A Study on Use of E-ShodhSindhu Resources by the Scholars and Faculty Members in Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad

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Abstract

The government of India has taken various steps to introduce e-resources facility in academic institutions for the benefit of Research Scholars. Because information resources especially journals are becoming very expensive due to their availability in electronic format. On the hand, libraries are facing financial crunch which has to the birth of library cooperation/ research sharing. UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium recently changed to E-Shodhsindhu consortium for Higher Education E-resources in order to provide quality e-resources to support learning and research activities covering full text, bibliographical and factual databases.

Keywords

Digital Libraries, E-Shodh Sindhu, E-Resources, JNTUH University Library
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1. INTRODUCTION

The future of libraries leads us to envision the "virtual library," where information is delivered to our constituents rather than requiring them to come to us, many continue to think of libraries as repositories of information, and of librarians as the caretakers of those resources. While, this has been a central role for libraries from the inception of the idea of libraries, many factors, including the democratization of access to education, the emphasis on lifelong learning, the move toward collaborative styles of teaching and learning, have impelled libraries to move beyond the caretaker role. E-Shodh Sindhu: UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium recently changed to E-Shodhsindhu consortium for Higher Education E-resources in order to provide quality e-resources to support learning and research activities covering full text, bibliographical and factual databases. This has emerged as a super gateway for university academic community in India providing access to expensive scholarly resources since 2004 at free of cost. The consortium initiated providing access to current and archival 15,000 e-journals and databases extending the benefit to 139 – State universities, 40 central universities, 22 – deemed universities, 15 law universities, 6 of IUCs of UGC, 72 – AICITE funded colleges, 4000colleges and IITs, IIMs, IISc etc. Available in the E-Shodh Sindhu Collection 135000 E –Books, 40 Resources, 16 databases and15000+ Electronic resources.

2. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES

The Term of digital library early in the 1970s. The first application of digital library concept was associated with character coded storage and full text indexing of legal and scientific documents.
A Digital library is a special Library with a focused collection of digital objects that can including text, visuals, me trails, audio material, video taps, storage as electronic media formats organizing, storing and retrieval of information in the library collection.
The digital library content can be access remotely via computer networks, the academic institutions using digital libraries for institutional repositories and electronic resources for scholarly communication. Digital Libraries are searchable repositories of scientific material and their efficiency depends on progress achieved in information systems, the bibliometric approach to digital libraries are predicts that information system that does not rely on the core properties of the language will not be optimal. This

prediction is borne out as two online digital libraries D space @MIT and Pub Med.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the level of awareness among the teaching faculty and research scholars about E-Shodh Sindhu e-resources in the University
2. To study the purpose of accessing of E-Shodh Sindhu ,
3.To determine the challenges and problems of using E-Resources
4.To evaluate the impact of E-Shodh Sindhu on teaching faculty and research scholars.

4. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Arora, Jagdish (2003) found the efforts made by Indian libraries and institutions towards the formation of consortia of libraries for buying access to electronic resources. Cooperation amongst institutions for sharing their library resources has been practiced for decades. Consortia-based subscriptions" to journals everywhere in the world, Shared subscriptions to electronic resources through consortia of libraries is a feasible strategy to meet the pressures such as diminishing budgets, increased user demands, and rising costs of journals. The libraries and information Centres, with their diminishing (or at best static) financial allocations, have to consider new ways to consolidate global resources in order to maximize their limited financial resources. Yi and others (2004) discussed the advantages of consortium acquisition and the s et up of local mirror sites as well as efficiency of the consortium acquisition for electronic resources based on the review and discussion it further makes detailed analysis on the necessity of the consortium acquisition and role of consortium acquisition on the library electronic resources development.Ali, Naushad (2005) examines the use of electronic information services among the users of IIT Library, Delhi. The study found that Boolean logic and truncation are the most often used search facilities by IIT users, lack of trained staff infrastructural facilities such as printers, terminals would discourage users from accessing e-resources and majority users facing difficulty while browsing.Dillion, LF, and Hahn, K (2002) In spring of 2001, a large-scale online survey was administered to the whole faculty and sample of graduate students at the university of Maryland. Email messages were sent to all the participants i.e. 3500 inviting them to fill out online survey. The response rate was 39 for the faculty members. About half of the faculty members reported using electronic formats of printed journals at least once a month while 31 reported never using e-formats of printed journals mainly because of personal subscriptions and unfamiliarity with accessing the resource.70 wanted core journals to be available in both formats while non-core journals70 preferred electronic access. Advantages of e-resources found as ease of access, search capabilities, and hyperlinks to outside content. The main concern about moving to electronic-onlywas image quality and access to the full content of the journal

5. JNTUH University Library (T R DAS Bhavan):

The Library was started as a library for erstwhile I.P.G.S.R. on a spacious floor in the Academic block on the Main Campus of the JNT University at Masab tank, Hyderabad. It was upgraded as the University Library from 1990. In the year 2004, JNTU College of Engineering Library was merged with the University Library and was shifted to a new building of 45,000 Sq.ft area extended in 3 floors at Kukatpally Campus. The University Library was named after the first Vice-chancellor of JNT University as T R Doss Bhavan.The University Library caters to the needs of Institute of Science and Technology, School of Information Technology, School of Management Studies, Academic Staff College, Research and Development Unit, University Foreign Cell, School of Continuous & Distance Education and JNTUH College of Engineering Hyderabad. The University Library is the learning resource centre of the University to meet the information needs of the academic community, fostering self development, fulfilling the curriculum requirements and promoting studies and research.

A well equipped Digital Library is one of the most important sections of the University Library with modern facilities and resources in the form of e-journals, e-books, databases, standards, theses and dissertations, books, journals, reports, etc. The Library is fully automated and equipped with two new IBM x3650 M4 Servers, NAS Box, 65 New Dell Desktops. As a member of UGC-INFONET & INDEST-AICTE Consortium, the University Library provides online access to 30418 e-journals such as Elsevier's Science Direct, IEEE, ASME, ASCE, J-GATE, BENTHAM-Pharmacy, EBSCO-Management and Nature Pub. Group, Springer Link, Wiley Blackwell, RSC, AIP, etc. The Library has a collection of 92,630 books and subscribes to 226 print journals of National and International origin in

the fields of Science and Technology. The Library has perpetual access to 3519 e-books from Springer on Biomedical & Life Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences, Engineering, Elsevier's Computer & Environmental Science and IEEE MIT Press under TEQIP.

6. METHODOLOGY

Survey method is employed to collect relevant data from the users on the usage of E-Shodh Sindhu by using a structured questionnaire, which is distributed to teaching faculty and research scholars of JNT University Hyderabad Telangana state.The total Population of the study was 150 scholars and faculty in the deferent Departments 104 were responded. The Questionnaire was distributed personally by visiting departments, hostels, and library.The collected data (104 filled in the questionnaire) were coded and analyzed using SPSS. The analyzed data were presented in the form of tables and graphs. A simple statistical technique such as percentage method was used.

7. DATA ANALYSIS INTERPRETATIONS

Table 1: Gender wise Distribution of Respondents

	Male	Female	Total
Frequency	74	30	104
Percentage	71.2	28.8	100.0

The Table number one showing genderwise respondents male 77 pecentage 71.2 female response 30(28.8) total response 104 (100.0) majority of the response from the male

Table 2: Age wise Distribution of Respondents

	Young	Middle	High	Total
Frequency	32	53	19	104
Percentage	30.8	51.0	18.3	100.0

Majority of the respondents from Middle age 53(51.0)

Table 3: Designation wise Response

	Professor	Asso. Professor	Asst. Professor	PDF	Scholar	Total
Frequency	9	5	19	3	68	104
Percentage	8.7	4.8	18.3	2.9	65.4	100

Table 4: Department wise Response

	Arts and Social Science	Basic Sciences	Engg. &Tech.	Management	Law	Total
Frequency	10	33	49	12	0	104
%	9.6	31.7	47.1	11.5	.0	100.0

The Majority of the department's respondents engineering and Technology, The University offering Technology courses Ph.D. all the Discipline of Engineering

Table5: Use of Internet and UGC-Infonet Consortium resources for academics

	Awareness & use of Internet	Awareness & use of UGC-Infonet E-journals and Databases
Frequency	104	104
Percentage	100	100

This also requires basic knowledge of using the Internet. From the study, Table 5shows that all the Respondents covered are aware ofUGC-Infonet Consortium resources available in the university and are using the Internet.

Table 6: Response source of information about UGC Infonet Digila Library(E-Shodh Sindhu)

How do you know/aware about UGC Infonet consortium	No. of Respondents
From Librarian/friends/staff	34
Through Internet/websites	21
Lectures/Seminars/Orientation Programme	21
University/Library website	29
Books/Journals	15
Faculty member/Supervisor	24

From the above, it is noticed that majority of the respondents are aware of UGC Infonet consortium by University/Library websites and from friends/librarians/staff.

Table 7: Response Purpose of Seeking Information

Purpose of seeking Information from UGC Infonet	No. of Respondents
Writing paper/Assignment	25
Undertake project	11
To update knowledge/abreast With latest developments	32
Research/Teaching/Guiding student	43
Seminar preparation	19
Any other (please specify)	0

From the above one can notice that People are using the UGC – Infonet for Research/Teaching/Guiding student, to update knowledge/abreast with latest developments.

Table 8: Response Problems in Accessing E-Resources

Problem in accessing E-Resources from consortium	No. of Respondents
Lack of Speed of INTERNET	28
Lack of Electricity	8
Lack of Co-Operation from library staff	21
Lack of Infrastructure Facilities/limited access	18
Lack of Sufficient information on E-Resources	18
Server problems	29
Difficulty in finding relevant information	11
Library timings not sufficient	10
Poor networks and archival access	14
Unfamiliarity with search methods	5

The majority of the respondents are of the opinion Lack of Speed of INTERNET (28) and server (29) problems are the not encouraging the researchers to peruse the UGC – Infonet.

Table 9: Response Purpose of Using E- Resource

The impact of using e-Resources of UGC Infonet on your research	No. of Respondents
Improved research quality	40
Developed technical skills	27
Increase research publications	29
Improved quality of teaching	21
Improved reading and searching skills	23
Improved academic performance	18
Improve knowledge	19
Any other specify	1
Total	104

The respondents felt UGC – Infonet helped them to improve research quality and to develop technical skills.

8. FINDINGS

- More than half of the respondents agree and strongly agree that UGC Infonet Consortium is a boon for teachers and scholar of the university
- Creating awareness about the worthiness of Internet & E-Resources as an Information Source. There is a need to create a sense of integrity and acceptance to the Internet technology for the user community as a valuable information resource to build strong information base.
- Purpose of seeking information is majority of respondents for improving research quality 22 , Developing Technical skills 15 , Improving Reading and Searching Skills 12 improving Teaching Skills 12 and Improving knowledge 11 low frequency of percentage is improving academic performance
- Majority of the Users facing Problems accessing information Server Problems , Internet Low Speed Some times
- Library website (14), Librarian (24), Internet source (23.0) and seminars/ conferences and workshops (15) the major sources of awareness Librarian and friends among respondents about E- Shodh Sindhu resources

9. SUGGESTIONS

It is, therefore, up-to the Information and knowledge managers to conduct regular workshops/ short training programs to the faculty and students to optimize the usefulness of e-resources under E-Shodh Sindhu consortia and build proper ICT facilities with better bandwidth is the need of the hour.

To Create Awareness among the Students and Scholars in the department wise

To Conduct the Orientation for E- Shodh Sindhu Resources

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