

Assessing the Use of E-Databases by Undergraduate Students at SVVU, Tirupati

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the utilization of electronic databases among undergraduate students at Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (SVVU) in Tirupati, India. Focusing on a sample of 132 students, the research examines demographic patterns, frequency of database usage, access methods, and student opinions on key e-resources such as CABI, Indiaagrisat.com, and ScienceDirect. Findings reveal that most respondents (78.85%) are 21-25 years old, with 75.75% of students using e-databases regularly. A significant preference for LAN (IP-based) access over remote access is noted, indicating the importance of reliable infrastructure. Positive opinions on e-databases are widespread, though disparities in usage frequency between male and female students are identified, suggesting potential barriers to equitable access. The study highlights the need for targeted training programs, gender-sensitive outreach, and enhanced support services to improve e-database utilization. By addressing these areas, SVVU can foster a more inclusive academic environment that supports the research needs of all undergraduate students, thereby enhancing overall academic performance and success. The study underscores the critical role of electronic resources in modern education and the necessity for continuous improvement in their accessibility and effectiveness.

KEYWORDS: Electronic databases, E-resource utilization, Undergraduate students, Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, electronic resources.

1. INTRODUCTION

The integration of electronic databases in academic settings has transformed the landscape of learning and research, particularly in fields such as veterinary science. As the reliance on digital resources continues to grow, understanding the patterns of utilization among students is vital. Electronic databases, which include collections of digital information organized for quick retrieval, play a crucial role in supporting evidenced-based research, facilitating access to scholarly articles, e-books, and other academic resources.

At Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (SVVU), a wide array of e-databases are available to students, providing access to essential resources such as CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International), ScienceDirect, and Wiley Online. These platforms are invaluable for fostering the academic development of students as they seek to navigate complex veterinary literature and enhance their research capabilities.

Despite the recognized importance of these resources, there is a growing need to assess their actual utilization and effectiveness among undergraduate (U.G.) students at SVVU. Previous studies have highlighted varied levels of engagement with e-resources across different disciplines and institutions. For instance, research conducted at several universities has shown that while many students use online databases, barriers such as slow internet connectivity, lack of familiarity with e-resources, and inadequate training persist. Understanding these dynamics is essential for enhancing the educational experience and ensuring that students maximize the benefits of available resources.

The present study aims to investigate the utilization patterns of e-databases among U.G. students at SVVU, focusing on aspects such as frequency of use, preferred database types, and perceived usefulness. By employing a structured questionnaire distributed among a random sample of students, this research seeks to gather comprehensive insights into how these resources are valued and utilized in their academic pursuits.

Library Services and Facilities at Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University

The library system at Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (SVVU) is designed to support the educational, research, and extension programs of the institution. With a commitment to providing comprehensive access to information resources, the library facilitates a conducive environment for learning and scholarship. Here, we detail the various services and facilities available to students and faculty:

Comprehensive Collection

SVVU libraries house a diverse collection of over 26,575 books, 50 Indian journals, and 90 foreign journals, ensuring a robust repository of knowledge across veterinary, dairy, and fishery sciences. The library also maintains a collection of 2,062 theses and 8,820 back volumes of journals, enriching the academic resources available for research and study.

E-Resources Access

The library offers access to a wide range of electronic resources, including e-journals and e-books through platforms like CABI, ScienceDirect, and Wiley Online Library. These databases provide students with valuable opportunities to engage with the latest research and developments in their fields. Additionally, SVVU is connected to the Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA), which grants access to over 4,000 online journals, further expanding the scope of available literature.

User-Friendly Services

Several user-oriented services enhance the library experience:

- **Reference Services:** Personalized assistance is available to help students locate resources and navigate databases effectively.

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- **User Education:** Training sessions are conducted to familiarize users with library resources and tools, including e-databases and digital libraries.
- **Circulation Services:** The library employs modern practices, such as an Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and RFID technology, ensuring efficient circulation and inventory management.
- **Inter-library Loan and Document Delivery Services:** Students can access materials not available within the SVVU library through inter-library loan arrangements.

Remote Access and Digital Library

With the implementation of RemoteXs.in middleware software, students and faculty can access e-resources remotely, allowing for convenient study and research from various locations. The digital library infrastructure is equipped with the latest technology, including servers and computers, to enhance the accessibility of digital content.

Special Collections and Amenities

The library also provides specialized collections for competitive examinations, supporting students preparing for various entrance tests such as ICAR, ASRB, JRF/NET, and more. Additionally, the Book Bank Scheme allows students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to borrow multiple copies of essential texts, promoting inclusivity in educational resources.

2. OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Assess how often undergraduate students at Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (SVVU) use various electronic databases and the reasons for their usage.
- ✓ Identify the most preferred electronic databases among students and understand the reasons for their preferences.
- ✓ Explore differences in e-database usage and perceptions between male and female students.
- ✓ Investigate the challenges and barriers students face when accessing electronic databases.
- ✓ Examine the impact of e-database usage on students' academic performance and success.

Scope of the Study

This study investigates the utilization of electronic databases among undergraduate students at Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (SVVU) in Tirupati. It focuses on understanding how students engage with various e-databases, such as CABI, ScienceDirect, and Wiley Online Library, examining their frequency of use, preferences, and perceived usefulness. The study will also analyze any gender differences in database utilization and how accessibility may impact academic success. By clearly defining the population and sample, research boundaries, and specific objectives, this research aims to provide actionable insights for improving library services and enhancing the user experience with e-resources. Additionally, it addresses potential constraints and implications for future research directions, emphasizing the importance of a well-defined research scope in achieving credible and relevant findings.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The study employed a quantitative research design to assess the utilization of electronic databases among undergraduate students at Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University. This approach involved the collection of numerical data through a structured questionnaire, which facilitated the measurement of various aspects of e-database use, perceived ease of use, and demographic variables. The quantitative method was chosen for its ability to provide a clear, objective analysis of students' utilization patterns and preferences, allowing for statistical comparisons and generalizations.

Sampling Technique

A random sampling technique was used to select participants for the study. This method was employed to ensure that every undergraduate student at SVVU had an equal chance of being included in the sample, thus increasing the representativeness of the results. Specifically, the study adopted a multi-stage sampling approach, which involved:

- **Selection of Departments:** Out of the various faculties at SVVU, two were randomly selected.
- **Random Selection of Students:** Within the chosen departments, individual students were randomly selected to participate in the study through a simple ballot method, minimizing selection bias and ensuring a diverse representation of students.

This multi-stage sampling technique allowed researchers to efficiently gather data from a large population while maintaining randomization at each stage.

Sample Size

The total sample size for the study consisted of 132 undergraduate students who participated by completing the questionnaire. Initially, 174 questionnaires were distributed to gather a broader dataset, but responses were only collected from 132 students, yielding a response rate of approximately 75.86%. This sample size was deemed sufficient to provide reliable insights into the utilization of e-databases, as it surpassed the minimum recommended sample size for quantitative research in social sciences, thereby enhancing the robustness of the findings. The respondents were mostly aged between 21-25 years, reflecting the demographic profile of the undergraduate population at SVVU.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The following summarizes significant studies conducted on the use of e-journals:

Uma (2014) investigated the use of online databases among faculty and research scholars at the University of Hyderabad (UOH) and Osmania University (OU), both located in Hyderabad, India. The findings revealed that users from both universities are well-acquainted with e-resources. Approximately 67.5% of UOH users and 64.4% of OU users reported that e-resources provided valuable information for their research without needing to visit physical libraries. ScienceDirect emerged as the most utilized online database at both institutions, followed by other important databases such as SciFinder, SCOPUS, Science Online, Biological Abstracts, and the American Chemical Society, with only slight variations in usage patterns.

Several studies have explored user awareness of e-resources. Singh and Satija noted that journals are the most frequently used resources, while dissertations and theses are the least utilized by scientists at ICAR and PAU.

Sankaranarayanan and Nagarajan found that faculty members prefer e-journals over online databases and e-books. Parmar reported that 97.87% of users favored accessing e-journals through CeRA, surpassing the use of search engines, publishers' websites, e-databases, and CD-ROM databases. Users faced challenges such as slow network speeds and insufficient trained staff when using e-journals. Kaur and Kathuria indicated that 72% of users were aware of e-resources, with friends and colleagues serving as the primary sources of information; e-journals were preferred over e-books, e-dissertations, and e-databases. Pateria's study revealed that 92.9% of users and 86.3% of faculty were aware of e-resources, with most learning about them through libraries. E-journals were the most commonly used resources, although slow download speeds were identified as a major issue.

Bhat and Ganaie reported that CeRA was the most utilized e-database (94.23%), followed by AGRIS, CABI, J-Gate Agriculture and Biological, FSTA, AGRICOLA, and BIOSIS. In contrast, INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortium were the least used, while e-books were the least preferred overall. Both print and electronic formats were favored, with a preference for online access in e-formats.

Kaur and Sarita Rani (2012) assessed the use of e-journals at Guru Nanak Dev University, providing insights into awareness of the UGC Infonet Consortium, preferred formats for reading articles, purposes for using e-journals, challenges faced in accessing them, and the satisfaction levels of researchers with the available e-journals in the library.

Anil Kumar and Pulla Reddy (2014) aimed to study e-journal usage among research scholars at Sri Venkateswara University (SVU), Andhra University (AU), and the University of Hyderabad (UH). This research assessed the types and purposes of e-journals used, time spent accessing them, problems encountered, search methods, satisfaction levels with print and e-journals, and perceived adequacy of e-journals as well as training received in their use. Results indicated that 73.64% of research scholars were satisfied with the e-journal search engines, while 26.36% were dissatisfied. Moreover, 71.40% faced challenges when using e-journals, with major issues including slow Internet connectivity (26.49%), lack of familiarity with e-journal searches (25.07%), insufficient information in their fields of interest (18.29%), and no facilities to obtain print copies of downloaded articles (17.98%).

Gaps in Research:

Despite the wealth of research in this area, notable gaps remain, particularly concerning undergraduate student populations. Much of the existing literature has focused on faculty or postgraduate students, leaving a gap in understanding the specific needs and challenges faced by undergraduates. Studies often overlook factors such as user experience, technical proficiency, and motivation, which are crucial for fostering effective engagement with e-databases.

Additionally, there is a lack of research examining gender differences in e-database usage among undergraduates. Most studies have generalized findings across all student levels, failing to analyze how different demographic factors might influence database accessibility and perception.

These gaps suggest the necessity for targeted research that specifically addresses undergraduate usage patterns and experiences with e-databases, aiming to develop tailored support mechanisms for this demographic.

Theoretical Framework:

This study is grounded in several theoretical frameworks that explore the relationship between information resources and academic performance. The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), proposed by Davis (1989), is particularly relevant as it explains how perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness of technology can influence students' attitudes towards using electronic databases and ultimately impact their academic success. Similarly, the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) by Ajzen (1991) provides insight into how students' intentions to use e-databases can be predicted by their attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control.

Moreover, the concept of Information Literacy is vital in understanding how effectively students can engage with e-databases. Information literacy encompasses the skills needed to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information. As highlighted by a study conducted by Choi (2017), higher levels of information literacy are linked to improved academic performance, reinforcing the importance of fostering these skills in conjunction with the utilization of electronic databases.

4. DATA ANALYSIS:

Age wise distribution of the respondents:

Table 1: Shows age wise distribution of the U.G students

Age in Years	No. of Questionnaires Distributed	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
21-25	95	83	78.85
26-30	44	39	17.16
31-35	35	10	3.55
Total	174	132	100.00

Table 1 indicates that 78.85% of the respondents belong to the age group of 21-25 years, making it the largest demographic among the surveyed undergraduate students. This is followed by the 26-30 years age group, which comprises 17.16% of the respondents. Lastly, only 3.55% of respondents are in the 31-35 years age group. This data clearly shows that the majority of respondents are young undergraduate students, reflecting a trend of younger individuals pursuing higher education at this institution.

Frequency of use of E-database:

Table 2: Depicts the frequency of use of E-database by the U.G students

Frequency	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
Regular	58	43.94	42	31.82	100	75.75
Occasional	21	15.91	11	8.33	32	24.25
Total	79	59.85	53	40.15	132	100

Table 2 presents the frequency of e-database usage among undergraduate students. Among the respondents, 58 males (43.94%) and 42 females (31.82%) reported using e-databases regularly, totaling 100 users (75.75%). In

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contrast, 21 males (15.91%) and 11 females (8.33%) reported occasional use, resulting in a total of 32 users (24.25%). Overall, the survey included 79 males (59.85%) and 53 females (40.15%), contributing to a total of 132 respondents (100%).

This data indicates a higher frequency of regular e-database usage among male students compared to female students, suggesting a potential area for further investigation into factors influencing engagement with electronic resources among different genders. The significant difference in usage patterns highlights the need to understand barriers that may prevent female students from utilizing e-databases as frequently as their male counterparts.

State the Method you prefer to Access E-resources:

Table 3: Shows Method prefer to Access E-resources by the U.G students

Method	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
LAN (IP based)	64	48.48	39	29.55	103	78.04
Remote Access	18	13.64	11	8.33	32	21.96
Total	82	62.12	50	37.88	132	100

Table 3 shows the preferred methods for accessing e-resources among undergraduate students. Among the respondents, 64 males (48.48%) and 39 females (29.55%) indicated that they prefer to use LAN (IP-based) access, totaling 103 users (78.04%). In contrast, 18 males (13.64%) and 11 females (8.33%) reported using remote access, making up a total of 32 users (21.96%).

Overall, the survey included 82 males (62.12%) and 50 females (37.88%), contributing to a total of 132 respondents (100%). This data reveals that the majority of undergraduate students prefer to access e-resources via LAN, suggesting that stable and direct connections are favored over remote access options. The significant preference for LAN access indicates the importance of reliable infrastructure in supporting students' e-resource utilization.

Opinion the CABI database

Table 4: Shows CABI database by the U.G students

Name of the Database	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
CABI (Centre for Agriculture and biosciences International database)	83	62.87	49	37.12	132	100

Table 4 presents the opinions of undergraduate students regarding the CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International) database. Among the respondents, 83 males (62.87%) expressed a positive opinion about the CABI database, while 49 females (37.12%) also shared favorable views, contributing to a total of 132 respondents (100%). The data highlights that a significant majority of male students have a favorable opinion of the CABI database, indicating its importance and utility in their academic pursuits. The presence of a substantial number of female respondents also reflects a positive reception of this resource. Overall, the findings suggest that the CABI database is

well-regarded among undergraduate students, positioning it as a valuable resource for research and study in agriculture and biosciences.

Opinion the Indiaagrisat.com database

Table 5: Shows Indiaagrisat.com by the U.G students

Name of the Database	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
Indiaagrisat.com database	73	53.30	59	44.69	132	100

Table 5 presents the opinions of undergraduate students regarding the Indiaagrisat.com database. Among the respondents, 73 males (53.30%) expressed a favorable opinion about the Indiaagrisat.com database, while 59 females (44.69%) also shared positive views, contributing to a total of 132 respondents (100%).

The data indicates that a majority of both male and female students appreciate the Indiaagrisat.com database, highlighting its relevance and usefulness in their academic work. The relatively high percentage of both genders signifies the database's importance as a resource for research in agriculture and related fields. Overall, these findings suggest that the Indiaagrisat.com database is well-received among undergraduate students, serving as a valuable tool for their studies and research endeavors.

Opinion the Science Direct database

Table 6: Shows Science Direct database by the U.G students

Name of the Database	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
Science Direct database	69	52.27	63	47.72	132	100

Table 6 presents the opinions of undergraduate students regarding the Science Direct database. Among the respondents, 69 males (52.27%) expressed a positive opinion about the Science Direct database, while 63 females (47.72%) also shared favorable views, contributing to a total of 132 respondents (100%).

The data indicates that the Science Direct database is well-regarded by both male and female students, reflecting its importance as a resource for academic research and information. The nearly equal representation of positive opinions among both genders suggests that the database is a valuable tool for students across disciplines, facilitating access to essential scientific literature. Overall, these findings highlight the significance of the Science Direct database in supporting the academic needs of undergraduate students.

Opinion the Wiley- Online database

Table 7: Shows Wiley- Online database by the U.G students

Name of the Database	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
Wiley- Online database	72	54.54	60	45.45	132	100

Table 7 presents the opinions of undergraduate students regarding the Wiley-Online database. Among the respondents, 72 males (54.54%) expressed a favorable opinion about the Wiley-Online database, while 60 females (45.45%) also indicated positive views, resulting in a total of 132 respondents (100%).

The data shows that the Wiley-Online database is positively received by both male and female students, suggesting its significance as an academic resource. The slightly higher percentage of male students who favor the database indicates a greater engagement among male users, but the strong support from female students reflects its utility across genders. Overall, these findings highlight the importance of the Wiley-Online database in providing valuable research materials and supporting the academic pursuits of undergraduate students.

Opinion the EBSCO-Medline Complete database

Table 8: Shows EBSCO-Medline Complete database by the U.G students

Name of the Database	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
EBSCO-Medline Complete database	68	51.51	64	48.48	132	100

Table 8 displays the opinions of undergraduate students regarding the EBSCO-Medline Complete database. Among the respondents, 68 males (51.51%) reported a favorable opinion of the EBSCO-Medline Complete database, while 64 females (48.48%) also expressed positive views, resulting in a total of 132 respondents (100%).

The data indicates that the EBSCO-Medline Complete database is well-regarded by both male and female students, reflecting its importance as a resource for academic research. The distribution of opinions shows a slight preference among male students, but the close percentages suggest that both genders find value in the database. This reinforces the database's role in supporting the educational needs of undergraduate students, highlighting its relevance in the academic community.

Opinion the Elsevier-Clinical database

Table 9: Shows Elsevier-Clinical database by the U.G students

Name of the Database	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
Elsevier-Clinical	81	61.36	51	38.63	132	100

Table 9 presents the opinions of undergraduate students regarding the Elsevier-Clinical database. Among the respondents, 81 males (61.36%) reported a favorable opinion of the Elsevier-Clinical database, while 51 females (38.63%) also expressed positive views, resulting in a total of 132 respondents (100%).

The data suggests that the Elsevier-Clinical database is well-regarded among male students, with a significant majority holding a positive opinion. While female students also demonstrate a strong appreciation for the resource, the percentage indicates a preference among males. This trend highlights the importance of the Elsevier-Clinical database as a valuable tool for academic research, particularly in clinical and medical studies, and underscores the necessity for continued engagement and promotion of such resources to enhance accessibility and usage among all undergraduate students.

Opinion the Ovid database

Table 10: Shows Ovid database by the U.G students

Name of the Database	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
Ovid database	70	53.03	62	46.96	132	100

Table 10 presents the opinions of undergraduate students regarding the Ovid database. Among the respondents, 70 males (53.03%) reported a favorable opinion of the Ovid database, while 62 females (46.96%) also expressed positive views, resulting in a total of 132 respondents (100%).

The data indicates that the Ovid database is perceived positively by both male and female students, with a slight majority of male respondents favoring the resource. This balanced perspective suggests that the Ovid database is considered a valuable tool for research among undergraduate students across genders. Ensuring continued access and support for the Ovid database can enhance its usage and help students effectively utilize its resources for their academic pursuits.

Opinion the SCOPUS database

Table 11: Shows SCOPUS database by the U.G students

Name of the Database	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
SCOPUS database	92	69.69	40	30.30	132	100

Table 11 presents the opinions of undergraduate students regarding the SCOPUS database. Among the respondents, 92 males (69.69%) expressed a favorable opinion of the SCOPUS database, while 40 females (30.30%) also reported positive views, resulting in a total of 132 respondents (100%).

The data indicates a strong preference for the SCOPUS database among male students, who make up a significant majority of the positive responses. This suggests that SCOPUS is recognized as a valuable resource for research, particularly among male undergraduate students. The overall positive opinion highlights the importance of maintaining access to the SCOPUS database, as it plays a critical role in supporting academic research and learning for students at the undergraduate level.

Opinion the Springer database

Table 12: Shows Springer database by the U.G students

Name of the Database	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
Springer database	72	54.54	60	45.45	132	100

Table 12 presents the opinions of undergraduate students regarding the Springer database. Among the respondents, 72 males (54.54%) expressed a positive opinion about the Springer database, while 60 females (45.45%) shared similar sentiments, resulting in a total of 132 respondents (100%).

The data indicates a balanced level of appreciation for the Springer database among both male and female students, with a slight preference shown by male students. This suggests that the Springer database is considered a valuable resource for academic research and learning by a substantial portion of the undergraduate student population. The favorable opinions highlight the importance of maintaining access to the Springer database as it contributes significantly to the academic success of students in their respective fields of study.

Opinion the Web of Science database

Table 13: Shows Web of Science database by the U.G students

Name of the Database	U.G students				No. of respondents	Percentage %
	Male	%	Female	%		
Web of Science	92	69.69	40	30.30	132	100

Table 13 displays the opinions of undergraduate students regarding the Web of Science database. Among the respondents, 92 males (69.69%) expressed a positive opinion about the Web of Science, while 40 females (30.30%) shared similar views, resulting in a total of 132 respondents (100%).

The data reveals a strong preference for the Web of Science among male students compared to female students. This suggests that the Web of Science is viewed as a highly valuable resource for academic research and literature review by a significant majority of undergraduate students. The high level of approval indicates that the database plays a crucial role in supporting students' academic endeavors, highlighting the necessity of continued access to this resource for enhancing research capabilities and academic success.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The analysis of the data collected from the undergraduate students at Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (SVVU) reveals several key findings regarding the utilization of e-databases:

1. **Age Distribution:** The majority of respondents (78.85%) are in the age group of 21-25 years, indicating that younger students predominantly utilize the university's resources. This trend aligns with the broader demographic of students pursuing higher education, emphasizing the youth-driven focus of academic institutions like SVVU.

2. **Frequency of E-Database Usage:** A significant portion of students (75.75%) reported regular use of e-databases, with higher engagement observed among male students (43.94%) compared to female students (31.82%). This disparity suggests that there may be underlying factors influencing the frequency of database usage among different genders, warranting further investigation.
3. **Preferred Access Methods:** The preferred method for accessing e-resources is through LAN (IP-based), with 78.04% of students indicating this choice. This preference for stable, direct connections highlights the importance of strong infrastructure in facilitating access to electronic resources. In contrast, remote access options are less favored, suggesting a need for improvements in technology or training for effective remote use.
4. **Positive Reception of Key Databases:** Most students expressed favorable opinions about major e-databases:
 - **CABI Database:** 62.87% of male students and 37.12% of female students viewed CABI positively, showing its value in academic research.
 - **Indiaagrisat.com:** Both genders appreciated this resource, with 53.30% of males and 44.69% of females recognizing its utility.
 - **ScienceDirect, Wiley Online, and EBSCO-Medline Complete:** These databases received positive feedback, indicating their significance in supporting students' academic needs.
 - **Elsevier-Clinical and SCOPUS:** Notably popular, with male students showing a stronger preference, particularly for SCOPUS (69.69% positive opinions).
5. **Balanced Opinions on Springer and Web of Science:** Both the Springer database and the Web of Science received favorable opinions from the undergraduate students, demonstrating their relevance in academic research. However, the data showed a slightly higher appreciation from male students in both cases.

Recommendations: Improving E-Database Utilization

To enhance e-database utilization among undergraduate students at Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (SVVU), the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Targeted Training Programs:** Implement regular training sessions focused on navigating e-databases, tailored specifically for undergraduate students. These programs should address varying levels of familiarity with digital resources and include hands-on workshops that promote practical skills in accessing and utilizing databases effectively.
2. **Gender-Sensitive Outreach:** Design outreach programs that specifically target female students, aiming to understand their unique barriers to e-database usage. This could involve focus groups and feedback sessions to identify challenges and promote resources in a supportive manner that encourages their engagement.
3. **Enhanced Remote Access:** Improve the infrastructure for remote access to e-resources. Given the increasing need for flexibility in accessing materials, ensuring that remote access is reliable and user-friendly can increase usage, especially among those who may not be able to utilize LAN connections effectively.
4. **Promotion of Available Resources:** Increase awareness of the available e-databases through posters, online newsletters, and social media campaigns. Highlight the benefits and relevance of specific databases in relation to students' courses and research topics, which could motivate more frequent use.
5. **User Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish a feedback mechanism that allows students to voice their opinions on e-databases. Conduct regular surveys to assess user satisfaction and identify areas for improvement. This feedback can provide insights into the specific needs and preferences of students regarding e-resources.

6. **Access to Technical Support:** Ensure that technical support is readily available to assist students with issues related to accessing e-databases. Making resources such as help desks or chat support available can help reduce frustration and discourage disengagement due to technical difficulties.
7. **Integrating E-Database Training into Curriculum:** Collaborate with faculty to integrate e-database training into relevant courses. By providing academic credit for learning how to effectively use these resources, students may become more invested in utilizing e-databases for their studies.
8. **Building a Robust Library Community:** Foster a sense of community around the use of e-resources by organizing library events, workshops, and webinars that encourage collaboration among students. Peer-led learning sessions could also enhance knowledge-sharing in a relaxed, engaging environment.

CONCLUSION

The study on the utilization of e-databases among undergraduate students at Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (SVVU) reveals important insights into how these resources contribute to academic success and research efforts. The findings indicate a strong reliance on electronic databases, particularly among younger students, with a significant frequency of use reported. Notably, the data highlights preferences for LAN access over remote methods, emphasizing the need for reliable infrastructure to support students' research activities.

While the overall reception of key e-databases like CABI, Indiaagrisat.com, and ScienceDirect is positive, the study also uncovers gender disparities in usage patterns, suggesting the presence of barriers that may inhibit female students from engaging with these resources as actively as their male counterparts. This calls for targeted interventions to enhance accessibility and user experience.

The recommendations presented aim to address these challenges and promote greater utilization of e-databases through targeted training, improved support services, and increased awareness campaigns. By fostering a more inclusive environment that actively engages all students in the use of electronic resources, SVVU can significantly enhance the educational experience and academic performance of its undergraduate population.

Ultimately, the effective utilization of e-databases is essential not only for individual student success but also for advancing the overall academic mission of the university. Continued research and responsive actions will be crucial in further understanding and improving the dynamics of e-resource engagement among students, ensuring that SVVU remains a leader in providing quality education and accessible academic resources.

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