A Study on Awareness and Usage Pattern of J-Gate plus Web Portal Among the Research Scholars of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore

V. Rajendran[1] and P. Mahalakshmi[2]
[1]Assistant Librarian, [2]Research Scholar, Department of Library and Information Science,
[1&2]Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India
E-Mail: rajbulib@gmail.com

Abstract - **The paper provides information regarding awareness and usage pattern of j-gate plus web portal among the research scholars of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. The main objective of the study was to assess the awareness of j-gate Plus (Online databases) and to assess the impact of online databases among the users in Bharathiar University. A structured questionnaire was used to gather data from 254 Research Scholars in the Bharathiar University. It is found that most of the respondents are using J-Gate and they are satisfied with the online databases available in the library.**
Keywords: **Online Databases, J-Gate Plus, E-Resources**

I. INTRODUCTION

The emergence of online database has brought in a new era for information searching and retrieval from traditional retrieval systems to network based Information Retrieval systems. Gray (1976) [1] defined online database as "a collection of bibliographic information stored in a computer or a central computer and retrospective search is made possible remotely from a distance computer through the use of software's" Online database include information that is organized and represented in a logical manner. Structurally, is online databases made up of records, further divided into a number of fields (author, title, etc.) for categorizing, searching and retrieving information. Initially, online database were used to provide bibliographic information, later they started to comprise full-text information to provide actual information, since then they were called as full-text online database.

A library database is an online resource for which the library pays an annual subscription. The subscription allows library users to have access to the resources contained in the database including journals, magazines, newspapers, industry reports, company reports and much more. In general, database allows users to search through thousands of different publications in order to find articles on a particular topic. The majority of articles you will find are Full Text, which means you can read, print or save the article immediately. In some instances, the database will only provide you with an abstract of the article due to license agreements.

Launched in 2001 by Informatics India Limited, J-Gate is an electronic gateway to global e-journal literature. J-Gate provides seamless access to millions of journal articles. The J-Gate platform is fronted by a simple, intuitive, and easy-to-use interface, and also gives users complete control over search filters. By allowing users to access content from a wide variety of publishers on a single platform, J-Gate exponentially increases journal usage.

J-Gate, an electronic gateway to global e-journal literature is the most efficient comprehensive platform to access research information from over 55 Million journal articles (with access to 10 Million Full Text articles) coming from 50,495+ journals covering multiple subject domains from all disciplines such as; Agriculture & biological Sciences, Arts & humanities, Basic Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Social & Management Sciences.

The study was conducted to examine awareness and usage pattern of j- gate plus web portal by the research scholars of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are

1. To assess the awareness of J-Gate Plus online database among the users of Bharathiar university.
2. To determine the library facilities and support services for online database access in the library.
3. To compare the use of online database between the scholars of the Social Science and Science in Bharathiar University.

III. METHODOLOGY

The present study is to find out the awareness and usage pattern of j-gate plus web portal among the research scholars of Bharathiar University. In Bharathiar University there were 762 scholars who are yet to complete their research work. Out of which research scholars were selected using simple random sampling method for the study. Data collection was carried out during Mar-Aug 2018. The comprehensive questionnaire was designed and distributed. 280 questionnaires were distributed, out of that 262 questionnaires were received and few incomplete questionnaires were rejected for analysis. Finally 254(one-

third of them were respondents) taken for data analysis and interpretation. The data analyzed using SPSS.

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are number of studies on the awareness and usage of online databases. Some of the most recent studies are reviewed here. Soni & others (2018) [1] "Awareness and Usage of Electronic Resources among LIS Scholars of Jiwaji University, Gwalior: A Survey" The survey is an attempt to determine and find the present status of awareness, accessibility and use of electronic resources among library and information science research scholars of Jiwaji University Gwalior, like; CD-ROM databases, online databases, online journals, OPAC etc. The study was done to find out the challenges, benefits, and progress gained by research scholars while accessing the e-resources. It is found out through study that 'Shodhganga' was mostly used (95 per cent) by research scholars, It was also found out that research scholars got information about available e-resources and databases in their institute through the library website (45.5 percent), followed by searching on Internet.

Ngozi & others (2018) [2] "Awareness and Utilization of Databases Subscribed to by FUTO Library Among FUTO Academic Staff". This paper is an attempt to study the issues of database Awareness and utilization by Academic Staff members in Federal University of Technology, Owerri with a view to study the exposure of Academics staff to the University's subscribed database resources. It also aims to bring to light the challenges that confront the users and recommend some remedial measures for its improvement. A test-retest reliability method of two weeks interval was conducted, response obtained were subjected to Pearson Product Moment Correlation method and a reliability co-efficient of 0.78 was obtained. The Random Sampling Technique together with a Questionnaire was used for data collection on 100 out of a population size of 1,003 academic staff members and only 74 responded giving a response rate of 74 percent.

Descriptive and inferential Statistics including Frequencies count, charts, mean score, Relative Important index (R.I.I) and Percentages were used in reporting the findings. The study confirmed that the level of awareness of the subscribed electronic information resources or databases by the Library Management is rather low as well as that of the level of utilization.

The paper records that the reasons why academic staff members of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri use databases; were mainly for research (48%) and current awareness (49%). It suggests further for an improvement in the training of the academic staff members, efficient power supply, and access to facilities with high Internet speed and subscription to more databases (e-resources) by the University Library.

Ankrah & Atuase (2018) [3] "The Use of Electronic Resources by Postgraduate Students of the University of Cape Coast" The main purpose of this study was to examine the use of electronic resources by postgraduate students of the University of Cape Coast, and with a view to giving recommendations based on the findings. The major objectives of the study are, to determine postgraduate students' awareness of electronic resources in the library. To find out the frequency of usage of E-Resources by the students. To determine the computer literacy level of Post graduate students. To identify the problems in the utilization of electronic resources by post graduate students. The findings revealed that most of the postgraduate students were aware of the e-resources in the library. The findings of this study also revealed that most postgraduate students rather preferred to access information from Google scholar, and other web based databases more frequently than the databases in the library. The respondents identified poor internet connection as the most significant constraint for ineffective access to e-resources.

Wong, *et al.,* (2017) [4] "Awareness, perception and barriers to seeking information from online academic databases and medical journals as sources of information" a cross-sectional survey study among University medical students between December 2012 and March 2013 to assess their awareness, perceived usefulness, practices, and barriers to seeking information from online academic databases and medical journals. The response rate was 67.53%.

The majority of the students knew of the availability of online academic databases and medical journals. The mean score for awareness (4.25 of possible 11.0), perceived usefulness (13.95 of possible 33.0), and practice (10.67 of possible 33.0) were low. The mean barrier score toward using online academic databases and medical journals was 25.41 (of possible 45.0).

Multivariate findings showed that significant barriers associated with overall usage of online databases and medical journals were not knowing where or how to locate databases and unsureness of using the Boolean operators. Availability of full text subscriptions was found to be an important factor in using online databases. Study findings highlighted the need to increase awareness of academic databases' availability and increase training on ways to search online academic databases and medical journals.

Rani & others (2017) [5] "Awareness and use of E-Resources in some Sri Lankan University Libraries" The present study is to find out the awareness and use of e-resources in some Sri Lankan University libraries. A survey of eight librarians from four Sri Lankan university libraries revealed that there are variations with regard to the awareness and usage of the e-resources in the four libraries. Off campus use of the resources was limited owing to lack of internet facilities among other issues.

V. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

TABLE I GENDERS OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Gender	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Female	145	57.1
2	Male	109	42.9
Total		254	100.0

Data presented in table I, indicates the gender of the Respondents. It could be noted that out of 254 respondents, 109(42.9%) are male and 145(57.1%) are female. Hence female respondents are the major group of the sample.

TABLE II DEPARTMENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Department	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Science	154	60.6
2	Social Science	100	39.4
Total		254	100.0

Data presented in table II indicates that out of 254 respondents, 154 (60.6 %) are from Science and 100(39.4%) are Social Science.

TABLE III YEAR OF THE RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Pursuing Year	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	II Year	92	36.2
2	I Year	82	32.3
3	III Year and above	80	31.5
Total		254	100.0

Data presented in table III Indicates that 92 (36.2%) respondents from II year, 82 respondents (32.3%) from I year, 80 (31.5%) respondents from III year. Hence II year scholars are the major group of the sample.

Data presented in table IV indicates that 121(47.6%) respondents are coming to the library 2-3 times a month, 61(24.0%) respondents are coming to the library once a week, 36 (14.2%) respondents visit the library 2-3 times a week, 18(7.1%) respondents are visit the library daily, and 18 (7.1%) respondents visit the library occasionally. From the above table the interpretation is that most of the respondents are using the library 2-3 times a month.

TABLE IV FREQUENCY OF VISITING THE LIBRARY

S. No.	Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	2-3 Times a Month	121	47.6
2	Once a Week	61	24.0
3	2-3 Times a Week	36	14.2
4	Daily	18	7.1
5	Occasionally	18	7.1
Total		254	100.0

TABLE V PURPOSE OF VISITING THE LIBRARY

S. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Research Work, Preparing Articles, Proposals	71	28.0
2	Borrow or Return Books	48	18.9
3	Reference Searching	28	11.0
4	Specific Reading	27	10.6
5	General Reading	2	10.2
6	Seminar/Conference Preparation	15	5.9
7	Skill development	15	5.9
8	To update knowledge	15	5.9
8	To update knowledge	15	5.9
9	Online Database Access	5	2.0
10	Competitive exam preparation	4	1.6
Total		254	100

Data presented in table V indicates that 28.0 percent of the respondents are visiting the library for Research Work, Preparing articles, proposals, 18.9 percent of the respondents are visiting the library for Borrowing or returning books, 11.0 percent of the respondents are visiting the library for Reference Searching, 10.6 percent of the respondents are visiting the library for Specific Reading, 10.2 percent of the respondents are visiting the library for general reading, less than 10 percent of the respondents are visiting the library for Competitive exam preparation, to update knowledge for Online Database Access, Skill development, or Seminar/Conference Preparation. Thus most of the respondents are visiting the library for their Research work, preparing articles and proposals.

TABLE VI J-GATE PLUS DATABASE ACCESS

S. No.	Particulars	Yes	No	Total No. of respondents and percentage
1	J-Gate Plus database access	180 (70.86%)	74 (29.14)	254 100

Data presented in table VI indicates that 70.86 percent of the respondents are having awareness about J-Gate Plus.

Data presented in table VII indicates that 28.74 percent of the respondents are downloading 20-29 articles from J-Gate

Plus, 15.36 percent of the respondents are downloading 30-39 articles from J-Gate Plus, 13.77 percent of the respondents are downloading 40 and above articles in J-Gate Plus, 8.27 percent of the respondents are downloading

10-19 articles from J-Gate Plus, 4.72 percent of the respondents are downloading below 10 articles from J-Gate Plus. It is clear from the above table most table of the respondents are downloading 20-29 articles from J-Gate Plus.

TABLE VII TYPE OF INFORMATION SEARCHED IN ONLINE DATABASE

S. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	20-29	73	28.74
2	30-39	39	15.36
3	Above 40	35	13.77
4	10-19	21	8.27
5	Below 10	12	4.72
	Total	180	70.86

TABLE VIII AWARENESS ABOUT J-GATE PLUS SERVICES

S. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	My Favourite	173	68.11
2	My Library	146	57.3
3	Article Request	125	49.2
4	Mail Alert	112	44.0
5	RSS	59	23.2

Note: Multiple options allowed

Data presented in table VIII indicates that 68.11 percent of the respondents are having awareness about my favorite in J-Gate Plus, 57.3 percent of the respondents are having awareness about my library in J-Gate Plus, 49.2 percent of the respondents are having awareness about articles request in J-Gate Plus, 44 percent of the respondents are have awareness about mail alert in J-Gate Plus, 23.2 percent of the respondents are having awareness about RSS in J-Gate Plus. It is clear from the above table most of the respondents are aware about J-Gate Plus database services, except RSS service.

TABLE IX SEARCH METHOD

S. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Advanced Search	221	87.0
2	Basic Search	33	13.0
	Total	254	100.0

Data presented in table IX indicates that 87 percent of the respondents are using advanced search method, 13 percent of the respondents are using basic search method. It is clear from the above table that most of the respondents are using advanced search method.

Data presented in table X, indicates that 81.1 percent of the respondents are using limiters for their search, 79.5 percent of the respondents are using field search for their research, 25.4 percent of the respondents are using wildcard/ Truncation of their search, 6.7 percent of the respondents are using Boolean operators for their search, 5.5 percent of the respondents are using phrase search, 2.0 percent of the respondents are using proximity search for their research. It is clear from the above table most of the respondents are using limiters for their search.

TABLE X SEARCH TECHNIQUES

S. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Limiters (subject, language & year, etc.)	206	81.1%
2	Field Search (author, title & volume, etc.)	202	79.5%
3	Boolean Operators (AND, OR & NOT)	17	6.7%
4	Phrase Search (" ", {})	14	5.5%
5	Wildcard/Truncation (*, ? , $)	10	25.4%
6	Proximity Search (NEAR, ~, Within)	5	2.0%

Note: Multiple options allowed

VI. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Female respondents (57.1%) and Science department (60.6%) respondents are the major group of the sample.
2. II year scholars (36.2%) are the major group of the sample.
3. Most of the respondents (47.6%) are visiting library by 2-3 times a month.
4. The most of the respondents (28.0%) are visiting the library for their Research work, preparing articles and proposals.
5. 70.86 per cent of the respondents are having awareness about J-Gate Plus.
6. Most of the respondents (28.74%) are downloading 20-29 articles from J-Gate Plus.
7. Most of the respondents are aware about J-Gate Plus database services, except RSS service.
8. Most of the respondents (87.0%) are using advanced search method, and most of the respondents (81.1%) are using limiters for their search.

VII. CONCLUSION

The study observes that J-Gate Plus and other online databases have become an essential part of information access and retrieval for doing research. The findings of this

study will help the librarian to know the importance of online databases for research, and how to improve the maximum usage of databases by users.

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