
4	Keywords	371(92.59)	30(7.41)
5	Title	363(90.61)	38 (9.39)
6	DigitalObjectIdentifier(DOI)	257(64)	144(36)

Source:Primary Data Figures in parenthes is are in percentage

Table 3 reveals that 60 percent (241 out of 401) of the Research scholars use uniform resource locaterasa technique for retrieving relevant information frome-resources. Whereas, 91 percent (365 out of 401) of Research scholars prefer search engines, 85.84 percent prefer subject terms, 92.59 percent prefer keywords, and 90.61percent by the titles, and64per cent prefer digital object identifier as techniques for retrieving information. Digital Object Identifier (DOI)is an easy way toretrieve relevant documents but in the present study,it isused only by 64 percent of the Research scholars.

4. PurposeofUsingE-Resources:

The purpose of usinge-resources varies fromus erto user based on their general and specific information needs. The purpose of usinge-resources by the Research scholars is given in tableNo.4.

Table No.4

Purpose of Using E-Resources

S.No	PurposeofusingOAR	No.ofrespondents	Percent
1	Updating subject knowledge	365	90.94
2	To do coursework/assignments	265	66.06
3	Research work/project	296	73.81
4	Writing papers/articles	318	79.41
5	Other academic activities	320	79.90

Source:PrimaryData Multi-responseitem

Table 4 indicates that 90.94 percent of the Research scholars use e-resources to update subject knowledge. It is followed by other academic activities work (79.90percent),for writing papers/articles (79.41 percent), for Research work/project (73.81 percent), and for to do coursework/assignments (66.06 percent).

Thus, it is interpreted that the majority of the Research scholars use e-resources for Updating subject knowledge.

5. Frequency of using E-Resources:

The frequency of the usage of the E-resources by there search scholars was further examined based on the responses of the study. The frequency of using e-resources by the Research scholars of the study is presented in Table No.5.

Table No.5

Frequency of using E-Resources

Sr.No	Frequency of using OAR	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Daily	229	57
2	Weekly	92	23
3	Fortnightly	52	13
4	Monthly	28	7
Total		401	100.0

Source:PrimaryData

Table 5 reveals that 229 out of 401 r Research scholars (57 percent) use E-resources daily. It is followed by 23 percent (92 out of 401) using at least once a week, fort nightly 13 percent, and at least once a month by 7percent (28 out of 401).

6. Convenient Place for Accessing E-Resources:

E-resources can be accessed at any place without any restrictions such as campus access only, password protection, and single access, multi-access, pay per downloads, and soon. So there search scholars can access thee-resources at any place according to one's convenience such as library,internet café, home, departments, and others. The convenient place for accessing e-resources by the Research scholars is given in Table6.

Table6.

Convenient Place for Accessing E-Resources

S.No	Convenient Place	No.of Respondents	Percent
1	Library	223	55.68
2	InternetCafe	23	5.77
3	Department	43	10.71
4	Home	79	19.77
5	Others	32	8.07
Total		401	100.0

Source:PrimaryData

The table clearly shows that the majority of these search scholars (55.68 percent) preferred the library as the convenient place for accessing resources. It is followed by 19.77 percent at Home, 10.71 percent at respective departments, and 8.07 percent at the other places and other an internet cafe by 5.77 percent.

7. Impact of Using E-resources:

Accessibility of e-resource helps research scholars enhance their academic excellence in terms of publishing articles in e-journals, undertaking creative academic projects both for teaching and learning, and projects from various funding agencies both minor and major projects. Wide reading, popularity among research scholars at the global level, citations, further research in the specific area, and critical comments from the editorials as well as learned professionals, helps to improve academic productivity. The impact of using e-resources among the research scholars of the study is presented in Table 7

Table 7

Impact of Using E-resources

S.No	Impact of Using OAR	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Helps to publish articles	128	31.9
2	Helps to present papers	147	36.7
3	Motivated to create a site	52	12.9

4	Motivatetoundert akeinnovativepro jects	74	18.4
Total		401	100.0

Source:PrimaryData

Table7 depicts the impact of using e-resources among the research scholars at the University. Using of e-resources helps to present papers in various academic forums by 36.7 percent (147 out of 401),publishtheirarticlesone-platform by 31.9 percent (128 out of 401), motivate to undertake innovative projects by 18.4 percent, and motivate to create websites and personal blogs to facilitate e-source to the community at the global level by12.9 percent.

8. Usage Patter non E-Resources:

The usage pattern of the research scholars on e-resources when compared to other resources of payment mode is studied. How there search scholars read thee-resources and how it is stored for future use is summarized inTable8.

Table8

Usage Patter non E-Resources

S.No	UsagePattern	Respondents	Perce nt
1	Printout	144	35.9
2	Thecontentisdownloadedin storagedevice in PDF	189	47.1
3	Computerscreen	68	17.0
Total		401	100.0

Source:PrimaryData

Table 8 discloses that most of the users (47.1 percent) have downloadedthe required materials in storage devices for future reference or use as similar to otherelectronic resources of subscription type. It is followed by taking print by 35.9 percent(144out 401)and,readingfromthecomputerscreenby17percent.

Thus, the researcher interpreted that research scholars have used Printout and storage on devices, it which menace both patterns used.

• **Findings:**

Based on the analysis of collected data the following findings are made.

1. The majority of the research scholars (63.10 percent) who use e-resources are well familiar with computers and 31.63 percent of the users are somewhat familiar with computers.
2. Google is the most preferred search engine for accessing e-resources among the research scholars at Shivaji University (90.93 percent).
3. The majority of the research scholars at the Shivaji University (91 percent) use Search Engine, Keywords, and Title as a techniques for retrieving relevant information from electronic resources, whereas, 86 per cent prefer the subject term, 64 percent prefer DOI, 60 percent prefer Uniform Resource Locator (URL) as techniques for retrieving information.
4. The majority of the research scholars (90.94 percent) use e-resources to update subject knowledge. It is followed by, for other academic purposes (79.90 percent), for writing papers/articles by 79.41 per cent, for research /project work by (73.81 percent), course work/assignments by (66 percent).
5. Research scholars from Shivaji University use e-resources daily by 57 percent, at least once in a week by 23 percent, once in a fortnight by 13 percent, and at least once in a month by 7 percent.
6. Majority of the respondents (55.68 percent) preferred the library as a convenient place for accessing e-resources for Research scholars.
7. About 37% of research scholars use e-resources to present papers in various academic forums.
8. The majority of the research scholars (47.1 percent) prefer *pdf* format for downloading e-resources.

• **Suggestion:**

- BBKRC should organize awareness programs on the uses of e-resources.
- The authorities should provide high-speed internet connectivity to the library and various departments to increase the downloading speed.

• **Conclusion:**

The use of e-resources by the research scholars at Shivaji University is inevitable in this open decade. Many e-resources in the forms of e-books, e-journal databases, and multimedia databases are freely available on the web on various e-platforms. It provides more benefits to the research scholars of the education system for quality education initiatives to the younger generation and projecting their creativity in learning and

generation of new knowledge and findings. The present study concludes that the majority of the research scholars at Shivaji University have uses e-resources and their use in fulfills their academic need.

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