

Use of E-Resources by Post Graduate students in K.T.H.M. College, Nashik: a Survey

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Abstract:

The study aimed at finding the use of e-resources by the post graduate students in K.T.H.M. College, Nashik. A questionnaire was created on Google Forms and link is send through e-mail addresses among the Post Graduate Students to collect desired data. A total of 97 students' questionnaires send. Their responses get on Google drive of investigator from which the data analyzed. The study found that the majority of users are aware about the availability of e-resources. Majority of the respondents 54.64 % use e-resources for their Study. The analysis reveals that many of the respondents search e-resources through linking facility available on the library website at least once a week. Post Graduate Students used e-resources for easy access and library website have user-friendly interface. This study observed that in digital era Post Graduate student used e-resources by anywhere, anytime etc.; no time and boundaries limitations.

Keywords: E-resources, Internet, E-mail, Library website, Search Engines, User study

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I. INTRODUCTION

Today's world is digital world where information and communication technology affects to all the subject areas; libraries are not exceptional. In early days traditionally information is provided through print media. The application of computers in information processing has bought several product and services to the scene. The internet is constantly influencing the development of new modes of scholarly communication; their potential for delivering goods is quite vast as they overcome successfully the geographical limitations associated with print media.

The internet can be used for quickly retrieval and satisfying information needs of users with no boundaries limitations and no time limitation i.e. 24 by 7 services. 'This important fact is convincing many libraries to move towards digital e-resources, which are found to be less expensive and more useful for easy access. This is especially helpful to distant learners who have limited time to access the libraries from outside by dial-up access to commonly available electronic resources, mainly CD-ROM, OPACs and Internet, which are replacing the print media.' (Sharma, 2009)

II. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

'A electronic resource is defined as a resource which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with aim to being marketed.' (Ashikuzzaman, 2014)

Electronic information source are a wide range of products going from electronic periodicals to CD-ROMs, from mailing list to databases, all of them having a common feature of being used and some time modified by a computer.

III. ABOUT K.T.H.M. COLLEGE, NASHIK

Maratha Vidya Prasark Samaj's K.R.T. Arts, B.H. Commerce and A.M. Science College, an Institution that rests on a strong academic foundation, blended with a modern approach that seeks to mould young man and woman into successful role models.

K.R.T. Arts, B.H. Commerce and A.M. Science College, Nashik (Popularly known as K.T.H.M. College) established in 1969 and enjoys the privilege of being one of the best colleges affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University with consistently outstanding performance record. The college is spread majestically over 37 acres and is situated on the bank of river Godavari in a serene atmosphere which is ideally suited for the pursuit of Higher Education and Research. The college offers full-fledged degree in Arts, Humanities, Commerce, Science, Business Administration and computer science.

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sharma concluded that 'the use of e-resources is very common among the teachers and research scholars of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and majority of the teachers and research scholar are dependent on e-resources to get the desired and relevant information' (Sharma, 2009). Thanuskodi concluded that 'Information has been embedded in a variety of ways and forms in various kinds of electronic resources. So far the systematic research has not been done in this area particularly in the use of on-line electronic resources among the users of Annamalai University Central Library. It is clear from the study that the younger generation has accepted the electronic resources, but the volume of frequent usage of e-resources among the users has been found to be optimum level. Many of the respondents are unaware and

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have not used On-line thesis/dissertations, abstracts/indexes, OPAC, On-line databases, which are very relevant for their study and research' (Thanuskodi, 2012).

Paulina and others stated that 'In today's contemporary world where the internet has become crucial to the survival of any establishment, it is incumbent on academic libraries to provide its users with access to online academic databases. The study established clearly that faculty members depend highly on online electronic resources not only for the purposes of research, but also to support their teaching' (Paulina, Yaa, & Osman, 2014).

Habiba and Chowdhury Confirmed that 'a large number of e-resources are made available in DUL. Also a majority of the users of DUL use e-resources for their learning purpose. The Study was found that, e-resources materials in DUL are available and users are generally satisfied with these materials. Although DUL lacks of infrastructure facilities, the existing e-resources can fulfill user needs. Moreover, DUL should arrange more training programmes for users, appoint trained professionals with ICT skills and accommodated users opinions on subscribing new e-journals' (Habiba & Chowdhury, 2012).

Mitega and Dulle concluded that 'usage of e-resources from popular agricultural databases remains low. Factors limiting access to e-resources include poor institutional ICT infrastructure, limited funds for e-resources and low information literacy levels. Recommendations include improvements to ICT infrastructure and budgets, as well as developing electronic institutional repositories to improve extension staff access to research outputs, creating a sustainable link between agricultural research and farming activities. Information literacy modules in agricultural training institutes could also support effective access to, and use of, e-resources' (Mitega & Dulle, 2014). The study investigated 'all the four constructs (satisfaction level, preferred database, time and frequency, and level of awareness) of impact of electronic resources indicated a significant positive relationship with usage among the users. Based on the premise above, all the above hypothesized relationships between impact of electronic resources and usage are accepted' (Maxwell & Astane, 2015).

Singh and Meera stated that 'survey clearly indicates that electronic sources of information are highly useful for the research, teaching and learning processes. In order to make it successful and best use of the available e-resources, authorities of the Institution Library should conduct regular orientation/training programmes to maximize the use of electronic sources of information more effectively and efficiently' (Singh & Meera, 2013). Verma and Bhatnagar concluded that 'the professionals are great help for faculty members in searching their relevant information. Maximum number of faculties used electronic journals for course work and to get latest information resources. Also it is concluded that electronic journals which are subscribed by the SMIT are being used effectively by the faculty members. Internet access speed can be increased for speedy retrieval of information' (Verma & Bhatnagar, 2009).

Shukla and Mishra concluded that 'the professionals are great help for faculty members in searching their relevant information. Maximum number of faculties used electronic

journals for course work and to get latest information resources. It is also concluded that electronic journals which are subscribed by the SMIT are being used effectively by the faculty members. Internet access speed can be increased for speedy retrieval of information' (Shukla & Mishra, 2011). Nazir observed that 'the findings reveal that Lack of awareness regarding different types of e-resources and Lack of library assistance are the major cause behind low usage of e-resources. The result shows that users of science faculty use e-resources adeptly than Users of social science faculty. The findings could be helpful to know the different challenges and concerns faced by users while accessing and using e-resources. The study also highlights the current scenario of the Science and Social science faculties in University of Kashmir with reference to the awareness and usage of electronic resources' (Nazir).

V. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

'In the present digital era of digital information explosion and more publications are becoming Web-concerned. Libraries have changed the contemporary outlook towards functions and services.' Due to information explosion and information communication technology, libraries rapidly changing to digitized form. The investigators decided to conduct this study for measuring the use of e-resources by Post Graduate Students in K.T.H.M. College.

VI. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:

- a) To find out the awareness of users' about available e-resources
- b) To study the use of e-resources
- c) To find out the frequency of using e-resources
- d) To study the mostly accessed types of e-resources
- e) To study the reasons for using e-resources
- f) To study the use pattern of e-resources
- g) To find out difficulties in the accessing e-resources
- h) To study the level of satisfaction of users

VII. METHODOLOGY

Keeping in view these objectives in mind, by using Google forms a questionnaire was prepared. This questionnaire has sent to the sample users on their respective e-mail addresses. The sample users are Post Graduate students of Arts, Commerce, Science and Computer Science. Questionnaire contains various questions pertaining to the awareness and use of e-resources. 97 questionnaires were sent among the users and data was analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in form of this paper.

VIII. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The present study covered the use of e-resources by Post-Graduate Students in K.T.H.M. College, Nashik. The Faculty of Arts includes nine departments having (Marathi, Hindi, English, Sociology, Psychology, History, Political Science, Economics, and Journalism & Mass Communication)

total 395 enrollments of students. The Faculty of Science includes twelve departments having (Biotechnology, Mathematics, Botany, Microbiology, Chemistry, Electronic Science, Physics, Environment Science, Statistics, Zoology and Geography) total 618 enrollments of students. The faculty of commerce has two divisions (1st & 2nd Year) in which 240 students enrolled. Whereas the faculty of Computer science has two divisions (1st & 2nd Year) in which 135 students enrolled. Hence study is limited to user survey of Post Graduate Students of K.T.H.M. College, Nashik

IX. DATA ANALYSIS

Analysis of data is the ultimate step in research process. It is the link between raw data and significant results leading to conclusions. This process of analysis has to be result oriented.

A) Use of Library Website

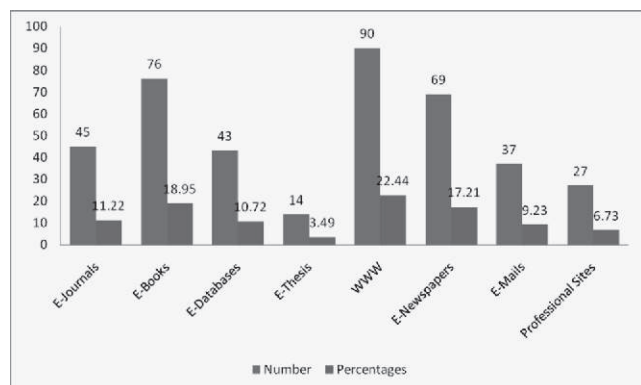
Table 1.

Sr. No.	Duration	Number	Percentages
1	Daily	30	30.93%
2	Once a week	51	52.58%
3	Sometimes	14	14.43%
4	Never	2	2.06%

In response to the question use of library website, the respondents have responded in different ways (Table 1.) Majority of respondents used library website once a week (52.58%), daily (30.93%) and Sometimes (14.43%). Only few respondents (2.06%) not used library website.

B) Use of various Online E-Resources

Graph 1.



In response to the question use of various E-resources, the respondents have responded in different ways (Graph 1.) Majority of respondents used internet i.e. www (22.44%), Second highest preference used E-Books (18.95%), then used E-Newspapers (17.21%), some were used E-Journals (11.22%), less number of users used E-databases (10.72%) and the rest of the e-resources i.e. e-thesis, e-mail & professional sites are comparatively less used.

C) Ability to access E-resources

Table 2.

Sr. No.	Ability to access E-resources	Number	Percentages
1	Yes	77	79.38%
2	No	20	20.62%

Table 2 represents that 77 (79.38%) students are able to access the e-resources very easily. Only 20 (20.62%) students feel that to use the e-resources is not easy. Although K.T.H.M. College provides training and orientate, there is still a need to train students in the use of e-resources.

D) User-friendly Interface to the Library Website

Table 3.

Sr. No.	User Friendly Interface to the Library Website	Number	Percentages
1	Yes	75	77.32%
2	No	22	22.68%

Table 3 represents that 75 (77.32%) students are able to access library website as user-friendly. Only 22 (22.68%) students feel that to access library website is not user-friendly. K.T.H.M. College should provide better website.

E) Frequency of using E-Resources

Table 4.

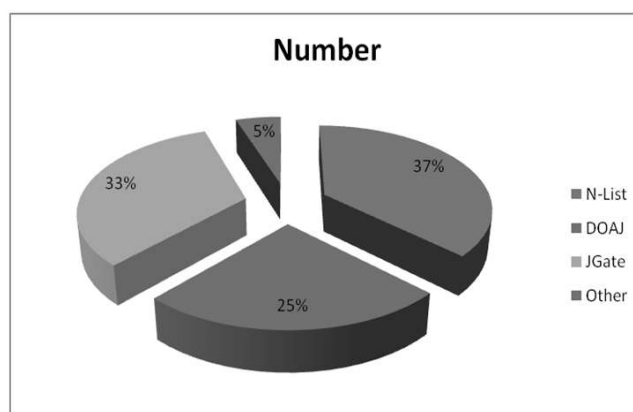
Sr. No.	Frequency of using E-Resources	Number	Percentages
1	Usually	52	53.81%
2	Sometimes	32	32.99%
3	Rarely	13	13.40%
4	Never	0	-

Table 4 represents that 52 (53.81%) students are usually used E-resources, whereas 32 (32.99%) used e-resources sometimes. 13 (13.40%) students to access E-resources rarely, All students access e-resources.

F) Online databases mostly access

Graph 2. represents students 36 (37.11%) mostly accessed Online databases through N-List. Second highest preferences to JGate by 32 (32.99%) students, then 24 (24.74%) students used DOAJ database and 5 (5.14%) students access other databases.

Graph 2.



G) Difficulties in access to E-Resources

Table 5.

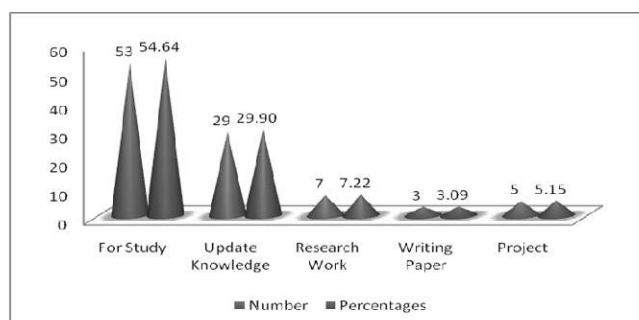
Sr. No.	Difficulties in access to E-Resources	Number	Percentages
1	Always	3	3.09%
2	Sometimes	27	27.84%
3	Rarely	49	50.52%
4	Never	18	18.56%

It is observed that from Table 5, mostly students 49 (50.52%) are rarely faced difficulties in access to e-resources, whereas 27 (27.84) students are sometimes faced difficulties in e-resources. Only 18 (18.56%) students not faced any difficulty in access to e-resources and 3 (3.09%) students always faced difficulties in access to e-resources.

H) Purpose of using E-Resources

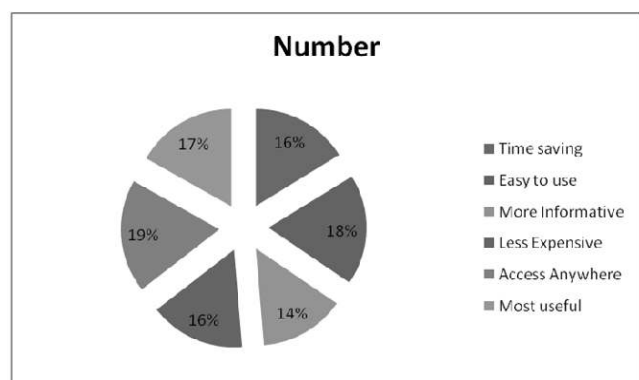
It is observed that from Graph 3, mostly students 53 (54.64%) using e-resources for their study, second highest preference is for updating knowledge 29 (29.90%) students using e-resources and the rest of the students using e-resources for research work, writing paper & projects are comparatively less used.

Graph 3.



I) Reasons for using E-Resources

Graph 4.



It is observed that, Graph 4 represents the reasons for using E-Resources. 19% students mostly preferred to e-resources are used for Access anywhere. 18% students used e-resources for easy to use. Whereas 17% students used it is for most useful. 16% students used e-resources for Time Saving and less expensive and 14% students feels that e-resources they used for more informative.

X. CONCLUSION

Due to the information and communication technology, the information explosion, new subject branches emerges (interdisciplinary subjects); the electronic resources are introduced. The result of the study provides more significant information on the use of e-resources by the Post Graduate Students in K.T.H.M. College, Nashik. The students who access e-resources, knows use of the e-resources. Why e-resources used by students? Answer to the questions is the

reasons or features of e-resources as access from anywhere i.e. no time and no boundaries limitations, easy to access, less expensive, more informative etc.

Less number of Post Graduate students having difficulties in accessing e-resources and feels that library website is not user-friendly. K.T.H.M. College library website has links of e-resources to access the students. College should provide training to the students regarding use of e-resources is the most preferable solution for improvement of use of e-resources.

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