ROLE OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS IN USE OF OPEN AND ONLINE RESEARCH SUPPORT PLATFORMS FOR RESEARCH PAPER WRITING.

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Crossref DOI - https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23432293

Abstract :

Role of librari es are changing but still it plays a crucial role in every aspect of education and research as well. The study is based on role of libraries in research. This paper discussed various research support platforms, their key features, their services, and usefulness of these platforms for the researchers. The study was based on the information of these platforms which is available online, and the analysis of was done on the basis of that. The study concludes that the available research support platforms are useful. Libraries and librarians are playing key role in these by providing services, training, orientation and technical support for the use of these platforms.

Key words : Research, Research Writings, Research Support Platforms, Role of Librarians, AI

Introduction :

Research Writing and Libraries are the integral part of not only academic institution but the research institutions too. The research conducted at various stages at academic as well as research institutes are playing vital role in the development of not only that institution but for the society as well as for nation building.

Since the invention of libraries, it was always the support pillars of every institute that supports research. Without libraries the research could not be complete. In today's era where technology is the only thing which covers the whole world, this is closely related with libraries also.

Libraries and librarians are committed with the services for its users; in every aspect they provide services and try to fulfill the information needs of its users. Their knowledge and expertise helps researchers to maintain ethical practices and maintain the standards of

research writings.

1. Libraries as a learning resource center :

Libraries are not just a collection of documents and reading material. It is place where all the members of library can get the information, knowledge which they want to procure for their study or for their research.

Besides collection in the libraries there are many online e resources are available, which facilitates researchers, for their research and also for the review of literature. These e resources are mostly the part of online databases. Some databases are available openly and freely. But many of the databases are available on subscription and researchers will get access of these databases through libraries only. Some of the major databases are,

- Scopus
- Web of Science
- PubMed
- SSRN
- E Shodh Sindhu
- Shodhganga and many other national as well as international databases.

All these databases are having e resources in big numbers of many international publications and institutions in the form of e books, e journals. All these databases are very much important and playing a big role while doing research, but all the researchers are not aware about these services and databases, also they might not get the access to these e resources. And here the libraries and librarians are playing an important role while searching the relevant information and references.

Research Paper writing :

Writing a research paper is a crucial task which needs research paper writing skills and support of any professional agency or expertise.

There are many factors which need to be considered while writing research paper. This includes basic information of research area, data collection, and analysis of data. review of literature, findings, results, and conclusion, all this information needs to be present properly. At the end references and citation must be written properly, and with given reference style.

Library and librarian's role :

With the technological advancement, information is readily available on the fingertips of the user but at the same time it does not available freely, or openly, the reader needs help from librarian to get right information at right time. Librarians are the facilitators of scholarly

information. They not only assist researchers in finding the relevant information but help them to access open access databases, digital libraries and repositories like, Open access institutional repositories

Open Educational Resources and Institutional repositories are the authentic source of information which is very much useful for the research purpose. It provides basic information and help in building strong foundation for research writing.

Review of Literature :

Vandana in "Open Access initiative for Academic Libraries: Promoting Scholarly Communication and Collaboration" discussed about the open access movement and its significance in academic libraries, like, open educational resources, open publishing platforms, institutional repositories. (Vandana, 2024)

Jain, Priti in, "Promoting Open Access to Research in Academic Libraries", discussed about benefits of open access and its uses in research and publication. (Jain, 2012)

Das, Aditi and Banerjee, Swapna in Optimizing Research Support Services Through Libraries: A Review Of Practices Libraries: A Review Of Practices focusses on advancement of technology ultimately changes the role of librarians, as well as the services they provide to the researchers. (Das, 2021)

Kennan, Mary Anne and others in Making Space in practice and education : Research Support Services in academic libraries discussed about how technological development and reduced power of purchasing of resources brings changes in academic culture, this paper discussed about current and emerging research support services for academic libraries. (Kennan, 2014)

Ranjit Kumar Singh and Others in the article, 'Investigation of research support services (RSS) in academic libraries of India, investigates the implementation of research support services in academic libraries in India, also classify the available services into different eight categories and find out their status. (Ranjeet Kumar Singh, 2024)

Aims and objectives of the study :

There are many online academic research support platforms, which are serving for the benefit of users for free or on payment. Here in this paper we are going to find out:

1) Online research support platforms for researchers
2) The Services provided by these platforms.
3) Beneficiaries or target users of these services.
4) Open free services.

Use of these online research support platforms by researchers is very much beneficial

for them. Some of the important benefits are:

1. Researchers could connect to the similar kind of researcher's community.
2. Researchers will get the track record of their publications
3. Researchers will get the citations for their research publications.
4. Researchers will get more views for their research publications.
5. Researchers will worldwide readers for their publications.

Research Methodology :

The online study and the survey of various support platforms was done, their services and websites were compared. The analysis was done on the basis of the information given on the website. There are various research support services are available. Some major and widely used services are discussed in this paper. The following is a list of various service providers, those are Google Scholar, Research Gate, Vidwan, Altmetric, Academia Edu, Researcher Profile.

In this study we can classify the available research support platforms in the two categories, one is researcher's profile platform and another is research support service platform.

1. Researchers' Profile Platforms : These platforms which provides identification numbers or IDs to the researchers.
2. Research Support Service Platforms : These platforms supports researchers in the research writings.

1. Researchers Profile Platforms :

Google Scholar : This is very first and google based researcher's profile platform, which showcases the research contribution, number of online papers, affiliation of the author, co-authors, citations received and so on. Researchers can get there, list of published papers, citations received and google scholar ID from this platform. The author need not do the addition of his/her research articles by them, it automatically added in your profile, once it published.

Research Gate : This is one more platform for researchers and academicians. This platform provides Research Gate ID, the authors can add their online publications and research articles into this, also they can collaborate with the professionals of other institutes from similar subject and faculty. This is a free service platform through which researcher can share their publications worldwide.

Vidwan : This portal works with the help of Inflibnet center located at Gandhinagar, India. Vidwan is a database of Indian scientists, academicians, professionals from universities across India. This platform also provides unique identification number i. e. Vidwan I D to its members.

Academia Edu : This is a researchers platform which shows the research contribution of the researchers. Researchers can share and explore their research work through this network. This platform provides user profile and some basic features for free, users can have its advanced features on payment of subscription. Academia Edu creates worldwide network of researchers and researchers can share their research publications through it.

Orcid : This is a open researcher and contributor's identification number. Its basic aim to support research and innovation across the world irrespective of their discipline and language. This is a free service for the researchers

Research Support Platforms :

Altmetric : This is an alternative metric, and a scholarly impact metric. Which is also known as Altmetric Attention Score, this is an automatically calculated score based on individual's published research work. It also provides researcher the information about his published research, its reach, and citations received, global impact, history and so on. It also track

Institutional research related activities. Altmetric provides all the above information of a researcher's individually; also it covers scholarly works of institutions, as well as researcher's contribution and its reach in a single graph.

H **Index** : This is the highest acceptable impact score for researcher. It shows individual authors or researcher's position and their research impact. H Index is based on most cited papers and number of citations they received. This index is very popular among researchers, as well as this score is highly acceptable globally.

Reference Management Tools :

Mendley : It is a online reference manager tool, which is highly used by researchers, some of the basic features are free but the advance features are available on payment. Researchers can use this tool for the basic reference management for their research papers.

Zotero : This is another reference management tool, which is used by many researchers for their research work while doing the reference management. This tool is available online for free but some advance features are available are subscription based. Which include Group creation, sharing within groups facilities and many more.

There are some other widely used reference management tools are available online. Some important among them are Endnote, Reworks' etc. These services help researchers for the references and giving proper citation to the authors of used works. These services also help in creating bibliography automatically. This also promotes ethical practices in research, its librarian's duty to make aware researchers about plagiarism and academic misconduct, also proper use of given reference style and maintain the standard of research writing.

All the above research support platforms provide diverse range of information to the

researchers which are helpful in there research, as well as it provides and shares related publications list to the researchers and authors. They can use this additional information for references, and they can add in their review of literature also.

The researchers can have their identification I ds through the researcher's profile platforms like google scholar and so on, these platforms provide facilities to the researchers to hare their research work with others and get recognitions and citations, which is useful to increase their score, views, and downloads as well.

Analysis of key features of the research support platforms :

Sr. No.	Platform	Type	Services Provided	Free or paid	ID No.	Database	Other key feature
1	Googlr Scholar	Researcher Profile, platform	Comprehensive literature serach, advancrd serach options, full text location	Free	Provided	yes	Citation Tracking
2	Research Gate	Researcher Profile, platform	Research sharing and hosting, DOI, issueance	Free	Provided	yes	Impact and statistics tracking
3	Academia Edu.	Researcher Profile, platform	Sharing of research, personal digital profile	Some features Free	Provided	yes	Analytics and Impact monitoring
4	Vidwan	Researcher Profile, platform	Database of researchers and scholars, National Academic researcher identifier	Free	Provided	yes	Expert's directory
5	Orcid	Researcher Profile, platform	Unique Identification number to every registered researcher, information about	Free	Provided	yes	Auto update indication

			employment, education and funding				
6	Altmetric	Research Attention Score	Sharing the real time attention score	Paid	NA	NA	Altmetrc Explorer
7	H Index	Research Score		Free	NA	NA	Automated index
8	Mendley	Reference Managemen t Tool	Streamline the research work flow and connect with community	Some feature s are free	NA	Yes	Web Importar
9	Zotero	Reference Managemen t Tool	Document organization, advance multi format reader	Some feature s are free	NA	YEs	Citation and bibliograph y creation

The above table reflects the key feature of some major research support platforms. It gives a clear picture of these service platforms which helping researchers in their research writings.

There are many other online services platforms are also available for the research writings. Besides this AI is the keyword of today's era, AI is becoming more and more widely accepted technology, In every sector n number of tasks and works are performed by AI, like this in education and research, AI is already taken over many manual works. And it is becoming more and more challenging to identify the AI generated texts. So now this is also becoming a duty of librarians to make aware to the researchers about AI and its responsible uses.

Some very commonly used AI tools are Chat GPT, Gemini AI, research rabbit and so on..

AI can do and create and write every part of research, like Introduction, review of literature, analysis and so on.

Researchers and academicians continuously working and doing research, but they are unaware about these platforms which supports researchers and their writings.

Conclusion :

Research writing are the important part of research, but many times it gets less importance by the researcher due to lack of writing skills, and awareness about these online research support platforms and services. But Every researcher is trying to publish his paper in

a recognized indexed journal like Scopus or web of science listed journal. For this researchers need to improve and maintain standard research paper writings. With the help of these available research support platforms researchers can improve their research paper writing skills and get wide recognition and readers for their published research articles. Here librarians can become a helping hand and set the helping strategy for researchers to build a strong research community by creating researchers profile, tracking of citations, and increase the scholarly visibility, through these open and online available platforms.

At the end these services are now becoming a back bone of every researcher at every stage of research writing process.

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