

A Detailed Study on Open Access Resources - The Best Approach to Readers Provided by Libraries during COVID-19

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Abstract:

The entire education system in the world from elementary to tertiary is in abeyance due to constant imposing of lockdown with the affect of Novel Corona Virus Disease 2019. The entire world is severely suffered and lost its charismatic growth, new innovations, developments and communication. In this unexplainable context, libraries play a vital role in reaching people and providing information on various issues. Libraries are extremely affected and being locked in this pandemic situation. The physical access is completely unreachable to readers. At this juncture, libraries have taken a shift from traditional services to modern services. The present study reflects on awareness on Open Access journals and provisions besides it elevates few strategies for librarians to enhance acceptance and adoption of this open accessibility to improve scholarly communication through libraries and end users. It also shows different Open Access resources which are to be known by librarians and scholars.

Keywords: Pandemic, lockdown, institutional repositories, modern services, e-tools, Open Access resources and libraries.

Introduction:

The world is at unrest and showing its courage to face COVID-19 caused by a new virus Corona which is known as SARS-CoV-2. WHO has recommended social distancing, imposing lockdown to decrease its severity, suggested to quarantine in order to protect by them in this uncontrollable outbreak? Libraries in and around the world are also locked down and facing challenge to provide access to its collections and services. For this, professionals in libraries looked forward to discover new approaches to provide services and opportunities by utilizing information and communication technology to stir their connection to the users. Asif & Singh, (2020). As a solution to this problem, Open Access resources have been come to limelight to facilitate information to end users of libraries and access necessary information in seconds. Eminent librarians have brought their digital services, highlighted contents on the concern websites, organized virtual exhibitions and few online campaigns.

The Features of Open Access Resources:

This is the very movement emerged in 1990s as one of the alternatives to traditional publishing models. The world has turned to desktop from books with this movement. It is an evident that the growth of internet opens access resources is at its heights to end users for easy access.

- It is free for scholars to get research articles which are available anytime, anywhere for anyone
- Scholars simply write for an impact instead of remuneration
- There are two types of resources mainly available. They are Journals and archiving articles.

Statement of the Problem

Libraries are mandatorily closed as imposing of lockdown in the country. Consequently, libraries have been facing to reach users virtually to provide their services. It is the need of an hour to inculcate awareness and revise the use of open access resources. Most of the libraries have followed traditional printed books, resources before COVID affect.

So it is generally expensive to purchase or share even to preserve them carefully. The conversion of online open access resources from manual books availability by the librarians has become mandatory to enrich knowledge and fulfill the needs of the end users.

Purpose of the Study

The system of the work is converted from office, college, school and organization to “Work from Home” it is also meant to manage home time into use of quality time to complete office work. There are several academic institutions / groups/ associations began training classes to bring awareness and also perfection in online mode. There are several online programs like webinars, FDPs, quizzes, puzzles; seminars are conducted to make students, teachers, employees to be efficient in their respective studies or work. In this context, the academicians, researchers’ and teachers who have zeal to utilize this effective way of participating in these online mode of activities search for a library resources for basic and advanced knowledge on the content, for this librarians avail Open access platform and develop digital collection and also increase in use of ICT to avail even remote services to end users.

The role of Internet in providing Open Access Resources

Internet plays a vital role in transforming the library system from books to desktop and it has made library services to library resources. The books available in the shelves of the library have turned to be found in archives in e-libraries on the internet in this current scenario. Visitation of libraries is the least consider place in the schedule of students, teachers, employees and readers now a days.

According to Greyz, “With the expansion of Internet a new class of electronic documents has emerged”. In this regard, internet has almost united all library activities, emails, discussion through list of servers, support reference services through an investigation of remote databases, exploiting the catalogue of other institutions, participation in Inter Library Loan (ILL) order of books and journals, inter-library loan establishment of home page etc.

Open Access is a free availability on the public internet which permits every users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or link to the complete texts of these articles. Muthuskodi, S. and Thanuskodi, S. (2019). They crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software or use them for any other lawful purpose as well without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those which cannot separable from gaining access to the internet itself. The authors and copyright holders grant to all users a free, global, perpetual right of access and a license to copy the content. They provide usage, distribution, and transmittance and display the work on public platform whereas it is turned to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to a clear attribution or authorship and the right to make few numbers of printed copies for their personal use.

An Open Access is a term used for knowledge resources that are provided for the people in the public domain for their consumption without any restrictions or obstructions of subscription fee or access charges. OA is otherwise known as a facility in an internet based online environment. Therefore, OA facilitators and also users must have to establish an online connectivity for knowledge expansion. Internet services are generally designed to be used from global to local by users.

Few definitions for Open Access:

It is a term used to narrate literature which is available to all readers without charges on the Internet.

Open Access is referred as a resource which is freely available to view and use by any readers. Open Access is one of the parts of continuum ranging from entirely closed, subscription or purchase only access to completely open with no barrier publishing.

According to Peter Suber, (2010) “An Open Access literatures digital, online, free of charge free of most copyright and licensing restrictions”

Giarlo defines OA as “A model of scholarly communication in which users may be freely view, download, copy and print scholarly articles, books, conferences proceedings, squibs and so forth. It shows that the users are capable for freely access scholarly materials as the price of publication is assumed by another party, generally the author and author’s institution funds for the research.

The Global Network on Global Public Goods describes “Free availability on the internet, permitting users to read, download, copy distribute, print, search or link to the complete texts of these articles, crawls them for indexing pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.

Free Access of all publications within the framework provides equal right to all, without considering color, caste, creed, gender and religion. It provides worldwide access to anyone from anywhere in the world. Open Access Journals are electronic journals which may or may not have their print editions. These are peer reviewed and made available free at the access by the publishers. Open Access Journals in the recent past are tremendously increased. There are over 1, 670 journals in the Directory of Open Access provides free, complete text, quality controlled scientific journals and scholarly journals that are aimed to bring out all subjects and languages on a single platform. Many survey have been done recently on this Open Access Sources which revealed that there is an increase in the provision of online journals that are grown at an average of 6.02 and availability of back issues by 90% from 5% in 2005. Even large numbers of publishers have enforced to motivate active subscribers’ access at no extra charges to access journal back volumes.

Reasons to have Open Access

A new technology has transmitted an old tradition to make it possible for public good. The old tradition has given consent by the scientists and scholars to publish the fruits of their research in scholarly journals with no payment for the sake of inquiry and knowledge. Jain, P. (2012)

Internet is obviously a new technology which makes possible the world at the door step for all scientists, scholars, teachers and students. There are many sites which benefit to provide reference service of various details.

Advantages of Open Access Resources

- It is an easy access of institutional repositories and also available all the time
- It provides an easy search in a limited time
- OA also supports with long term benefits
- It certainly enriches the research literature
- It proves as the best option for learning, exploring and searching information
- It has an immediate access to literature with no cost expenditure
- It enacts as a token of encouragement to the developing countries
- It is recommended by legislative initiators in view of benefiteres across the world
- Its popularity has brought it to a stage of open access approach.

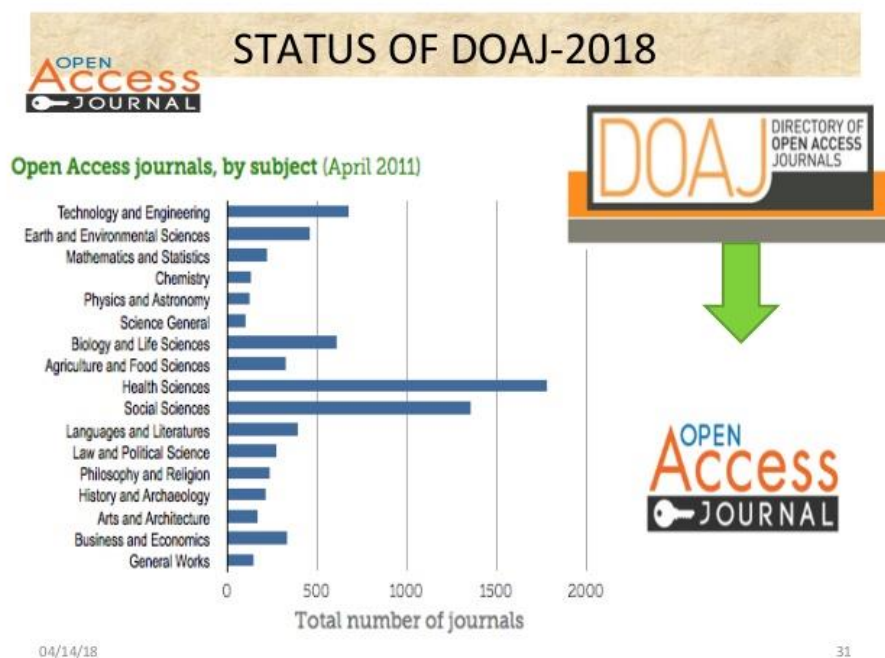
Barriers to Limited Use of Open Access Resources

- Financial resources is one of the major problems for producing quality research
- Insufficient knowledge in the use of computer and the internet also affects quality of research
- Deficit of information resources may limit use of open access resources
- Least involvement in research also results limits access to open access resources
- Lack of encouragement from parent and professional bodies have impact on the research
- Lack of proper infrastructure facilities is another hindrance.
- Lack of congenial environment leads to diversion
- Improper expertise in an organization also acts as a barrier.

Direct Open Access Journals: (<http://www.doaj.org>) in 2003

The aim of this DOAJ is to improve visibility and easier access to open access scientific and scholarly journals so it helps to promote increase of usage impact.

The DOAJ also focuses on comprehensive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals which are in use of a quality control system to give assurance to the content. There are 140 library science journals registered in DOAJ. The given image shows the status of DOAJ in 2018 and its statistics.



The DOAJ is available at no cost as it is a community curate online directory that has index and provision access to high quality, open access, peer reviewed journals. The total journals are 11,171 and 125 countries people have been using this platform.

Prominent National and International bodies have invested their efforts to provide open access resources to the researchers during this pandemic period. There are certain instructions brought of their research are given below.

- It is necessary to scrutinize the approach of Open-access resources basing on the requirements of the scholars.
- There is a need to analyze the impact of Open- access resources on various information sources commonly related for the welfare of the public.
- It is compulsory to review the Open- access resources in library and students.
- It is mandatory to inculcate awareness about the opportunities and challenges of the academic library professionals in providing the services to end users.
- It is necessary to discuss the role of Social media in promoting awareness for open access resources to end users
- It is significant to study the effectiveness of webinars and online workshops on awareness of open access resources during this pandemic period
- It is compulsory to determine the factor which affects the acceptance and adoption of Open Access resources for scholarly communication in these libraries
- It is necessary to examine offering strategies of librarians in accepting and adopting open access scholarly communication in their respective libraries.
- It is important to offer suggestions for the effective usage of open access resources
- It is another significant factor to look into effective implementation of open access resources to end users.

It is already mentioned that there are two primary ways for expressing OA research articles. They are OA journals and OA archives. The former one performs peer review follows by its approved contents freely available in the world. Their expenses almost consist of peer review, manuscript preparation and service space. They pay their bills in a way the broadcast television and radio stations generally do. These OA journals may have institutional subsidies or fees if they carry processing fee. They can earn by on lower subsidies or fee if they have income from other publications, advertising, prices add-ons or auxiliary services.

OA archives or repositories may not perform peer review but make their contents available freely to the world. They also consist of pre prints which are not yet referred and also referred post prints. Archives are belonged to institutions like universities, laboratories and other disciplines such as physics and economics. There is no open source software for building and also maintaining OAI.

Conclusion:

An Open Access Resources is much useful and become part and parcel of present lives of its end users. It would be much difficult without OA in this pandemic period. With the emergent of this online knowledgeable platform the end users are highly benefited as it is available at their doorstep. This research provides a brief information and awareness about OA, its advantages, barriers or limitations and also uses of internet. This research also suggests librarians who have put rigorous efforts to this OA digital platform for its end users should adopt new technologies, awareness on new accessibilities, simple ways to obtain information or resources and also updating of new approached on OA through workshops, seminars, webinars and also discussions.

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