

Print and Electronic Resources Usage and Preference among University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot: A Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT

Study explores the extent to which Faculty and PG students in universities setting use print and electronic resources. Reading preferences and use of print and electronic resources vary among different disciplines. The purpose of this paper is to know the preferred sources of information (Electronic vs. Print) among the faculty and PG students, simple random sampling techniques, descriptive survey method was used as the research design, well designed questionnaire was used for the data collection and data has been analyzed using SPSS (Version 26.0). The study found that 64.84% from UASD and (86.66%) from UHSB. both faculty and PG students. Further, the study found that most of the respondents have positive opinion on the use of e-sources than print sources. The respondents opined that, e-sources are cheaper than print sources, through electronic sources the information is available 24/7, resources provides voluminous information and they are easy to carry. Statistical techniques were used Frequency, Percentage, Mean, Standard deviation, Chi-square Test and ANOVA and the significance values that fall below the <0.05 level are accepted.

KEYWORDS: User studies, Print resources, Electronic resources, Hybrid libraries, Agriculture University, Horticultural University

INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century the technology improvements will reduce or eliminate the gap between print and digital for highlighting, bookmarking, annotating, and more (Bell, 2017). The availability and utilization of print and electronic resources is very important to teaching, learning and research in any educational system. Both print and electronic resources are important sources of information (Idiegbeyan-Ose et al., 2019). Academic libraries play an important

role in Teaching, Learning and Research, through acting as access points for contents needed for Teaching, Learning and Research Processes. As a focal point for Teaching, Learning and Research, it is expected to provide standard information resources. The importance of agricultural university library in the process of higher education/learning and promotion of research has been established and acknowledged since long. Their importance is better realized when the information is stored in different forms in the library is properly put into use by its readers. Print is a pioneer of mass distribution of information and medium of communication like no other (Bastek, 2012,p.1). Print and electronic resources are both commonly acquired by university libraries. The library provides relevant print and electronic resources to UG students, PG students, Faculty members and nonacademic staff for academic work as well as for personal self-development. Human knowledge can be recorded and preserved on different media. The birth of moveable type of printing in the 15th Century A.D. brought the first conceptual change in the content of libraries. Few years back, documents written or printed in paper were considered as the best medium. But with the development of science and technology today electronic multimedia have been widely used for preservation of knowledge in the libraries of any kind whether public, academic or special library.

In traditional libraries, user cannot easily locate a piece of information and have to spend more time in searching information. But in this age of Information Communication Technology (ICT), computers are being used for day to day housekeeping activities of the libraries, to read and download of texts of articles, reports and other materials. Thus, it saves the time of the library professional and end user and makes the library service smooth and effective as the S.R Ranganathan 4th law said. There is a paradigm shift from hard print to digital, ownership of documents to access of information, physical to virtual libraries. Though the electronic resource cannot fully replace the printed collections, it can definitely augment the print collection to a large extent. In this digital era, it raises many questions about the potential differences in how users discover and use print resources as compared to e-resources. Do users prefer print or e-resources and what purpose may influence their preferences? Do faculty and graduate students differ in their preferences and uses of both resources? With the aim of answering the questions above, a study was conducted of faculty members and PG students in both Universities.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ✓ To examine users' preferences on the use of print and electronic resources
- ✓ To know the reasons for preference to print resources
- ✓ To know the reasons for preference to electronic resources
- ✓ To identify the purpose of using such resources

3. SCOPE, LIMITATIONS AND METHODOLOGY

The scope of the study is limited to faculty and PG students of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot only. the random sampling techniques were used the data was collected using questionnaire method and also interview techniques were used total 330 questionnaires were distributed among faculty and post graduate students out of which dully filled in 65 questionnaires from faculty and 214 from post graduate students were received from UASD and 60 questionnaires were distributed among Faculty of UHSB and 150 questionnaire were distributed among Post Graduate students, out of which 54 dully filled in questionnaire from faculty and 128 from post graduate students were received and used for the study. The data obtained were tabulated and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version

Print and Electronic Resources Usage and Preference among University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot: A Comparative Study

20. Hypotheses were tested and findings were drawn in the light of the objectives of the investigation. Following statistical techniques were used: Frequency, Percentage, Mean, Standard deviation, Chi-square Test and ANOVA. The significance values that fall below the 0.05 level are accepted.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Data analysis and interpretations has been summarized bellow in the tables.

Table - 4.1: Preference to Print or Electronic Sources

Table-1 depicts that majority of 138(49.46%)of faculty and PG Students of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad Preference to Electronic sources, 85(30.47%) Preference to print sources and 56(20.07%) Preference to both print and electronic sources. Followed by majority of 92(50.55%) of faculty and PG students of Horticultural Sciences Bagalkot Preference to Both Print & Electronic sources, 52(28.57%) Preference to Electronic sources and 38(20.88%) Preference to Print sources while preferences of sources.

Table-4.1: Preference to Print or Electronic Sources

Preference	UASD			UHSB		
	Faculty (N=65)	PG Students (N=214)	Total (N=279)	Faculty (N=54)	PG Students (N=128)	Total (N=182)
Print sources	21 (32.30)	64 (29.91)	85 (30.47)	14 (25.92)	24 (18.75)	38 (20.88)
Electronic sources	12 (18.46)	126 (58.88)	138 (49.46)	10 (18.52)	42 (32.81)	52 (28.57)
Both Print & Electronic sources	32 (49.24)	24 (11.21)	56 (20.07)	30 (55.56)	62 (48.44)	92 (50.55)

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage

Table-1 depicts that majority of 32(49.24%)of faculty of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. preference to both Print & Electronic sources followed by 21(32.30%) preference to Print sources and 12 (18.46%) preference to Electronic sources. About 126(58.88%)PG students preference to Electronic sources, followed by 64(29.91%) preference to Print sources and 24(11.21%) preference to both Print & Electronic sources. Followed by 30(55.56%) of faculty of University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot preference to both Print & Electronic sources, 14(25.92%) preference to Print sources and 10(18.52%) preference to Electronic sources. About 62(48.44%) of PG students prefer to Print & Electronic sources, 42(32.81%) preference to Electronic sources and 24(18.75%) preference to Print sources comparatively.

Table - 4.2: Reasons for Preference to Print Resources

Table-2 depicts that majority 269(96.42%) of faculty and PG Students of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad Preference to print resources reasons for can be read at leisure followed by 144(51.61%) better Comprehension respectively. X^2 68.978, df=5, P=.00001, $p < .05$. followed by 175(96.16%)of faculty and PG Students of University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot. Preference to print Resources Reasons for No Eye

Strain and 172(94.50%) can be read at leisure respectively. X^2 27.976, $df=5$, $P=.000037$ $p<.05$. Significant relationship between faculty and PG students of both Universities for Preference to Print Resources.

Table-4.2: Reasons for Preference to Print Resources

Reasons for Preference to Print resources	UASD			UHSB		
	Faculty (N=65)	PG Students (214)	Total (N=279)	Faculty (N=54)	PG Students (N=128)	Total (N=182)
Electronic version not always accurate	29 (21.8)	8 (9.09)	37 (13.26)	21 (38.29)	11 (8.59%)	32 (17.58)
Electronic version not permanent	24 (18.04)	12 (13.64)	36 (12.90)	26 (48.15)	16 (12.5)	42 (23.08)
Easier to Bookmark	59 (90.77)	69 (78.41)	128 (45.88)	38 (70.38)	70 (54.69)	108 (59.34)
Better Comprehension	61 (93.84)	83 (94.32)	144 (51.61)	48 (88.88)	88 (68.75)	136 (73.12)
Can be read at leisure	65 (100)	204 (95.32)	269 (96.42)	54 (100)	118 (92.18)	172 (94.50)
No Eye Strain	65 (100)	64 (72.7)	129 (46.24)	54 (100)	121 (94.54)	175 (96.16)
Statistics	X^2 68.978, $df=5$, $P=.00001$, $p<.05$. is Significant			X^2 27.976, $df=5$, $P=.000037$ $p<.05$. is Significant		

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage

Table-2 depicts that majority of 65(100%) of faculty of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. preference to print resources for reasons for Can be read at leisure and No Eye Strain followed by 61(93.84%) better comprehension about 204(95.32%) of PG students preference to print resources for can be read at leisure followed by 83(94.32%) better comprehension about 54(100%) of faculty of University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot preference to print resources for can be read at leisure and No Eye Strain and 48((88.88%) better comprehension followed by 121(94.54%) of PG students preference to print resources for No Eye Strain and 118(92.18%) can be read at leisure in this table found that same reasons for while preference to Print Resources of both Universities.

Table - 4.3: Reasons for Preference to Electronic Resources

Table-4 depicts that majority 163(58.42%) of faculty and PG Students of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad Preference to Electronic Resources of Access to current and up to date information and overall mean value of 3.45 and SD being 1.49 followed by 149(81.86%) of faculty and PG Students of University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot. Preference to Electronic Resources Reasons for Easier and faster access to more information respectively overall Mean value of 3.40 and SD being 1.44.

Print and Electronic Resources Usage and Preference among University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot: A Comparative Study

Table - 4.3: Reasons for Preference to Electronic Resources

Reasons for Preference to Electronic resources	UASD			UHSB		
	Faculty (N=65)	PG Students (214)	Total (N=279)	Faculty (N=54)	PG Students (N=128)	Total (N=182)
Access to current and up to date information	53 (81.54)	110 (73.3)	163 (58.42)	41 (75.92)	98 (76.56)	139 (76.38)
Easier and faster access to more information	49 (75.38)	113 (75.3)	162 (58.06)	39 (72.22)	110 (85.94)	149 (81.86)
Access to Diverse resources	51 (78.46)	109 (72.67)	160 (57.34)	40 (74.07)	106 (82.81)	146 (80.22)
Relational mobility	48 (73.84)	93 (62)	141 (50.54)	36 (66.67)	95 (74.21)	131 (71.98)
Portability	51 (76.92)	105 (70)	156 (55.91)	37 (68.51)	89 (69.50)	126 (69.24)
Information available at 24*7	46 (70.77)	107 (71.33)	153 (54.84)	34 (62.96)	92 (71.88)	126 (69.24)
Mean	3.45	3.46	3.45	3.40	3.41	3.40
SD	1.71	1.73	1.49	1.70	1.69	1.44

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage

Table-3 depicts that majority of 53(81.54%) of faculty of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. Preference to Electronic Resources reasons for Access to current and up to date information followed by 51(78.46%) Access to Diverse resources mean value of 3.45 and SD being 1.71 about 113(75.3%) of PG students Preference to Electronic Resources reasons for Easier and faster access to more information and 110(73.3%) respectively mean value of 3.46 and SD being 1.73. about 41(75.92%) of faculty of University of Horticultural sciences,Bagalkot Preference to Electronic Resources Reasons for Access to current and up to date information followed by 40(74.07%) Access to Diverse resources mean value of 3.40 SD being 1.70 and 110(85.94%)of PG students Preference to Electronic Resources reasons for Easier and faster access to more information and 106(82.81%) Access to Diverse resources respectively mean value of 3.41 and SD being 1.69.

Table - 4.4: Purpose of using print and electronic resources

Table - 4.4 depicts that majority 270(96.77%) of faculty and PG Students of University of Agricultural Sciences,Dharwad Research Purpose of using print and electronic resources both faculty and PG students Overall Mean value of 2.28 and SD being 1.12. About 148(81.32%) of both faculty and PG students of Horticultural Science,Bagalkot also Research Purpose of using print and electronic resources. Overall Mean value of 2.37 and SD being 1.14.

Table - 4.4: Purpose of using print and electronic resources

Purpose of using print and electronic resources	UASD			UHSB		
	Faculty (N=65)	PG Students (214)	Total (N=279)	Faculty (N=54)	PG Students (N=128)	Total (N=182)
Course work	11 (16.92)	202 (94.39)	213 (76.34)	6 (11.11)	118 (92.18)	124 (68.13)
Research	62 (95.38)	208 (97.10)	270 (96.77)	49 (90.74)	99 (77.34)	148 (81.32)
Teaching	63 (96.92)	12 (5.60)	75 (26.88)	51 (94.4)	4 (3.12)	55 (30.22)
Current Information	60 (92.31)	115 (53.7)	175 (62.72)	49 (90.74)	68 (53.12)	117 (64.28)
Mean	2.87	2.07	2.28	2.92	2.07	2.37
SD	0.83	1.11	1.12	0.88	1.16	1.14

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage

Table - 4.4 depicts that majority of 63(96.92%) of faculty of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. Purpose of using print and electronic resources for Teaching followed by 62(95.38%) of Research respectively mean value of 2.87 and SD being 0.83 about 208(97.10%) of PG Students using print and electronic resources for Research purposes and 202(94.39%) of PG Students using Course work respectively mean value is 2.07 and SD being 1.11. About 51(94.4%) of faculty of University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot Purpose of using print and electronic resources for Teaching followed by 49(90.74%) of faculty purpose of using print and electronic both Research and current information respectively. mean value of 2.92 and SD being 0.88 and 118(92.18%) of PG Students using print and electronic resources for course purposes and 99(77.34%) of PG Students using purpose of Research respectively mean value of 2.07 and SD being 1.16.

Table-4.4.1: ANOVA test

Source	DF	SS	MS	F	P-Value
Between Groups	3	21999.6875	7333.2292	2.4314	0.1156
Within Groups	12	36192.2587	3016.0216		
Total	15	58191.9462			

The ANOVA Test conducted for 15 df at the 5% level of significance shows that there is a non significant relationship between Purpose of using print and electronic resources by UASD and UHSB (F=2.4314, P=0.1156>0.05) Hence, the research Hypothesis is rejected.

Table - 4.5: Assistance from Library staff

The Table-5. depicts that out of 279, 256(91.76%)of faculty and PG students of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad opined as Assistance from Library staff and 23(8.24%) no opined as Assistance from Library staff followed by out of 182 faculty and PG students of University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, 140(76.92%) opined as Assistance from Library staff and 42(23.08%) no opined as Assistance from Library staff.

Print and Electronic Resources Usage and Preference among University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot: A Comparative Study

Table-4.5: Assistance from Library staff

Assistance from library staff	UASD			UHSB		
	Faculty (N=65)	PG Students(214)	Total (N=279)	Faculty (N=54)	PG Students (N=128)	Total (N=182)
Yes	58 (89.23)	198 (92.5)	256 (91.76)	38 (70.38)	102 (79.69)	140 (76.92)
No	7 (10.77)	16 (7.47)	23 (8.24)	16 (29.62)	26 (20.31)	42 (23.08)

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage

The Table-5. also depicts that out of 279, 58(89.23%) of faculty members of UASD opine as assistance from library staff and 7(10.77%) opine as ‘No assistance from the library staff’, followed by 198(92.5%) of PG Students opine as assistance from library staff and 16(7.47%) of PG Students opine as No assistance from library staff. 38(70.38%) of faculty members of UHSB opine as assistance from library staff, followed by 16(29.62%) of no opine as assistance from library staff and 102(79.69%) of PG Students opine as assistance from library staff and 26(20.31%) of PG Students opine as No assistance from library staff.

Table - 4.6: Referring print resources after approaching e-resources

The Table – 4.6. depicts that out of 279, 252(90.32%)of faculty and PG students of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad opined as referring print resources after approaching e resources and 27(9.68%) no opined as referring print resources after approaching e resources. followed by 155(85.16%) of faculty and PG students of University of Horticultural Sciences,Bagalkot opined as referring print resources after approaching e resources and 27(14.84%) no opined as referring print resources after approaching e resources.

Table-4.6: Referring print resources after approaching e-resources

Preference	UASD			UHSB		
	Faculty (N=65)	PG Students (214)	Total (N=279)	Faculty (N=54)	PG Students (N=128)	Total (N=182)
Yes	53 (81.54)	199 (92.9)	252 (90.32)	45 (83.24)	110 (85.94)	155 (85.16)
No	12 (18.46)	15 (7.1)	27 (9.68)	9 (16.66)	18 (14.06)	27 (14.84)

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage

The Table – 4.6. also depicts that out of 279, 53(81.54%) of faculty members of UASD opine as referring print resources after approaching e resources and 12(18.46%) opine as ‘No referring print resources after approaching e resources, followed by 199(92.9%) of PG Students opine as referring print resources after approaching e resources and 15(7.1%) of PG Students opine as No referring print resources after approaching e resources. 45(83.24%) of faculty members of UHSB opine as referring print resources after approaching e resources. followed by 9(16.66%) of no opine referring print resources after approaching e resources and 110(85.94%) of PG Students opine as

referring print resources after approaching e resources. and 18(14.06%) of PG Students opine as No referring print resources after approaching e resources.

5. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Major findings of the study of are

1. Majority of 138(49.46%)of faculty and PG Students of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad Preference to Electronic sources, 85(30.47%) Preference to print sources
2. Majority of 32(49.24%)of faculty of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. preference to both Print & Electronic sources followed by 126(58.88%)PG students preference to Electronic sources.
3. About 30(55.56%) of faculty of University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot preference to both Print & Electronic sources. About 62(48.44%) of PG students prefer to both Print & Electronic sources,
4. About 65(100%) of faculty of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. preference to print resources for reasons for Can be read at leisure and No Eye Strain and 204(95.32%) of PG students preference to print resources for can be read at leisure
5. About 54(100%) of faculty of University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot preference to print resources for can be read at leisure and No Eye Strain and followed by 121(94.54%) of PG students preference to print resources for No Eye Strain
6. Majority of 53(81.54%) of faculty of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. Preference to Electronic Resources reasons for Access to current and up to date information and 110(85.94%)of PG students Preference to Electronic Resources reasons for Easier and faster access to more information
7. Majority of 63(96.92%) of faculty of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. Purpose of using print and electronic resources for Teaching and 208(97.10%) of PG Students using print and electronic resources for Research purposes
8. About 51(94.4%) of faculty of University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot Purpose of using print and electronic resources for Teaching and 99(77.34%) of PG Students using purpose of Research respectively
9. Majority of 58(89.23%) of faculty members of UASD opine as assistance from library staff and 38(70.38%) of faculty members of UHSB opine as assistance from library staff.

SUGGESTIONS

- Identifying the non-users of electronic resources and proper steps should be taken to convert them into potential users.
- Library orientation programme should be conducted periodically to fresh users to get familiarity and maximum use of library resources and services.
- The need for separate seating arrangement for the faculty and PG students is needful in Agricultural and Horticultural University libraries
- Separate Internet access center in the library should be arranged for the members of the faculty and students for their privacy.
- Working hours of libraries should be enhanced during examination time so that the students can utilize the library resources to the maximum, since they are not allowed to keep the library books until the compilation of their examinations.

CONCLUSION

The availability and use of print and electronic resources is very important to teaching, learning and research in any educational system. Both print and electronic resources are important sources of information to faculty and PG Students. This is evident in the study as students made use of both kinds of resources in their academic endeavors. Both print and electronic information resources as they both have exclusive values. Therefore, both print and electronic resources should be acquired, organized and preserved by libraries of UASD and UHSB. It is observed from the study that majority of the users prefer print resources over electronic resources. Libraries have traditionally been the location for storing and maintaining knowledge of the society. Libraries have served the role of information gatherers and information communication agents through time. They have the responsibility of accumulating knowledge – be it in the form of print or electronic and make it available to the seekers of information. Even with the rapid growth of ICT users have not lost interest in print resources. In this process, libraries acquire different types of information resources. Presently, the digital technology has revolutionized the way information is packaged and disseminated. In this context, the academic libraries no longer restrict themselves to print resources alone and are paving way for Hybrid libraries.

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