

USE OF E-RESOURCES BY THE RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF KTHM COLLEGE: A SURVEY

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Abstract: *This paper is mainly focused on use of e-resources by research students of KTHM College, Nashik. It is discuss importance of introducing about e-resources, various types e-resources and improving and optimising the e-resources utilization and delivering efficient services to the users. Questionnaire method was adopted according to a structured through Google platform i.e. Google forms keeping in mind the objectives of the study. Google form links sharing to the email addresses and WhatsApp groups of research students.*

The collected data was analysed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in the form of this paper. The study concluded that research scholar extremely utilised electronic resources demonstrating shift to a digital platforms for academic research, easy convenience, accessibility and unlimited information availability in any format of resources. Hence one can say that KTHM College library services are effective and fasters regarding the use of electronic resources.

Keywords: *E-resources, KTHM College, Research Scholars, E-journals, E-books*

Introduction:

Due to changing information and communication technology has affects on every sectors of life. Old forms of documents like books, journals, thesis, dissertations, reports etc. are currently available in the electronic formats. Hence library and information centre also affected by these online environments. These technologies are adaptable or adapted by libraries for providing effective and fastest services to users. Now a day's libraries are transformed in electronic libraries, virtual libraries and digital libraries. These three terms are equal or similar to each others. In simple words electronic library refers to a library system in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic devices and networks. Electronic Resources have access from anywhere and anytime without geographical limitation and time limitation. As per user's convenience and demands; it's used that particular electronic resource.

Definition of Electronic Resources:

Dass and Jayaraman (2014) explained the concept of Electronic Resources as “Electronic Resources are any information sources that the library provides access to in an electronic format the library has purchased subscriptions to many electronic information resources in order to provide access to free of charge.” These E-resources include lot of things full text e-journals, e-newspapers e-books, digital images, e-dictionaries, e-encyclopaedias, research information regarding any subject etc.

According to Library of Congress (2003) an “electronic resource” is defined as any work encoded and made available for access available by 1) Remote access and 2) Direct access (fixed media). In other words: Remote access (electronic resources) refers to use of electronic resources via computer networks. Direct access (electronic resources) refers to the use of electronic resources via carriers (e.g. discs / disks, cassettes, cartridges) designed to be inserted into a computerised device or its auxiliary equipments.

In this information era electronic resources are have crucial role in research. Electronic resources refer to those materials that require computer access, whether through a personal computer mainframe or handheld mobile device. They may either be accesses remotely via the internet or locally. Some of the most frequently encountered types are e-journals, e-books, full text (aggregated) databases, indexing and abstracting databases, Reference databases (Biographies, Dictionaries, Directories, encyclopaedias etc.), Numeric and statistical databases, e-images, e-audio / visual resources (International Federation of Library Association (IFLA Website)).

KTHM College: An Overview:

KTHM College: The College established in 1969. That time library having one room stack, now library having separate building which occupies an area of 882.57 Sq. Mts. consisting of a spacious reading hall, stacking section, text book section, periodical section, reference section, administrative wing, librarian’s cabin, Asst. librarian cabin, issuing counters etc. library budget is near about 8,00,000/- every year and UGC also provides funds for library development.

The library is enriched with a huge collection of reference books, text books, CD’s, Audio books, Braille books, periodicals and research journals. KTHM College offers Ph.D. in 14 subjects as Botany, Chemistry, Microbiology, Physics, Electronics, Economics, Marathi, Hindi, English, Commerce, Environmental Science, Mathematics, Zoology & Geography. College Admissions are near about 17000 students every year to various courses and total collection of library is 1,80,000. Amongst 17000, there are 339 students enrolled as research scholar in respective subjects.

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of the present study are as:

1. To identify how many research scholars access the e-resources.
2. To study the purpose and utilisation of e-resources.
3. To find out the frequency of using e-resources.
4. To identify to study the preferred format for using resources.
5. To identify the problem faced by the respondent while accessing the e-resources.
6. To suggest suitable recommendations to improve facility and services related to the use of e-resources.

Research Methodology:

For the proposed study, questionnaire method was adopted according to a structured through Google platform i.e. Google forms keeping in mind the objectives of the study. Google form links sharing to the email addresses and WhatsApp groups of research students. The collected data was analysed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in the form of this paper.

Scope and Limitation of the study:

The present study covered the research scholars from KTHM college Ph.D. centre in 14 subjects only. KTHM College offers Ph.D. in 14 subjects as Botany, Chemistry, Microbiology, Physics, Electronics, Economics, Marathi, Hindi, English, Commerce, Environmental Science, Mathematics, Geography and Zoology.

Literature Review:

Madhusudan (2008) conducted a study on the use of electronic resources by teachers, students and research scholars of universities and research organisations. 78% of the respondents feel that the use of the UGC - Infonet has created high deficiency value on their research work and they demanded for current awareness service and electronic documents supply services.

Mulimani (2008) presented the result of the study on usage of internet by students and research scholars of Karnataka University library. It is revealed that majority of respondent use internet to keep up-to-date for research and academic purposes.

Satpathy (2010) has examined the use of resources by the faculty members who is special reference to CVRCE Bhubaneswar, indicating that the faculty members are heavily dependants on e-resources for their required information and keep themselves up-to-date in their subject areas.

Maharana (2010) conducted a study on the use of the internet and e-resources by the students of business management: survey of P.G. students of business administration Sambalpur University, India. Majority of respondents are used internet that it is time saving, legs expensive, more information, highly useful and inventional for management education as well as research proposes

Thamuskodi and Amsan (2013) conducted study to determine the usage of electronic resources among the students of J J College of engineering and technology the findings of the studies are electronic publishing is treated as the speedy, accurate and effective way of communication among the engineer professionals.

Chohda (2015) presented a study on the use of e-resources in Punjab University Library, Chandigar. It examines the preferences, importance, purpose and problems of electronic resources in Punjab University Library. Chohda make recommendations as providing the user training and new techniques to handle new technology to handle new technology.

Imsong and Kharbudn (2016) examined a study on information literacy on usage of electronic resources in academic libraries and author's opinion on study is that how to inform users regarding electronic resources and how to provide accurate information to the correct users from the collection of e-resources.

Data Analysis:

Analysis of data is the ultimate step in the research process. It is the link between raw data to significant results leading to the conclusion. This process of analysis has to be results oriented and suggested in recommendations. There are 339 students enrolled in Ph.D. Center as research scholar in respective subjects out of that 320 responded to Google forms.

1. Gender wise Respondents:

Table No.1

Sr. No.	Gender	Respondents	Percentages
1	Male	140	43.75 %
2	Female	180	56.25 %
Total		320	100 %

As shown in Table No. 1, the gender of the respondents is quite clear: out of the 320 respondents investigated for this study, the overwhelming majority 180 (56.25 %), were Females. In contrast, about 140 (43.75 %) were Males. Surprisingly, most of the students are females, which is higher than their male counterparts.

2. Opinion regarding frequency of access e-resources:

Table No.2

Sr. No.	Category	Respondents	Percentages
1	Always	118	36.88 %

2	Often	129	40.31 %
3	Occasionally	47	14.69 %
4	Rarely	23	7.19 %
5	Never	3	0.93 %
Total		320	100 %

Table No.2, Shows respondents give opinion regarding frequency of access e-resources. The result indicates out of 320 respondents 129 (40.31 %) are often access e-resources while 118 (36.88 %) are access e-resources always. Accessing e-resources occasionally and rarely is 47 (14.69 %) and 23 (7.19 %) respectively. In other hand, access e-resources never are below 1 % respondents. Hence it indicates usage of e-resources is effectively done by respondents.

3. Purpose and utilisation of e-resources:

Table No.3

Sr. No.	Category	Respondents	Percentages
1	Studying a coursework	55	17.19 %
2	Dissertations or project	62	19.38 %
3	Writing a research paper	30	9.37 %
4	Research work	108	33.75 %
5	For Teaching	8	2.5 %
6	Seminar / conferences / presentations	45	14.06 %
7	Up-to-date knowledge	8	2.5 %
8	General information	4	1.25 %
Total		320	100 %

As shown in Table No. 3, the purpose and utilisation of e-resources indicates that majority of respondents 108 (33.75 %), used e-resources for their research work. Research related activities like coursework, dissertations, writing research paper etc. used e-resources effectively as compare to Seminar / conferences / presentations, up-to-date knowledge, teaching etc. are self developing activities used less access e-resources. For general information research scholars used rare e-resources only 1.25% i.e. 4 respondents only.

4. Formats of e-resources:

Table No.4

Sr. No.	Category	Respondents	Percentages
1	E-books	65	20.31 %
2	E-journals	148	46.25 %
3	Electronic reference resources	50	15.63 %
4	E-Thesis	25	7.81 %
5	Web OPAC	15	4.69 %
6	Open access resources	10	3.13 %
7	Question Banks	3	0.93 %
8	NLIST Consortia	2	0.625 %
9	NPTEL Platform	2	0.625 %
Total		320	100 %

Table No.4, Shows respondents responded for formats of e-resources which they access most frequently. The result indicates out of 320 respondents 148 (46.25 %) are access e-resources as e-journal format while 65 (20.31 %) used e-books and 50 (15.63 %) used Electronic Reference resources. On other hand, E-thesis, Web OPAC, Open Access resources, question banks, NLIST Consortia & NPTEL Platform are used less number of respondents.

5. Problem facing by respondents while using the e-resources:

Table No.5

Sr. No.	Category	Respondents	Percentages
1	Insufficient e-resources	75	23.44 %
2	Less coverage of e-resources in subject field	85	26.56 %
3	Lack of proper assistance by library staff	40	12.50 %
4	Poor knowledge for searching skills	35	10.94 %
5	Less number of computer terminals	12	3.75 %

6	Lower internet connectivity or speed	62	19.38 %
7	Time Consuming	5	1.56 %
8	Electricity failures	4	1.25 %
9	Unorganised information content	2	0.62 %
Total		320	100 %

As shown in Table No. 5, Problem facing by respondents while using the e-resources indicates that majority of respondents 85 (26.56 %) & 75 (23.44 %) are arguing for Insufficient e-resources their subject field and overall very less e-resources are provided by the Library. 62 (19.38 %) respondents are faced internet connectively problem for accessing e-resources. While 40 (12.50%) & 35 (10.94 %) respondents are facing problems as less cooperation by library staff & Poor knowledge for searching skills of library staff for accessing the e-resources. Remaining respondents are facing fewer problems which are negligible as less number of computer terminals, time consuming, electricity failures and unorganised information content.

6. Recommendations:

On the Basis of problems facing by respondents while using the e-resources, some recommendations are suggested for effective usage of e-resources as:

- Development of infrastructure facilities for accessing the E-Resources by the respondents.
- User training is essential for the better use of electronic resources.
- E-resources users should be taught about advanced search strategies.
- Remedies for negotiation with the publishers / consortia regarding the speed of host to website.
- More personalised service required to users by the library staff in accessing E-Resources.
- Electronic document delivery service should be introduced in the library.

Conclusion:

Due to fast growth of information and communication technology especially internet & electronic resources; Hence change traditional methods of research; Purchases / Subscribes, Collects, Storage and Dissemination of scholarly information. The study concluded that research scholar extremely utilised electronic resources demonstrating shift to a digital platforms for academic research. The convenience accessibility and unlimited information availability in any format of resources. Some nominal changes are made for infrastructure and training programs for students are allotted in regular frequencies and modems are used for high speed internet which helps to students access information easily.

Hence one can say that KTHM College library services are effective and faster regarding the use of electronic resources.

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