

Awareness and Use Pattern of E-ShodhSindhu Resources: A Case Study of Sri Venkateswara University Library, Andhra Pradesh

P. Vijay Mahesh Kumar¹ and A. Kishore²

¹Research Scholar, ²Assistant Professor

Department of Library and Information Science, Dravidian University, Andhra Pradesh, India

E-mail: vijaysimhapuri@gmail.com, saikishoredu@gmail.com

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Abstract - Library Consortia is a network for the purchasing and accessing e-information to provide immediate access to greater resources for users of individual libraries. The e-ShodhSindhu is the Consortium for Higher Education E-Resources merging three consortia, i.e. UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INDEST-AICTE Consortium and N-LIST in December 2015. The e-ShodhSindhu is meant to supply current and depository access to E-Resources i.e. E-books, e-journals, e-journal archives, on-line databases to its member establishments at a negotiated rate of subscription. The purpose of this paper is to find out user awareness and usage of e-ShodhSindhu Digital Library Consortium by Faculty Members and Research Scholars of Sri Venkateswara University. A structured questionnaire was designed and randomly distributed to 350 respondents for data collection, among the faculty members and research scholars. Out of which, 274 filled-in questionnaires were returned. The study reveals that most of the respondents are aware and use digital library consortium but there is a need to conduct more awareness/training programs for enhancing the use of e-ShodhSindhu Digital Library Consortium.

Keywords: Library Consortium, E-Shodhsindhu, Digital Library, E-Resources, Sri Venkateswara University

I. INTRODUCTION

In the higher education, university libraries provide basic support to students, faculty members and research scholars in accessing resources for teaching, learning, research and advanced studies. The libraries procure both print and electronic resources to provide easy access for their users. As there is an ever increasing demand for subscriptions and access of more e-journals by the user community, no library is able to fully meet their users' needs. Cooperation between libraries began long ago and started with the practice of online library loans because of the enormous abundance of information throughout the globe; libraries started to think about information sharing in a community and among library communities.

This activity may help them privilege a wide variety of information services, which remain within the restricted budget. In a cooperative agreement between groups of libraries, Library Consortia is a network for the purchasing and accessing e-information to provide immediate access to greater resources for users of individual libraries. Library collaboration and resource distributing in India signified in

the 1980s with the emergence of several library systems. However, the formation of the Data and Library Network Centre (INFLIBNET) has started at the national level in the field of higher education. The UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium was initiated in December 2003 with financial assistance from the UGC and implemented by the INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) Centre, Ahmedabad. The consortium has now been merged with e-ShodhSindhu: Consortia for Higher Education E-Resources.

II. E-SHODHSINDHU DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

In December 2015, E-ShodhSindhu was established by the merger of 3 consortia based on a proposal from an Expert Panel, namely the UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium, the NLIST, and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium. E-ShodhSindhu continues to offer present as well as archival publications subscription to 10,000 core plus and peer-reviewed journals (including journals accessible via NLIST) and a variety, from several publishers and aggregators to its members, together with central-funded technical establishments, universities, and several bibliographic, quotation and accurate catalogs in various disciplines that are covered under 12 (B) and 2 (f) Sections of the UGC Act (inflibnet.ac.in). The MHRD has formed e-ShodhSindhu to provide access to peer-reviewed journals and a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different disciplines to the Research and academic community in the country. The e-ShodhSindhu Consortium offers differential access to more than 7,000 full-text journals from 13 publishers, 4 bibliographic databases to core member institutions.

III. SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY CENTRAL LIBRARY

The S.V.University Library was founded in 1955 with a collection of 6,700 books administered by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. With its central location and easy access to all departments on campus, the University Library has steadily grown over the years and as of 31st March 2014, it had 3,68,315 items. The library holds textbooks, reference books, general books, gift books, reports, back issues of

journals, M.Phil. and Ph.D. dissertations, and e-documents. By spending Rs.6.75 lakhs per year, the Library subscribes to about 465 journals of national and international importance. In order to provide better service to library users, the huge and perennial growth of its collection has been organized in this way. For example, books and back volumes on Science and Technology are housed in the newly constructed Extension Building, while books and back volumes on Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities are located on the three floors of the Stack Area of the library building, so that readers can easily find their documents. Each wing of the Library has implemented an Open Access System. As well as Book Lending, the library provides Reader's Advisory, Reference, Reprographics, and Inter-Library Loan services. Moreover, it provides access to E-Journals and databases, as well as to Internet resources. For the use of e-resources, SVU Library established a Digital Library in the year 2005 that can accommodate 42 users at a time.

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mistri (2018) explores the use of e-resources in e-ShodhSindhu Consortium by the North Bengal University library users. The study focuses on some factors like; purpose, problems, benefits and satisfaction level in using e-resources of the e-ShodhSindhu consortium by the users.

Amit (2017) conducted study on E-ShodhSindhu Consortium: A New Approach for E- Resource Sharing in Higher Education. He studied the main objectives to formulate E-ShodhSindhu are To develop e- Journals, e-books as archival and perpetual access basis, To promote usage in Universities, colleges and Technical Institutions by providing orientation and training programmes.

Lal, Jawahar (2017) presented the role of e-ShodhSindhu: Consortium for Higher Education Electronic Resources in the Study of Social Sciences. It deals with INFLIBNET Centre, e-ShodhSindhu: Consortium for Higher Education Electronic Resources, Aims and objectives.

Singh, (2017) investigated in his study about e-ShodhSindhu consortium, its membership, scope, aims and objectives. He suggests for inclusion of all institutions of higher education under its umbrella, organization of user orientation programs, enhancement of infrastructure facilities and organization of workshop, etc.

Lingaiah, V. (2016) investigated a study on use of E-ShodhSindhu among 33 faculty members and 71 research scholars of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad. 100% respondents were aware about E-ShodhSindhu consortium, 41.34% respondents used E-ShodhSindhu consortium for research and teaching. He suggests workshop/training programs and ICT facilities with better bandwidth.

Suman and Sharma, (2016) examines the utilization of e-resources under consortium in Mahatma Gandhi Central Library of Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee. The studies suggest orientation/training programs, evaluation of consortium periodically and organize workshops.

V. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the usage pattern of the E-ShodhSindhu in selected University.
2. To identify the intent of accessing E-ShodhSindhu electronic resources.
3. To evaluate the impact of E-ShodhSindhu electronic resources on the academic community of higher education.
4. To find out the strategies are adopted by users to recuperate data through E-ShodhSindhu electronic resources.
5. To analyze the satisfactory levels of users while using E-ShodhSindhu electronic resources.

VI. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is mainly focused on E-ShodhSindhu in Sri Venkateswara University. The scope of the study on the use of E-journals is restricted to faculty members and research scholars of S.V. University located in Tirupati, Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh. It is also limited to only 274 respondents.

VII. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Survey method was used to collect research data from the respondents on the usage of e-ShodhSindhu by using a structured questionnaire, which is distributed to 350 respondents, which constitute 100 Faculty members and 250 Research Scholars among Science and Social Sciences departments of Sri Venkateswara University. Out of which, 274(78.29%) filled questionnaires were received which comprised of 54(19.7%) Faculty members and 220 (80.3%) Research Scholars. The Questionnaire was distributed personally by visiting Departments, Computer Centre, Hostels, and Library. The collected data from respondents (274) filled in the questionnaires were scrutinized, tabulated, and analysed by using MS-Excel for interpretation.

VIII. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE I GENDER WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Gender	Faculty (N=54)	Research Scholars (N=220)	Total (N=274)
Male	42(77.8%)	146(66.4%)	188(68.6%)
Female	12(22.2%)	74(33.6%)	86(31.4%)

It is observed from Table I that majority (77.8%) are male respondents from the Faculty members whereas only (22.2%) are female. Moreover, 66.4% male and 33.6% female respondents are from the Research Scholars.

TABLE II AWARENESS ON E-SHODHSINDHU CONSORTIUM FACILITY

Level of Awareness	Faculty (N=54)	Research Scholars (N=220)	Total (N=274)
Slightly	8(14.81%)	18(8.18%)	26(9.49%)
Much	14(25.93%)	48(21.82%)	62(22.63%)
Very Much	32(59.26%)	154(70.0%)	186(67.88%)

Table II reflects the awareness among respondents about e-ShodhSindhu library consortium. It is observed that majority 67.88% of the respondents which constituted 59.26% of the Faculty and 70% of the Research Scholars

were very much aware of e-ShodhSindhu Library consortium. Only 26% of the respondents which constituted 14.81% of the Faculty and 8.18% of the Research Scholars are slightly aware of it.

TABLE III SOURCE OF AWARENESS ABOUT E-SHODHSINDHU

Source of awareness	Faculty (N=54)	Research Scholars (N=220)	Total (N=274)
Teachers	28(51.85%)	95(43.18%)	123(44.89%)
Library Professionals	12(22.2%)	46(20.91%)	58(21.17%)
Colleagues and friends	6(11.11%)	19(8.64%)	25(9.12%)
Library Website	5(9.26%)	36(16.36%)	41(14.96%)
Any other	3(5.56%)	24(10.91%)	27(9.85%)

The analysis of the data depicts from the Table-III that majority 44.89% of the respondents came to know about e-ShodhSindhu from their Teachers followed by 21.17% of the respondents came to know from Library Professionals. 14.96 percent of the respondents came to know from

Library website and 9.85% of the respondents know through 'any other' source. Only 9.12% of the respondents came to know about e-ShodhSindhu from their colleagues and friends.

TABLE IV FREQUENCY OF VISITING E-SHODHSINDHU

Frequency	Faculty (N=54)	Research Scholars (N=220)	Total (N=274)
Daily	9(16.67%)	20(9.09%)	29(10.58%)
Once in a week	20(37.04%)	74(33.64%)	94(34.31%)
2-3 times in a week	12(22.22%)	73(33.18%)	85(31.02%)
2-3 times in a month	9(16.67%)	39(17.73%)	48(17.52%)
Occasionally	4(7.41%)	14(6.36%)	18(6.57%)

The analysis of the data revealed that majority 34.31% of the respondents which constituted 37.04% of Faculty and 33.64% Research Scholars visited e-ShodhSindhu once in a week followed by 31.02% of respondents which constituted 22.22% Faculty and 33.18% Research Scholars visited e-

ShodhSindhu 2-3 times in a week. Moreover 17.52% of the respondents which constituted 16.67% Faculty and 17.73% Research Scholars visited 2-3 times in a month. Only 6.57% of the total respondents visited e-ShodhSindhu occasionally.

TABLE V RESPONDENTS SPENDING TIME ON E-SHODHSINDHU RESOURCES

Time Spending	Faculty (N=54)	Research Scholars (N=220)	Total (N=274)
Less than one hour	18(33.33%)	74(33.64%)	92(33.58%)
1-2 hours	24(44.44%)	99(45.00%)	123(44.89%)
2-3 hours	8(14.81%)	35(15.91%)	43(15.69%)
More than 3 hours	4(7.41%)	12(5.45%)	16(5.84%)

It is obvious from Table V that 44.89 percent of total respondents spent 1-2 hours of time daily in E-ShodhSindhu followed by 33.58 percent who spent less than one hour, 15.69

percent who spent 2-3 hours and the remaining 5.84 percent spent more than 3 hours in E-ShodhSindhu resources.

TABLE VI PREFERRED PLACE FOR ACCESSING E-SHODHSINDHU

Preferred place	Faculty (N=54)	Research Scholars (N=220)	Total (N=274)
UniversityLibrary	23(42.59%)	143(65.00%)	166(60.58%)
Departmental Library	29(53.70%)	65(29.55%)	94(34.31%)
Hostel	0(0.00%)	10(4.55%)	10(3.65%)
Home	2(3.70%)	2(0.91%)	4(1.46%)
Through Mobile Apps	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)

It is observed from the Table-VI that 60.58 percent of total respondents preferred “University Library” as the place for accessing E-ShodhSindhu followed by 34.31 percent respondents preferred ‘Departmental Library’, 3.65 percent of total respondents preferred ‘Hostel’ and nobody is accessing

E-ShodhSindhu resources ‘Through Mobile Apps’. It is also observed that majority 53.7% of the faculty members preferred “Departmental Library” whereas 65% of Research scholars preferred “University Library” for accessing e-ShodhSindhu resources.

TABLE VII MOST FREQUENTLY USED E-SHODHSINDHU JOURNALS BY THE RESPONDENTS OF SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Usage of E- ShodhSindhu Journals	Total Respondents (N=274)		
	No. of Responses	Percentage	Rank
American Chemical Society	192	70.07	6
American Institute of Physics	189	68.98	7
American physical Society	214	78.10	2
Annual Reviews	187	68.25	8
Economic and Political Weekly	199	72.63	3
Oxford University Press	197	71.90	4
Project Muse	226	82.48	1
Jstor	182	66.42	9
Spinger Link	178	64.96	10
Tayler and Francis	194	70.80	5

Table VII exhibits the usage of E-Journals from E-ShodhSindhu by the Faculty and Research Scholars of Sri Venkateswara University. Based on the number of responses and percentage the purposes are ranked. It is evident from the table that majority (82.48%) of the respondents are completely preferred and gave first rank for ‘Project Muse’ followed by American Physical Society (2nd

rank), 3rd rank for Economic and Political Weekly, Oxford University Press (4th rank), Taylor and Francis (5th rank), American Chemical Society (6th rank), American Institute of Physics (7th rank), Annual Reviews (8th rank) and Jstor (9th Rank). They assigned 10th rank for Spinger Link. That means majority of the faculty preferred the usage of E-Journal ‘Project Muse’

TABLE VIII PURPOSE OF SEEKING INFORMATION BY THE RESPONDENTS

Purpose of seeking information	Faculty (N=54)	Research Scholars (N=220)	Total (N=274)
For Teaching purpose	28(51.85%)	8(3.64%)	36(13.14%)
For Research purpose	12(22.2%)	123(55.91%)	135(49.27%)
For Learning Purpose	8(14.81%)	72(32.73%)	80(29.20%)
For various academic purposes	6(11.11%)	17(7.73%)	33(12.04%)

The Table VIII reflects that majority (51.85%) of the faculty seeks information ‘for teaching purpose’ whereas the majority of respondents (55.91%) of the Research scholars seeks information ‘for research purpose’. 29.20 percent of

total respondents seeks information ‘for learning purpose’, whereas 12.04 percent of total respondents ‘for various academic purposes’.

TABLE IX FREQUENCY OF FACING DIFFICULTIES WHILE ACCESSING E-SHODHSINDHU RESOURCES

Frequency	Faculty (N=54)	Research Scholars (N=220)	Total (N=274)
Rarely	19(35.19%)	60(27.27%)	79(28.83%)
Frequently	23(42.59%)	119(54.09%)	142(51.82%)
Most frequently	12(22.22%)	41(18.64%)	53(19.34%)

It is obvious from Table IX that 51.82 percent of total respondents spent faced difficulties ‘frequently’ while accessing E-ShodhSindhu followed by 28.83 percent respondents faced ‘rarely’ and 19.34 percent of total respondents faced difficulties ‘most frequently’ while accessing E-ShodhSindhu resources.

TABLE X ACTIVITIES TO MAXIMIZE THE USAGE OF E-SHODHSINDHU RESOURCES

Activity Chosen	Faculty (N=54)	Research Scholars (N=220)	Total (N=274)
Conducting orientation programs	12(22.22%)	47(21.36%)	59(21.53%)
Conducting workshops	9(16.67%)	43(19.55%)	52(18.98%)
Conducting seminars	6(11.11%)	23(10.45%)	29(10.58%)
Conducting awareness programmes	8(14.81%)	40(18.18%)	48(17.52%)
Conducting trainings frequently	19(35.19%)	67(30.45%)	86(31.39%)

Table X reflects that majority (31.39%) of the total respondents expressed that ‘conducting trainings frequently’ will maximize the usage of E-ShodhSindhu resources. 21.53 percent of the respondents opined that ‘conducting orientation programmes’, 18.98 percent expressed ‘conducting workshops’, 17.52 percent opined ‘conducting awareness programmes’ and only 10.58 percent of the total respondents expressed that ‘conducting seminars’ will maximize the usage of e-ShodhSindhu resources.

TABLE XI LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH EXISTING E-SHODHSINDHU RESOURCES

Level of Satisfaction	Faculty (N=54)	Research Scholars (N=220)	Total (N=274)
Very satisfied	18(33.33%)	78(35.45%)	96(35.04%)
Satisfied	15(27.78%)	47(21.36%)	62(22.63%)
Neutral	12(22.22%)	37(16.82%)	49(17.88%)
Not satisfied	9(16.67%)	67(30.45%)	77(28.10%)

It is observed that 35.04% of the respondents which constituted 33.33% of the Faculty members and 35.45% of the Research Scholars are ‘Very Satisfied’ with existing e-ShodhSindhu resources. Followed by 28.10% of the respondents which constituted 16.67% of the Faculty members and 30.45% of the Research Scholars are ‘Not satisfied’. Moreover, 22.63% of the respondents which constituted 27.78% of the Faculty members and 21.36% of the Research Scholars are ‘satisfied’. Only 17.88% of the total respondents are “Neutral” with the existing e-ShodhSindhu resources. Overall analysis depict that majority of the respondents were ‘Very satisfied’ with the existing e-ShodhSindhu resources.

IX. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Among 274 respondents from S.V. University library users there are 68.6% male candidates and 31.4% female candidates. There are 19.7% Faculty members and 80.3% Research Scholars in total respondents.
2. Majority (90%) of the total respondents are aware of e-ShodhSindhu library consortium whereas, only 10% are slightly aware.
3. Majority of the respondents (75%) expressed that ‘Teachers’, ‘Library professionals’ and ‘colleagues and friends’ are the main sources to know about e-ShodhSindhu library consortium.
4. Among 274 respondents majority of the respondents (34.31%) visited e-ShodhSindhu once in a week 2-3 times in a week, followed by (31.02%) 2-3 times in a week.
5. Majority of the respondents (44.89%) spending 1-2 hours time in e-ShodhSindhu resources, followed by 33.58 percent of total respondents spending less than one hour in a day.
6. Majority of the faculty members (53.70%) preferred “Departmental Library” as the place to access e-ShodhSindhu resources whereas majority (65%) of the research scholars preferred “University Library”.

7. Majority of the respondents (82.48%) of the total respondents used 'Project Muse' followed by 'American Physical Society' (78.10%) and 'Economic and Political Weekly' (72.13%) which are ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd accordingly.
8. Majority of the faculty members (51.85%) seeking information from e-ShodhSindhu "For the purpose of Teaching" whereas majority (55.91%) of the research scholars seeking information "For the purpose of Research".
9. Majority of the total respondents (81%) faced problems "frequently" or "Rarely" while accessing e-ShodhSindhu resources whereas only 19 percent of the total respondents faced difficulties "most frequently".
10. Majority (53%) of the total respondents expressed that 'conducting trainings frequently' and 'conducting orientation programmes' will maximize the usage of E-ShodhSindhu resources.
11. Moreover, 35.04% of the total users are 'very satisfied', followed by 22.63% of the users 'satisfied' with the existing e-ShodhSindhu resources.

X. CONCLUSION

In nowadays worlds libraries are subscribing a lot of variety of e-resources and pay a lot of funds on on-line resources. It associates degree obligation for us to form use of those resources within the paramount suggests that, in order that library fund won't be wasted. E-ShodhSindhu Digital Library Consortium plays a awfully vital role for educational communities' and it absolutely was tried by many studies as discussed in review of literature. The faculty and research scholars of Sri Venkateswara University also united that it's terribly useful for them and it produces a great deal of useful impact on their academic and research programmes. E-ShodhSindhu e-journals are a unit perceived as a tool with positive impact and this learning has power-assisted to respondents to state their satisfaction and want for improvement. Survey, usage

statistics, and feedback invariably keep undefeated tools to live the usage to enhance the usage of e-resources and it ought to be conducted at a time of interval. Also, there's a lot of variety of journals demanded to feature in e-ShodhSindhu Digital Library Consortium. Library professionals ought to conduct user education programmes, awareness programmes, workshops, etc, and take a lot of actions to achieve the expectations of the respondents.

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