

Use of E-Resources in Academic Library

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ABSTRACT

The advancement of ICT in the field of knowledge transformed traditional library services into digital formats. Electronic resources are a part of that transformation. It provides easy accessibility, solves storage problems, is speedy, access remotely, cost-effective, which tends to become more and more important to the academic community. This paper focuses on the different types of e-resources, their advantages and disadvantages and the impact of e-resources on academic libraries.

KEYWORDS: E-resources, digital resources, electronic documents, online resources, type of e-resources, impact of e-resources

INTRODUCTION

The advent of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the field of knowledge has changed the nature of acquiring information and knowledge from traditional resources to electronic resources. Today, users are more comfortable and satisfied with the e-resources. It is easy to access, updated, portable and easy to maintain. The electronic publications are also available on open-access platforms. The rapid development of electronic resources allows the library to acquire reading materials in electronic form along with printed materials.

E-resources usually consist of e-books, e-journals, articles, newspapers, thesis, dissertations, databases and CD-ROMs, which are likely to be the alternative to the print media. All updated information is published on these e-resources. The familiarity and use of electronic information resources in libraries for rapid development are necessary and important. Electronic information resources are utilised by academic library users and specific trends can be seen among faculty and students. (Sunderesswari. 2013).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are:

- ✓ To make aware of the e-resources among the students and faculty members of academic institutions.
- ✓ To know the sources of e-resources accessed by the academic library for the users.
- ✓ To know the advantages and disadvantages of using e-resources.
- ✓ To know the use of e-resources to get the required information.
- ✓ To understand the problems while using e-resources by the users.
- ✓ Suggestion for effective use of e-resources.

LITERATURE REVIEW

K. Konappa (2014). Embraced technology has led to the proliferation of electronically available information resources. The internet, which is the most prominent of this source has made possible access to electronic books and journals; various databases and search engines. All these resources constitute electronic information sources.

Gandhi Singh Chauhan (2016), The goal of an academic library is to meet the teaching, research and other information needs of the user. The proliferation of literature in all subjects, the price of journals, hikes in currency conversion rates and the budget crunch made the libraries depend upon each other. This leads to library co-operation, resource sharing and networks etc. At present, the online database. E-resources facilitate formations of colleges for resource sharing among the libraries.

Somaya Binta Hossaini (2017). The library environment has undergone a rapid change, leading to a new generation of libraries with an emphasis on electronic resources. As the popularity of electronic resources increases, the librarians and staff are also concerned about electronic resources, their methods, access, evaluation, selection, organization etc. This paper shows the benefits of using e-resources, problems that are faced by users when accessing electronic resources and the perceived impact of e-resources on academic library users.

A Baskar (2017). The advent of technology has made libraries add new things to their collections. E-resources information sources are very important for the academic community. This collected information through the ages has to be used for further research, betterment and overall development of society. Electronic resources are easily accessible in remote areas. It solves storage problems and controls the flood of information.

DEFINITION OF E-RESOURCES

According to AACR2, 2005 Update, an electronic resource is “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).

According to the Library and Information Technology Glossary “Term used to describe all the information products that a library provides through a computer network...”

According to the Gradman glossary, "A publication in digital format which must be stored and read on a computer device. There are two types: Direct access: these are physical objects such as CD-ROMs, diskettes, computer tapes, and computer cards, containing text, images, software, etc..."

According to Wikipedia, Electronic Resources means "Information (usually a file) which can be stored in the form of electrical signals, usually on a computer; Information available on the Internet".

NEED OF E-RESOURCES

The development of ICT is changing the education pattern and transforming the teaching-learning process from a traditional to digital environment. Modern academic libraries, are a conglomeration of printed resources as well as electronic resources where both forms of resources can be stored, retrieved and delivered as and when required. E-resources offer creative possibilities for expanding access as well as changing teaching, learning and research work.

TYPES OF E-RESOURCES

1. **E-journals:** An electronic journal is a periodical publication that is published in electronic format, usually on the Internet. It consists of journals, magazines, newsletters, and zines published in electronic format. Nowadays users expect up-to-date required information which is easily accessible in no time from a convenient place. E-journals fulfill all these requirements of the users and play an important part in the academic library disseminating knowledge. E-journals are of two types; subscriptions based and open access. Subscription-based e-journals require membership with a subscription to access the contents. And open access e-journals are free to view, download and share their contents.

Examples: Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Annual Reviews, Springer, Taylor & Francis, Elsevier, Emerald, Sage, EBSCO, IEEE IEL Online, etc.

2. **E-books:** An e-book (electronic book) is a book publication made available in electronic form, consisting of text, images, or both, readable on electronic devices. Although sometimes defined as “an electronic version of a printed book”, some e-books exist without a printed version. E-books can be read on dedicated e-reader devices, also on any computer device that features a controllable viewing screen, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets and smartphones. (Wikipedia, 2017). E-books are very useful in an academic institution.

Examples: McGraw Hill, Pearson, Cambridge Books Online, Springer e-Books, Sage Publication e-Books, Taylor Francis e-Books, The Open Library, etc.

3. **Consortia:** With the information explosion, it is becoming difficult for an institution library to satisfy the increasing information needs of the users. Due to economic reasons, no library is in a position to acquire all such information in print or other form. Due to cost-effectiveness, institutions are coming together in the form of consortia for resource sharing.

Examples: CSIR Consortia, FORSA, IIM Library Consortia, INDEST Consortium and UGC-Infonet Consortium.

4. **E-newspapers:** An electronic newspaper is a self-contained, reusable, and refreshable version of a traditional newspaper that acquires and holds information electronically.

Examples: The Washington Post, Asia Age, Business Daily, The Telegraph, etc.

5. **E-Thesis& E-Dissertation:** Electronic thesis and electronic dissertation are very useful tools to collect large data for specific subjects. The repository of e-thesis and dissertations is a very useful service for researchers. It reduces the duplication of research work and assists in the selection of the research area. As these can be searched subject-wise, it reduces the labour of the researchers and references staff a lot.

Examples of theses and dissertation reservoir: Shodhgang (India), NDLTD – Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (International), OATD – Open Access Theses and Dissertations (International), EBSCO Open Dissertations (International), DART-Europe (Europe), Deutsche National Bibliothek (Germany), EThOS (UK), Theses Canada (Canada)

6. **E-conference proceedings:** Conference proceedings are collections of papers or abstracts presented at a specific academic conference. It serves as a record of the conference and a source of information for the academic community. Electronic conference proceedings are of two types; online journals and CD-ROMs or USB drives. Electronic conference proceedings can usually be found on their related websites.

Examples: IEEE Conference Proceedings, eConf

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7. **Electronic Database:** A Database is an organized collection of information about a particular subject or multidisciplinary subject area. Information within databases can be searched and retrieved electronically. Databases can be categorized into online and offline. An online database is a database accessible from local networks or the internet. Offline databases are stored locally, so they can be used even if there is no connection to the server.

Examples: J-Gate, MathSciNet, PubMed, Science Direct, ProQuest, etc.

8. **E-Clipping:** E-clippings are mainly the electronic format of specific news published in newspapers. The main objective of this service is a retrospective search and comprehensive analysis of a specific topic. This is a very helpful resource for the researcher.
9. **Websites:** A website is a collection of web pages and related content that is identified by a common domain name and published on at least one web server.
Examples: www.wikipedia.org, www.google.com, etc.
10. **CD-ROM:** Compact Disc – Read Only Memory (CD-ROM) is used as a database to store large amounts of data, in the form of textual, numerical, graphical, audio and video. It is cost-effective, portable and there is no need for an internet facility to access information.

ADVANTAGES OF E-RESOURCES

E-resources provide a better service to the library users in an academic institution. The users prefer electronic resources for the following reasons:

1. **Accessibility:** E-resources can be accessed anywhere, anytime with any modern accessible device like a computer, laptop, mobile, tab, etc. There is no need to visit the library physically.
2. **Multiple Access:** E-resources can be accessed by many users at the same time.
3. **Easily Searchable:** Online e-resources are easily searchable and specific topics from that document can be searched easily.
4. **Speed:** E-resources are speedy at browsing, extracting and integrating information with other materials.
5. **Content:** Along with text, e-resources are available in image, audio, video and animation format, which is not present in printed books.
6. **Remote Access:** Those who live far from the library and cannot access the library frequently. If an internet facility is available, online e-resources are very useful for users staying in remote areas.
7. **Easy Storage:** Huge amounts of information can be stored in a small space. These resources save space for a library.
8. **Safe and Long Life:** In respect of printed books, it is a safe and long life.
9. **Environmental Factor:** As e-resources need no paper, they indirectly save the environment.

DISADVANTAGES OF E-RESOURCES

1. **Licensing:** E-resources need a license from the publisher for the library to use it.
2. **Infrastructure:** Electronic collection is supported by information and communication technology components.
3. **Technological Obsolescence:** Hardware and software obsolescence is one of the major risks of using electronic resources.
4. **Skilled Workforce:** Proper skills are required among the staff to handle the electronic collection, but libraries lack a skilled workforce.

5. **Budget:** Since libraries are non-profit organizations, they cannot afford costly electronic resources.
6. **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** E-resources can be easily copied and forwarded to another person, so librarians should be alert about IPR.
7. **Standards:** There are standards for metadata description like MARC21, but the available e-resources in the market are not standard by MARC21.

IMPACT OF E-RESOURCES ON ACADEMIC LIBRARY

E-resources make the library services quicker, easier and up-to-date. The Inter Library Loan service has become easier and quicker. Managing e-resources is very easy, which saves time for the users as well as the library staff. Physical books increase day by day, which creates an inadequacy of space in the library. E-resources have solved this problem, as they require very small space to store.

The coherent advantages of e-resources increased the demand among the users.

CONCLUSION

Electronic resources play an important role in academic libraries to serve its academia. The users' practices and demands are changing day by day from the traditional library system to an electronic format. The advancement of information and communication technology has led to change it rapidly. Although it has few demerits, users accept its great advantages of easy accessibility and storage, globally searchable content, remote access, etc. Electronic resources are going to be the future medium of knowledge dissemination in academic libraries.

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