

E- Resources Searching Behaviour of Research Scholars of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi: A Case Study

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Abstract - E-resources are revolutionizing academic libraries. E-resources available via the Internet are increasing exponentially, leading to steady increase in the use of Internet for education and research. Since past few years, free online information sources like e-journals, e-books, e-databases have increased considerably. Earlier information and knowledge were passed by word of mouth or through manuscripts and communication was a slow process. Today it is passed from one individual to an infinite number of other users through a number of media and formats which makes rapid and widespread dissemination of information possible. The information seeking behaviour of the users are also changing due to availability of e-contents. This paper discusses searching behaviour of E-resources by research scholars of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi.

Keywords: e-resources, internet, e-mail, search engines, research scholar

I. INTRODUCTION

Libraries have changed with the emergence and application of information technology (IT). As the use of e-library continues to soar, users are expected to develop information literacy skills. The major developments taking place in library and information centers today are the widespread availability and use of various kinds of electronic learning resources. Electronic resources include, web sites, online databases, e-journals, e-books, and physical carriers in all formats, whether free or fee-based, required to support research in the subject covered, and may be audio, visual, and/or text files. Electronic learning materials have increasingly become the focus of research and development of any institution in the recent years. The commonly available electronic resources namely CD-ROMS, OPACs, web databases, Internet, and other networked information sources are competing with, and in some instances replacing the print-based information sources, which have been in place for centuries as the primary medium for storage and communication of recorded information. The main purpose of the present study is to investigate the users searching behaviour for retrieval of information on the Web2.0. (Ray, K., 1998)¹. The study also aims to know the use of CD-ROM, online databases, online journals, Internet, e-mail and search engines, and searching behaviour of E- resources by research scholars.

II. ABOUT MAHATMA GANDHI KASHI VIDYAPITH

Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith is a public university located in Varanasi or Benaras, Uttar Pradesh, India. Babu

Shiv Prasad Gupt and Bhagwan Das established the university in Varanasi, on 10 February 1921, during the non-cooperation movement of the freedom struggle. Originally named Kashi Vidyapith, the university was renamed Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith in 1995. It was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi. The university has more than 400+ affiliated colleges spread over six districts. It is one of the largest State University in Uttar Pradesh, with hundreds of thousands of students, both rural and urban. It offers a range of professional and academic courses in arts, science, commerce, law, computing and management. The founding ceremony of the Vidyapith reverberated with the recital of Vedic mantras as well as excerpts from the Quran in the presence of educationists, learned persons and nationalists such as Pandit Motilal Nehru, Maulana Mohammed Ali and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Established with the resolution to keep the institution away from government recognition and grants the Vidyapith was accorded the status of "Deemed University" by the UGC in 1963. This epoch-making event started a new chapter for the institution. Babu Sampurnanand was appointed as the chancellor and Acharya Birbal Singh as vice-chancellor.

As the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.), Pt. Kamlapati Tripathi initiated a state government resolution to make his alma mater a statutory university; this happened on 15 January 1974. At this point, Prof. Raghukul Tilak was the vice-chancellor and the Governor of U.P. became the chancellor in accordance with the U.P. University Act. At present, the M.G. Kashi Vidyapith is flourishing under the leadership of vice-chancellor, Prof. T.N.Singh.(MGKVP, 2018)²

Dr. Bhagwandas Central Library, Formerly known as Bhagwandas Swadhyaypith. The library was established in 1921 and later renamed the Dr. Bhagwandas Central Library. He was a renowned philosopher and the first vice chancellor of the university. Many stalwarts of the national movement, including Pandit Jawahar lal Nehru, Jamunalal Bajaj, Acharya J.B. Kripalani, Puroshottamdas Tandon, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Sampurnanand, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Pandit Kamalapati Tripathi were closely associated with this library. It has a collection of books in humanities, social sciences, and science, and is developing as a centre of modern learning. Dr. Bhagwandas Central Library occupies a place of pride and is an essential component of the university's outstanding research and education mission. It

is a most lively place on the campus providing a safe, comfortable and friendly environment that enables learning and advancement of knowledge, and promotes discovery and scholarship. Mission of the Central Library is to facilitate creation of new knowledge through acquisition, organization and dissemination of knowledge resources and providing for value added services.(Central Library, 2018)³

III. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study is to explore the use and awareness of the E- resources by research scholars of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith Varanasi. The main objectives are:

1. To assess the amount of knowledge and frequency in the use of the different types of E- resources made by the research scholars.
2. To find out the purposes for using E- resources.
3. To discover problems faced by the research scholars while accessing the E- resources.
4. To know the adequacy of information in E- resources.
5. Investigate whether the E- resources can replace the print resources.
6. To suggest suitable suggestions to improve the E- resources and services for the benefit of users.

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

Karlsson *et.al.* (2012)⁴ studied the information seeking competencies, practices and knowledge of university actors. It was done through the interview and observation study for the finish students, researchers and information specialists.

Shukla and Mishra (2011)⁵ determines the extent to which research scholars of Institute of Technology , Banaras Hindu University (India) are aware and make use of e-resources, to highlight the problems faced by them in accessing e-resources, their views on usefulness of e-resources compared to that of print resources and the place from where they prefer to access information. The study says that research scholars prefer e-resources against print resources because of its various good features, for their research progress and are looking in future to have more e-1 2 3 resources access within university campus with better internet connectivity . The study also recommends that similar studies can be done at various universities, organizations to know the changing information seeking behavior of scholars and accordingly needful changes can be done to have right information at right time to right person.

Chopkar and Khaparde (2011)⁶ The study conducted through survey and reveals that 120 (89%) research scholars visit the library . Most of the research scholars visit the library twice in a week. The first preferred sources of the information are books following by newspapers and journals.

Sivakumaren, Swaminathan, Jeyaprakash and Geetha (2011)⁷ examines the use of library resources and services by LIS research scholars who are pursuing programmes of M.Phil and Ph.D. under both full-time and part time schemes in various universities/colleges in Tamilnadu, India.. The study finds that the majority of research scholars have used Internet, electronic journals, online databases, and e-mail to collect information for their research and recommends that librarians/library staff should create awareness on library resources and services among research scholars and be trained in utilizing library resources and services.

Margam Madhusudhan (2010)⁸ focus on the use of e-resources by research scholars of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra (India) and also aims to determine the use of e-resources, users' skills in handling e-resources, and the purpose of their use. The study highlights the problems faced by research scholars in accessing e-resources, their opinions on feature of e-resources, and their views on usefulness of e-resources compared to that of conventional sources. The survey use structured questionnaire and stratified accidental random sample method for collecting data. The study concludes that electronic resources have become an integral part of the information needs of research scholars at Kurukshetra University. Further, it finds that e-resources can be good substitutes for conventional resources, if the access is fast, and more computer terminals are installed to provide fast access to e-resources. Google is the most widely used search engine for locating information electronically.

Khare, Thapa and Sahoo (2007)⁹ studies the pattern of internet use; satisfaction with the search results and the internet services; and reasons of non-use of internet by the Ph.D. scholars of Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar , M.P . The study shows that the rate of internet use is more in research scholars of Science, Life Sciences, Engineering, Technology and Management faculties as compared to the faculties of Arts, Social Sciences, Law, Education and Commerce and also says that among the non-users of Internet, the number of female research scholars is more as compared to male. The study highlights that research scholar's use internet for research purpose, entertainment as well as for job search. Lohar and Roopashree (2006)¹⁰ analyzed data to cover the use of electronic resources, how the electronic resources improved the academic career of the faculty, and the problems faced while using the electronic resources. They conclude that the main intention of the use of electronic resources was the academic interest of the users.

Hanrong Wang, *et al.* (2004)¹¹ analysed the impact of Internet and stated network technology academic libraries in China and found great development and innovation and the latest development of reference services in academic libraries in mainland China by reviewing these services.

Shokeen and Krishik (2002)¹² studied about information seeking behaviour of social scientists working in the universities located in Haryana. They reported most of the social scientists visit the library daily. The social scientists use current journals followed by books. Natarjan (2001)¹³ described electronic resources, electronic journals and the role of academic library, and comparison and usage of electronics and print journals. He also discussed use of electronic journals by undergraduates and graduates in an academic environment, behaviour of people towards e-journals, and the future of the print media.

V. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

This study is based on the user capability of the research scholars of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith Varanasi. The study is limited to the use of E- resources and to fulfill the research purpose of the students.

VI. METHODOLOGY AND ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

To fulfill the objectives, a structured questionnaire covering the relevant aspects of the study was prepared and the copies were distributed to the students of Central Library, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi. Overall 100 questionnaires were distributed and 96 filled in questionnaires were returned by the respondents. The collected data was analyzed, classified, tabulated, and findings leading to conclusions were made.

A. Frequency Distribution of Respondent's Gender

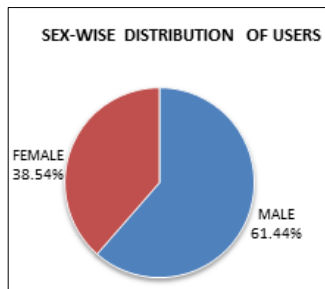


Fig. 1 Sex-Wise distribution of users

It is clear from above chart that 100 questionnaires were distributed to the students and 96 were duly filled and received back. Out of 96 respondents responded against the questionnaire, of which 37 (38.54%) were female student and 59 (61.44 %) were male student.

B. Frequency of Library Visit

From the below chart it is observed that 31(32%) of the students visit the library daily, 38(40%) of the students visit the library 2-3 time in a week, 11(11%) of the students visit the library weekly, 12(13%) of the students visit the library fortnightly and only 4(4%) of the students visit the library rarely.

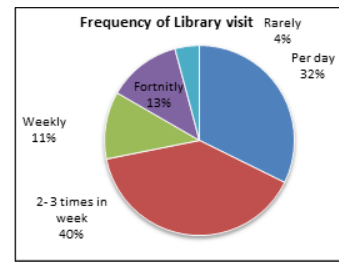


Fig. 2 Frequency of library visit

C. Familiarity with E- Resources

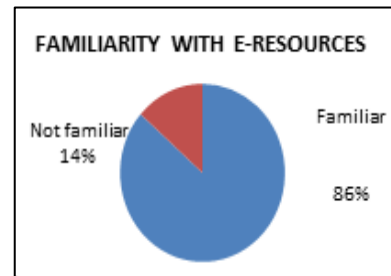


Fig. 3 Familiarity with E-Resources

The distribution of research scholars according to their familiarity to use E- resources is shows that 86 % of the research scholars were familiar with E- resources, while 14 % of the research scholars replied in the negative.

D. Methods of Learning E- Resources

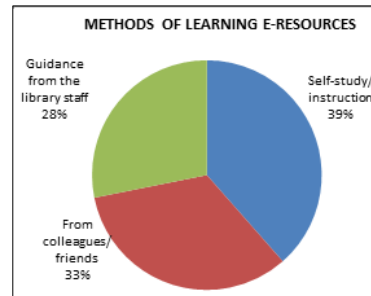


Fig. 4 Methods of Learning E-Resources

The above chart shows that 39 % of the research scholars learned the necessary skills to use E- resources through self-study/instruction, 33 % learned from colleagues/friends and 28 % from guidance from the library staff.

E. Purpose of Using E- Resources

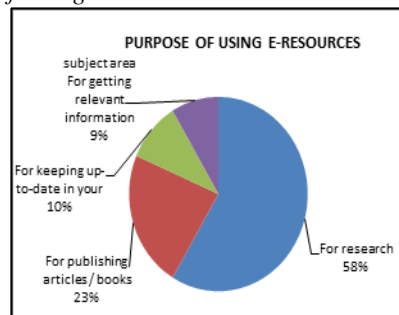


Fig. 5 Purpose of Using E-Resources

It is clear from above chart that 58 % of the research scholars indicated that the E- resources were used for research purpose, 23 % for publishing articles/books, 10 % for keeping up-to-date in subject area and 9 % for getting relevant information in the area of specialization.

F. Locations of Accessing of Electronic Resources

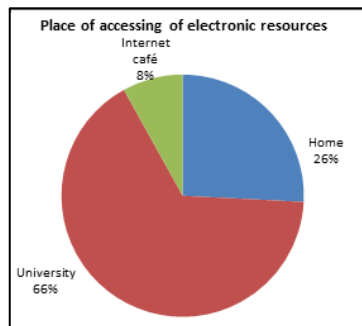


Fig. 6 Place of accessing of electronic resources

From the above chart it is clear that a majority of the respondents 66 % accessed the electronic resources from the university, while 26 % accessed these from home and 08 % used Internet café for accessing the electronic resources.

G. Adequacy of Information in E- Resources

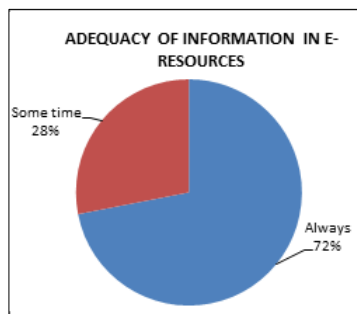


Fig. 7 Adequacy of information in E-Resources

It is observed that 72 % of the research scholars indicated that the information available in the E- resources was always adequate and 28 % indicated the information available in the E- resources was some time adequate.

H. Problems Faced While Using E- Resources

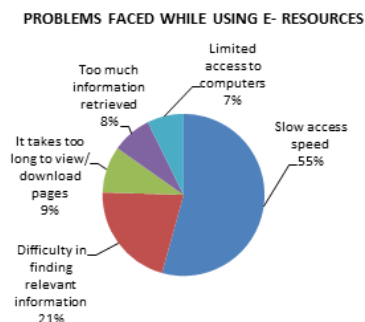


Fig. 8 Problems faced while using E-Resources

The above chart shows the research scholars problems faced while using E- resources. It is clear from above chart that 55 % are facing 'slow access speed', 21 % from 'difficulty in finding relevant information'. 9 percent scholar state that It takes too long to view/download pages , 8 % feel to lack of IT knowledge and 7 % 'limited access to computer' as the main problem to use E- resources.

I. E- Resources Versus Printed Resources

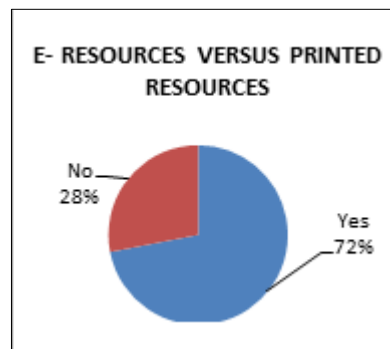


Fig. 9 E-resources Vs Printed Resources

From the analysis of above chart it is clear that 72 % research scholars felt that the E-resources cannot replace the printed resources. Only 28 % research scholars felt that the E- resources can replace the printed resources.

VII. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The study of E- resources searching behaviour of research scholars of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith Varanasi shows that most of the research scholars (86 %) were familiar with the use of E- resources. About 40 % research scholars were availing the E- library twice in a week. Most of the research scholars were using search engines, e-mail, Internet, online journals, CD-ROM, and online databases 'daily'. Majority of the research scholars (58 %) were using E- resources for research purpose. Majority of the research scholars were learned the required skills for the usage of E- resources through 'self-study'. Majority of the research scholars (72 %) felt that the information available in the E- resources is always 'adequate'. A large majority of the respondents were of the opinion that the E- resources can never replace the printed resources.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made to improve the use of E- resources among the users of research scholars of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith Varanasi.

1. Awareness should be generated about the online journals to obtain current information.
2. The University administration should create programmes and infrastructures to train its staff on ICT with particular reference to the use of E- resource facilities.

3. There is a need to develop knowledge about use of E-resources.
4. More computer terminals should be installed in the library for easy access to faculty, research scholars, and students.
5. Efforts should be made to increase the speed of the Internet access.

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