

Utilization of Online Digital Information Resources by Women Research Scholars in Selected Universities at Tirupati – A Study

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to study the issues of digital resource utilization by women research scholars of selected universities at Tirupati. The study confirmed that the women research scholars are aware of the digital information resources and various types of digital resources. It suggests the improvement in the access facilities and most particularly increases the digital resources to support their research activities.

KEYWORDS: Digital information resources, search engines, e-databases, Women Research scholars.

INTRODUCTION

The digital information resources are systems in which information is stored digitally and made accessible through OPAC, CD-ROMs, Online databases, E-journals, E-books, Internet resources, etc., multiple accesses speed, richer in content, etc. Anywhere access is one of the features of digital resources. Science Direct, ASCE journal, etc., are the example of some famous digital resources available in India and overseas.

Digital information resources also provide access to current information as these are updated frequently through their various search techniques digital resources provide extensive links to explore additional resources or related content. Thus most libraries, as well as the Universities of the present day, provide digital information resources for higher education.

DEFINITION OF DIGITAL RESOURCES

According to the library of congress, an "Electronic resource" is defined as any work encoded and made available for access through the use of a computer. It includes electronic data available by remote access and direct access.

Direct access refers to the use of electronic resources via carriers designed to be inserted into a computerized device or its auxiliary equipment.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is on the knowledge and use of digital information resources to fulfill the academic research needs of users. It focuses on the digital information resources available and Uses by women research scholars. This study is limited to the women research scholars in the Selected Universities at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the awareness and use of digital resources by women research scholars
2. To find out the frequency of access to digital resources
3. To find out the purposes of using digital resources
4. To find out the digital resources can replace the print resources
5. To identify the place from where research scholars access digital resources
6. To discover problems faced by the research scholars while accessing the digital resources.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is confirmed to 3 Universities in Tirupati. Such as Sri Venkateswara University, Rashtriya Vidyapeetha, and Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University been selected for the study. As the total population is women research scholars survey method is adopted and appropriate sampling techniques were used to select the sample units.

The study was conducted using a questionnaire method. The study comprised research scholars in universities at Tirupati. Altogether there were around 387 research scholars in various departments in universities. The investigator visited all the universities and personally handed over the questionnaire to 387 research scholars and filled questionnaires were collected out of which, 59 questionnaires were rejected from the ultimate sample as they were not properly filled. The analysis of the data obtained through 328 questionnaires and provided an in-depth interpretation for fulfilling the objectives.

LITERATURE OF REVIEWS

Bhat and Ganaie (2017) found that the majority of users made use of search engines for searching and accessing e-resources followed by the university's website. A great majority of respondents are satisfied with the availability of e-abstract databases (87.92%) and e-journals (89.67%). Even though only three of the surveyed libraries are found to subscribe to a single e-book collection of 600 titles, surprisingly a good percentage of the library users (69.08%) are satisfied with the availability of e-books. The same is the case with e-theses, whereof the majority of respondents (60.33%) are satisfied, even though only one e-theses database that too only of Indian coverage i.e., KrishiPrabha is made available to users.

Nwabueze and Urhiewhu (2015) conducted a study on the availability and use of digital information resources by undergraduates of a university in Delta and Edo State, Nigeria. The study revealed that the majority of digital information resources are available in the university libraries in Delta and Edo states. The study further revealed that the problems like epileptic power supply, inadequate number of computer, inadequate bandwidth, network

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problems, lack of skills to access the digital information resources, and lack of formal training on internet use made the low use of digital information resources in all the university libraries.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

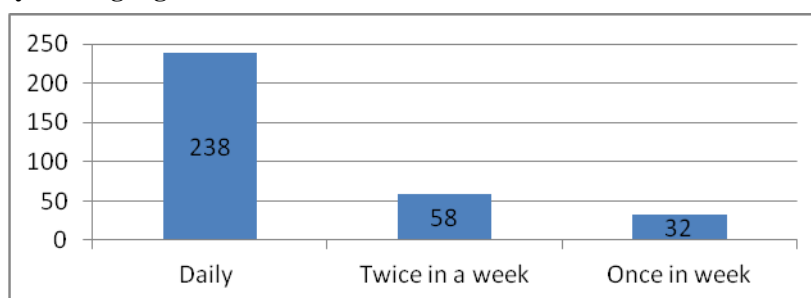
The purpose of this study is to investigate the utilization of online digital information resources by women research scholars in universities at Tirupati. The primary data was collected through the questionnaire method. The collected data are analyzed and presented in the form of tables and diagrams by using the percentage method.

Table -1: Awareness of digital information resources

Awareness	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	328	100
No	-	-
Total	328	100

Table -1 shows that 100% of the respondents have aware of digital information resources. Hence, it may be concluded that all the respondents are aware of digital information resources.

Figure – 1: Frequency of using digital information resources



The data in figure 1 reveals 238 (72.56%) respondents are using digital resources daily, followed by 58 (19.75%) twice a week. The remaining 32 (9.76%) respondents are using digital resources once a week. Hence, it can be concluded that all most all the respondents are using digital resources at a different frequency. Among them, the majority of users are using digital resources daily.

Figure -2: Place of access to digital information resources

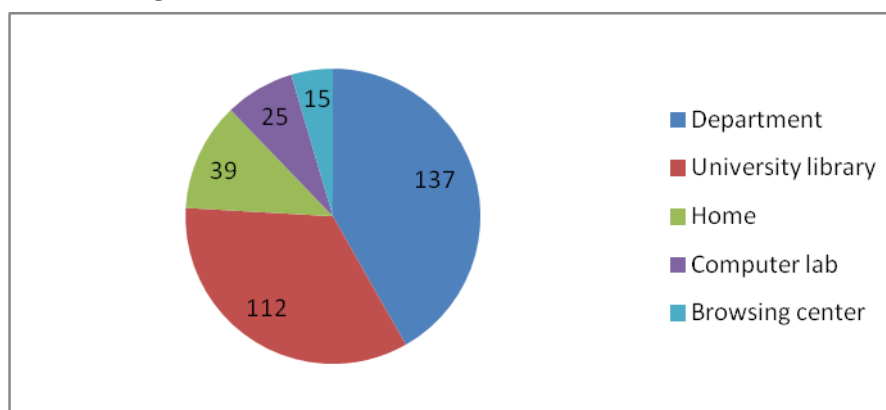


Figure 2. Shown that the majority of respondents 137 (41.76%) are using digital resources at the department, followed by 112(34.14%) at the university library, 39(11.89%) at home, the remaining 25(7.62%) at the computer

lab and 15(4.59%) respondents are using digital resources at the browsing center. Hence, it can be concluded that the majority of the respondents are having access to the digital resources at the department.

Figure -3: Search engines preferred for accessing digital information resources

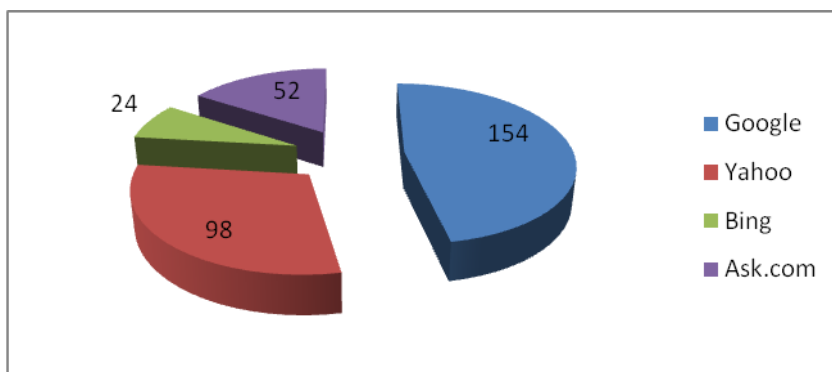


Figure 3 shows that the respondents used different search engines. The majority of the research scholars' preferred search engine are Google (154 (46.95%)), followed by Yahoo 98(29.87%), Ask.com 52(15.85%), the remaining 24 (7.31%) preferred Bing. Hence, it can be concluded that the majority of the research scholars are preferred the Google search engine for accessing digital resources.

Table -2: Purpose of use digital information resources

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Communication	87	26.52
Support teaching/learning activities	31	9.45
Research activities	132	40.24
Recreation	14	4.26
Career development	64	19.51
Total	328	100

It is evident from Table 2 shows that 132 (40.24%) are using digital resources in their research activities, followed by 87 (26.52%) research scholars using communication, about 64 (19.51%) research scholars are using career development, and 31 (9.45%) to support teaching/learning activities. The remaining 14(4.26%) research scholars are using digital resources for recreation activities. Hence, it can be concluded that the majority of the research scholars are using digital resources for research activities and also for communication.

Table -3: Digital information resources can replace physical information resources

Replace	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	283	86.28
No	45	13.71
Total	328	100

From the above table, it is evident that 283 (86.28%) respondents stated that digital resources can be replacing physical information resources. The remaining 45 (13.71%) research scholars say that digital resources cannot replace physical information resources. Hence, it can be concluded that the majority of the research scholars are opinioned that digital information resources can replace physical information resources.

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Table -4: Search fields used for access digital information resources

Search fields	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Keywords	116	35.36
Author	32	9.77
Subject	58	17.68
Title	122	37.19
Total	328	100

It is observed from table 4 and figure 4 that 122(37.19%) research scholars prefer to search information by title, followed by 116(35.36%) by keyword. About 58 (17.68%) research scholars prefer the subject search field and the remaining 32 (9.77%) research scholars prefer author as a search field. Hence, it can be concluded that the majority of the respondents prefer the title as a search method.

Figure -4: Frequency of using online databases

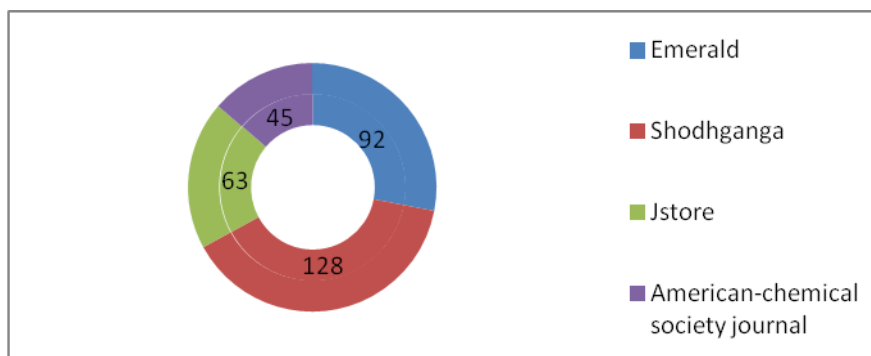


Figure 4 shows that 128 (39.04%) research scholars using shodhganga, followed by 92 (28.01%) Emerald, and 63 (19.20%) refer to Jstore. The remaining 45 (13.72%) research scholars are using American- chemical society journals. Hence, it can be concluded that the majority of the respondents stated as the shodhganga databases are using frequently for their research work.

Table -5: Satisfaction with the collection of digital information resources

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Highly satisfy	159	48.47
Satisfy	169	51.53
Not satisfy	-	-
Total	328	100

It is clear from table 5 that 169 (51.53%) respondents are highly satisfied with the collection of digital resources, followed by 159 (48.47%) respondents are satisfied with the digital resources. Hence, it can be concluded that all the respondents are satisfied with the collection of digital resources and the majority among them are highly satisfied.

Figure -5: The problem of using digital information resources

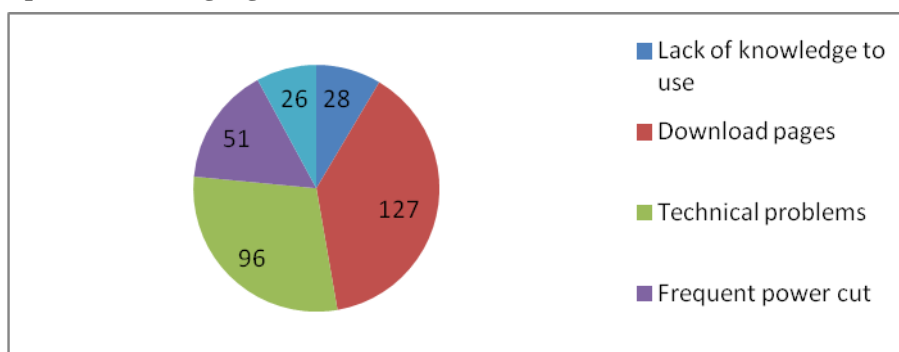


Figure 5 reveals that 127(38.71%) respondents stated that long to view download pages, followed by 96 (29.26%) says technical problems like slow server, networking, and speed of the internet, about 51 (15.54%) frequently power cut and 28 (8.57%) stated that lack of knowledge to use digital resources. The remaining 26 (7.92%) respondents stated a lack of time to use digital resources. Hence, it can be concluded that the majority of the respondents stated that lacks too long to view and download pages.

FINDINGS

1. All the respondents are aware of digital resources and using digital resources daily
2. The majority of the respondents are access to the digital resources at the department, preferred Google search engines for accessing digital resources.
3. The majority of the respondents are Most of the respondents are pinioned that digital resources can replace the physical information resources for their research work
4. The majority of the respondents stated as the shodhganga databases are using frequently for their research work.
5. The majority of the respondents are satisfied with the collection of digital resources and the majority among them are highly satisfied.
6. The majority of respondents are express it takes too long time to view download pages and technical problems are securing access to digital resources.

CONCLUSION

Human beings have always felt the need to communicate, exchange information, and disseminate knowledge. However, earlier the processes of communication were hindered due to several factors such as distance, time, or location, but the advent of the worldwide web and rapid development of information communications technologies have overcome the barriers in the communication and exchange of information. Moreover, the prolific development of digital resources has revolutionized the process of scholarly communication and expedited the process of research digital resources have influenced researcher's research work in many ways. The use of digital resources has led to instant access to a plethora of scholarly information catering to the information need of the researchers. Digital resources have presented users with fast and efficient ways of information sharing thus making them an important vehicle and a spontaneous choice for various research and academic activities thus the role of digital resources in the research and scholarly process cannot be denied.

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