Research Article

The Utilization of Electronic Resources at Science and Technology Colleges Libraries of Western Rajasthan: A Study

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A B S T R A C T

The main aim of this study is to examine the utilization and impact of latest electronic resources on development and productivity of faculty and post graduate students of sixteen Science and Technology Colleges Libraries of Western Rajasthan. The study discovered that majority of the respondents use e-resources were well aware and have become very familiar with the latest e-resources.

The study discovered that faculty and post graduate students used latest e-resources to access updated information available on World Wide Web for teaching, learning, skill development and research. The study discovered that respondent is not getting any training to utilization of latest e-resources. The result and analysis of the study shows that the respondent uses latest e-resources. Because they want to save time, get more relevant and to the point latest information to their teaching, learning and research and development.

Keywords: Electronic Resources, Science and Technology, ICT, Western Rajasthan, College Libraries

Introduction

Nowadays the rate of change in information and communication technologies is very high. In the recent few years, the massive use of information and communication technology by the faculty and postgraduate students has increased the significant development in research and scholarly communication. Naidu.[1] The application of computer and internet technologies in information processing and retrieval has brought significant changes in providing services and delivery in products to the scenes. Ray.[2] Consequently, the academic, research and development society has faced remarkable changes in the past few years, for the reason that new dimensions of information influenced by the latest technology-supported applications Sharma.[3] Libraries and library staff have observed a dramatic technological change in recent years in the latest collection development policy and in service-providing applications to their users. Thus, libraries are updated with the latest technology and train their staff to advance the library management and information system.[4]

Objectives

The key intention of this article was to examine the awareness, effective usability of electronic resources, and use of e-resources in upgrading teaching quality, enhancing learning skills, and research and development productivity of faculty and postgraduate students while using and accessing electronic resources at the sixteen Science and Technology Colleges Libraries of Western Rajasthan.

The key purpose of the study was to:

- Evaluate the reliance of faculty and postgraduate students on e-resources.

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- Conclude the utilisation of the e-resources on their academic, research and development effectiveness.
- Be acquainted with the diverse types of the latest electronic resources and services provided by the library.
- Study the effect of the latest electronic resources on services, research and academic effort of faculty and postgraduate students.
- Be up to date with the implications of the information retrieval system using the latest e-resources.

Review of Related Literature

The majority of respondents (almost 60%) are getting several problems in searching scientific electronic information, for example, a lack of the latest e-resources knowledge regarding the resources, a requirement of technically trained and updated staff with the latest technological advancements in the IT field and insufficient computer and IT tools. Ali.[5]

Seventy-eight percent of the patron experience that the utilization of UGC consortium Infonet e-books and e-journals has impact high dependency rate on their investigate work and they want to avail recent article aware facility and electronic article delivery services Madhusudhan.[6] identified several factors influencing the use of e-resources among university students, including slow internet connectivity, power outages, malware issues, subscription challenges, and insufficient training Tariq.[7] conducted research on the awareness and usage of open-access e-resources among university students. The study revealed that a significant majority of students are aware of open-access e-resources, with 47% reporting daily usage. Veena.[8] examined the use of e-resources at Great Zimbabwe University and found low levels of utilization due to limited awareness and technical expertise. The study emphasised the need for awareness programmes to educate students about the library's available e-resources. Mawere.[9] carried out a survey targeting library and information science research scholars and found that 73% of the respondents accessed e-resources regularly Soni.[10]

Methodology

Population and Sample

A questionnaire was circulated between the faculty and postgraduate students of the college to obtain the data regarding information on the utilisation of electronic resources by respondents, respondent frequency while accessing electronic resources, how to use the electronic resources, awareness of respondents, whether respondents took any training to use e-resources, and what the reasons behind the accessing of e-resources are.

One hundred (100) questionnaires were circulated among the faculty, out of which 86 respondents were responses, and four hundred (400) questionnaires were circulated among the postgraduate students, out of which 328 respondents were responses to collect the crucial information in the form of data. The questionnaire was circulated accidentally to the respondent at the main library and various departments. Obtained data were evaluated and represented in the tabular and graph format.

Data Analysis & Interpretation

The purpose of the data collection for the study was to evaluate the dependency of faculty and postgraduate students on utilisation and awareness of e-resources, to analyse the use of electronic resources in research and academic effectiveness and to calculate the comparative benefits among the electronic resources and conventional resources of the information. The current study has been carried out among the faculty members and postgraduate students at the sixteen science and technology college libraries of Western Rajasthan.

Table 1.Awareness of E-Resources

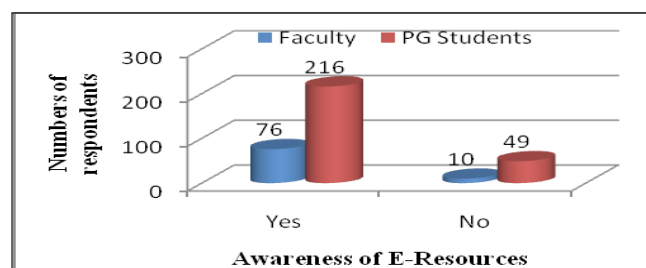| Respondents	Yes	No
Faculty	76(88%)	10(12%)
PG Students	216(66%)	49(15%)

Figure 1.Awareness of E-Resources

In table 1 and fig. 1, the majority, 76 (88%) faculty and 216 (66%) postgraduate students, are aware of using e-resources in the library while searching for their desired information. Awareness of e-resources among users indicates that their knowledge is updated with the latest technology and the latest e-resources; on the other side, very few, 10 (12%) faculty and 49 (15%) postgraduate students were not aware.

Table 2, Fig. 2, reveals that 50 (58%) faculty and postgraduate students want to update their knowledge so that they have taken training concerning the use of the latest available e-resources, while 36 (42%) faculty and 230 (70%) postgraduate students are not interested. 20% of postgraduate students expressed a desire for additional training in research methodologies. This indicates a significant interest in enhancing their academic skills and staying current with evolving technologies in their respective fields. take any type of training while using e-resources. The study shows that most postgraduate students do not require training while using e-resources. The study clearly shows that the

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faculty members want to update their knowledge regarding how to use the latest e-resources in a better way, while postgraduate students are more familiar with the use of the latest e-resource; hence, they don't want any training.

Table 2.Requirement of Training to use Electronic Resources

Respondent	Yes	No
Faculty	50(58%)	36(42%)
PG Students	98(30%)	230(70%)
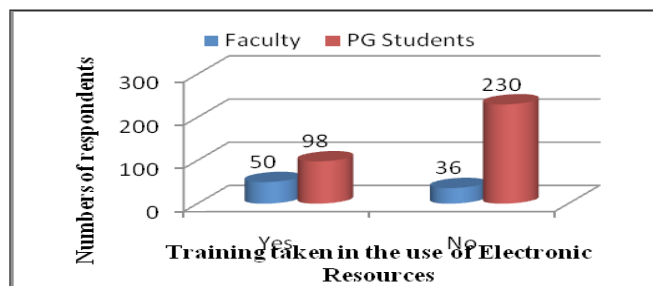
Figure 2.Requirement of Training to use e-Resources

Table 3.Use of E-Resources

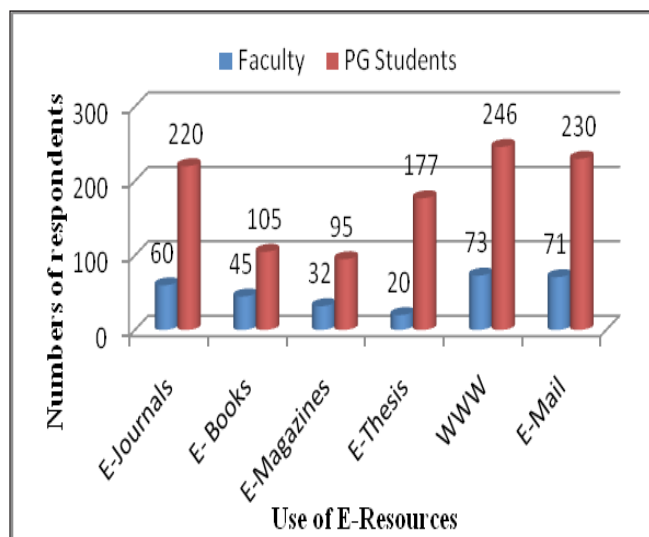| E-Resources	Faculty	PG Students
E-Journals	60(70%)	220(67%)
E- Books	45(52%)	105(32%)
E-Magazines	32(37%)	95(29%)
E-Thesis	20(22%)	177(54%)
WWW	73(85%)	246(75%)
E-Mail	71(82%)	230(70%)

Figure 3.Use of E-Resources

Table 3, Fig. 3, indicates that the majority of faculty (73, 85%) and postgraduate students (246, 75%) like to use the web to get their desired information from the e-resources.

A good number of users like to use e-mail and e-journals to update their desired latest information to fulfil their research projects, with 71 (82%) of faculty and 60 (70%) of postgraduate students. 45 (52%) of faculty and 105 (32%) of postgraduate students want to use e-books. A special indication from the above table and figure is that the faculty members are not using much e-thesis, while the postgraduate students are using e-thesis in a very good number. It shows that the interest of the postgraduate students is increasing in the research field and the latest developments in the concerned field.

Table 4 indicates that the majority, 62 (72%) faculty and 148 (45%) postgraduate students, are usually using e-resources for updating their teaching skills, learning and research work; 10 (12%) faculty and 108 (33%) postgraduate students are using e-resources sometimes, while 4 (5%) faculty and 75 (23%) postgraduate students are using e-resources as and when needed or rarely.

Table 5 shows that most of the 65 (75%) faculty and 262 (80%) postgraduate students want to use e-resources because it is very time-saving; they can get their desired material within a few seconds. Majority 56 (65%) faculty and 266 (81%) postgraduate students measured e-resources to be more useful for the latest information, new ideas, research and technological development, while 50 (58%) faculty and 213 (65%) postgraduate students think that it is very easy to use; while using e-resources, we learn and update our latest technological knowledge. A few of them are thinking that it is very expensive and difficult to use.

Table 4.Frequency of using Electronic Resources

Respondent	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely
Faculty	62(72%)	10(12%)	4(05%)
PG Students	148(45%)	108(33%)	75(23%)

Figure 4.Frequency of using Electronic Resources

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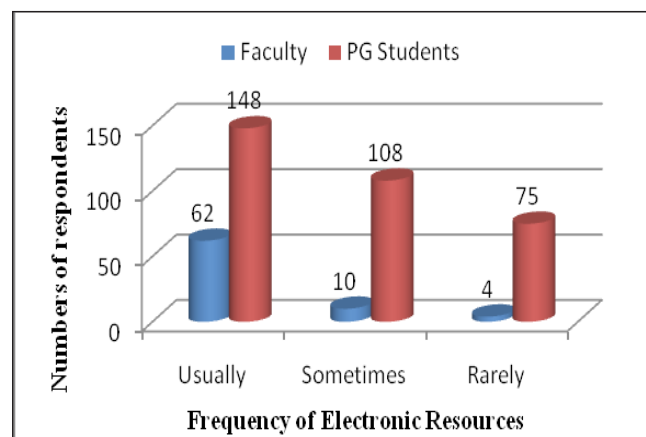
Table 5.Reasons for Using Electronic Resources

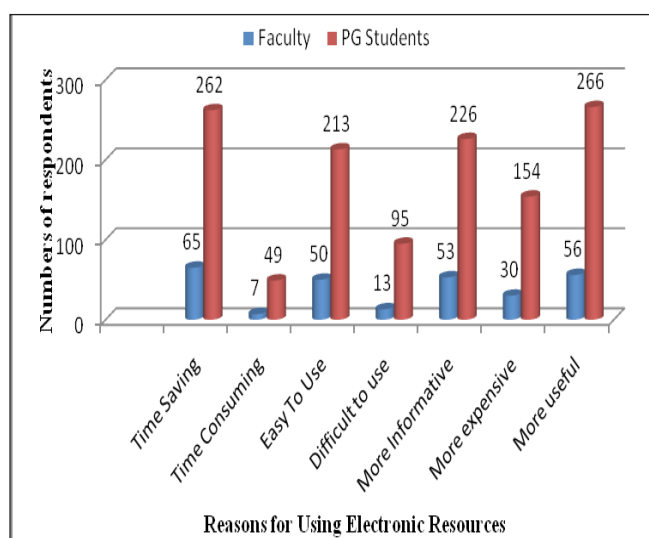| Reason for E-Resources	Faculty	PG Students
Time Saving	65(75%)	262(80%)
Time Consuming	07(8%)	49(15%)
Easy To Use	50(58%)	213(65%)
Difficult to use	13(15%)	95(29%)
More Informative	53(62%)	226(69%)
More expensive	30(35%)	154(47%)
More useful	56(65%)	266(81%)

Figure 5.Reasons for Using e-Resources

Result

On the basis of the above analysis and observations, it seems that the selected libraries provide electronic resources for their users, and all the respondents are familiar with it.

The majority of users in college libraries are familiar with using e-resources and e-journals. The study indicates that faculty members are interested in enhancing their knowledge about effectively utilising the latest e-resources, whereas postgraduate students, being more adept at using these resources, generally do not require further training. Both faculty and postgraduate students primarily rely on e-resources for improving their teaching skills, learning, and conducting research. The convenience and time efficiency of e-resources are key reasons for their popularity, as users can access the required material within seconds.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This article shows that the utilisation of e-resources is rapidly increasing between the faculty and postgraduate students of science and technology college libraries of Western Rajasthan. It was also indicated that most of the faculty and postgraduate students rely more on e-resources to get their preferred and appropriate information. To advance the facilities, resources and services for more effective use of e-resources in the Science & Technology Colleges Libraries of Western Rajasthan, the majority of the idea can be implemented. User training and awareness programmes are important for the healthier use of e-resources in the college library. A majority of users are penetrating the latest electronic literature, e-journals, e-books and e-newspapers with the help of library management software. Moreover, few users have problems in collecting their desired information, so the most appropriate action should be taken as early as possible to overcome this situation, such as the speed of internet access, increase in the number of computers, e-journals, e-books and printers.

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