

Research Article

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A study on Reading in Electronic Environment of Research Scholars of Agricultural University, Bangalore.

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Abstract

Many have been keen to seek out new ways and means of recording knowledge. This papers to microforms, like microfiche etc. It has moved towards recording knowledge in digital form, which we have commonly known as digital documents or electronic sources of information. One can easily access as most of the research carried out these days in the filed of information science revolve round the IT applications in libraries and access to electronic resources. The interesting fact also is that even today most of the time we talk, study and teach about electronic resources is by consulting printed resources concerning to e-resources cover various aspects of reading among research scholars of Agriculture University, Bangalore.

Key Words: E- Resources, Electronic Environment, Digital reading, Reading Behaviour.

Introduction

The 21st century was shaped by sweeping changes in communication technologies. The emergence and use of information technology is the century's most significant development affecting scholarly communication. Over the last several years a significant transformation has been noticed in collection development policies and practices. Print medium is increasingly giving way to the electronic form of materials. The transition from print to electronic medium apart from resulting in a growth of electronic information has provided users with new tools and applications for information seeking and retrieval. Electronic resources are invaluable research tools that complement the print-based resources in a traditional library setting. Habit is a tendency or inclination towards an action or condition, which by repetition becomes easy, spontaneous, or even unconscious, or an action / regular series of actions, or a condition so included. Reading behaviour it is a psychological aspect. It is developed during a course of time

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as a part of personality of an individual. Reading habit is the only enjoyment in which there is no alloy and it never lasts, even when all other pleasures fade out. Every library professional must know the reading habits of its users. Reading habit has been an area of active interest among the library professionals.⁷ A large number of technology tools have been created to support self-study so that students can study at their own pace.

The present study has carried out with the intention to draw parallels between the electronic and print sources of information. If on one hand technology has enable us to use electronic sources if information, on the other hand there is no such sharp decline in the procurement and subscription of printed sources of information in libraries and other similar Information centres. It is a well-known fact that when there were no televisions or computers, reading was a primary leisure activity. People would spend hours for reading books and travel to lands far away-in their minds. The only tragedy is that, with time, people have lost their skill and passion to read. There are many other exciting and thrilling options available, aside from books. It is advisable to indulge in at least half an hour of reading a day to keep abreast of the various styles of writing and new vocabulary. It is observed that children and teenagers who love reading have comparatively higher IQs. They are more creative and do better in school and college. It is recommended that parents to inculcate the importance of reading to their children in the early years. Reading is a said to significantly help in developing vocabulary, and reading aloud helps to build a strong emotional bond between parents and children. The children who start reading from an early age are observed to have good language skill, and they grasp the variances in phonics much better.

Need and Objective of the study

Present study has been undertaken with the view to access the reading behaviour of electronic and printed sources of information by Research Scholars of Agriculture University, Bangalore.

- 1) To know the electronic reading pattern
- 2) To know preferred of e-resources
- 3) To know purpose of e-resources reading by Research Scholars
- 4) To find out the problems of encountered to access and use of electronic resources as well as print material.

Scope and limitations

Today availability of Electronic-resources in a University Library is very common, but their proper and maximum use a matter for discussion. The present study examines the existence of various e-resource data in Agriculture University, Bangalore. This study of Research Scholars like department of Agronomy, Plant Pathology , Horticulture, Agricultural Microbiology, Agricultural Entomology, Soil Science, Agricultural Engineering & allied sciences.

Review of Literature

Hemantha Kumar G.H. (2017) studied the information pertaining to the research methodology, population, sample, data collection and analysis. A comprehensive review of literature covering the period 2016-2004. Survey method will be employed to study of Information Seeking Behaviour of Faculty Members of Agricultural Universities in Karnataka. Questionnaire will be framed to collect the feedback from faculty members to meet the objectives of this study. Data

collected will be subjected for statistical analysis to prove objectives and hypothesis. This article reviews the literature on the information seeking behaviour. The literature includes journal articles, reports, monographs etc., published inside and outside India, discussing about Information Seeking Behaviour, Agricultural University Libraries, Agricultural Scientists, Crops Research Scientists, Farmers in India, Public Libraries in Karnataka, ICT Environment and the problems faced by the users

Ali Amour El-Maamiry. (2017) investigated on the information seeking behaviour, is considered as a human behaviour to search for information in purposeful way to find the gap. This behaviour sometimes is very undefinable. The study investigated use of electronic resources by students of the College of Business Administration (CBA) and College of Information Technology (CIT). That is, it examined possible factors and problems in their searching habits, information seeking, use and retrieval in satisfying their needs. Therefore, the study focused on information seeking behaviour of students and barriers to utilizing online resources to execute academic tasks. Students of University of Dubai ultimately, due to cultural effects adopts different searching processes, use different phrases and mostly spend more time to search for information to satisfy their needs. It is assumed that poor information skills are preventing them from searching information effectively.

Nirupma Chohda. and Neeru Gupta. (2017) made a study on the Use Pattern and Seeking Behaviour of Students in National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar, India. Determining use patterns and information seeking behaviour of users is consequential to enhance library collections, facilities, and services. This paper tends to investigate information seeking behaviour and use pattern of students on quality of procured information in National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar, India. Survey research method is adopted for the study. Analysis of data is done through percentage count. It is found that 70 per cent are aware about the journals and databases. The result indicated that both print and electronic e-journals are highly preferred by students but access them in other places then departmental library and 32.22 per cent respondents spent time more than hours for internet access. The study will be useful for the academic librarians in improving the shortcomings of their institutes and will procure the required e-journals for their Institutes.

Ajay Kaushik. (2016) carried out a study on Information Seeking Behavior of Faculty of YMCA University. Information has become the most important aspect of today's social development, as social development depends on the standard of living of that particular society. The vital factor that affects research is information. The amount and type of information received would directly have its impact on the social development. The present study attempts to understand Information Needs and Information Seeking Behavior of faculty YMCA Faridabad (India). The study shows that teachers are least concerned with Government documents, dissertation/thesis and proceeding of conferences as source of information. Maximum Teachers (97.4%) are aware about the back volume of the journals. It is also found in the study that maximum teachers were satisfied with the Library collections. Maximum users used circulation service, reference service, computerized service and photo coping service. The present era is called the "Information era." Information has become the most important element for progress in society. To thrive in this modern era, one needs a variety of information, no matter how well versed one is in a field or profession. Psacharopoulos (1982) discusses the

necessity of information in the present age. We can reorganize the educational system and redefine scientific research only with the help of information.

Mal, Bidyut K. and R. P. Bajpai (2009) Says, University libraries are drastically changing their collection in the present IT era only due to increasing interest of its user from print documents to electronic resources. So the electronic resources have become an important part of today's university library for its collection, management and utility.

Research Methodology

Data collected through a questionnaire was prepared containing the question relating to the use of electronic environment and reading. The questionnaire was distributed among the respondents in their classrooms during the vacant periods. Every question was explained to the students for their better understanding and the students were asked to fill their questionnaire in the spot. Total 200 questionnaires were distributed and 110 questionnaire received back. Questionnaires were inputted in MS-Excel. The data collected from the respondents have been classified. Analyzed and interpreted separately in the table.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table.No.1

Time spends daily in the Access of E-Resources		
Particular	Response	Percentage
0-1 hour	49	44.55%
1-2 hours	20	18.18%
2-3 hours	18	16.36%
3-4 hours	15	13.64%
More than 4 hours	8	7.27%
Total Response	110	100

Table shows that, 49 (44.55%) students 1 hour. read on Computer per week, 20(18.18%) students spend 2-3 hours, 18(16.36%) students read electronic reading material more than four hours on computer. Very few percentages of students read more than 3 hours on computer. It means Reading on screen is difficult.

Table. No. 2

Reason for using Electronic reading Material		
Particular	Response	Percentage
Time Saving	50	45.45%
Less Expensive	20	18.18%
Provide Useful Information in sufficient manner	25	22.73%
Easy to Use	10	9.09%
Any Others	5	4.55%

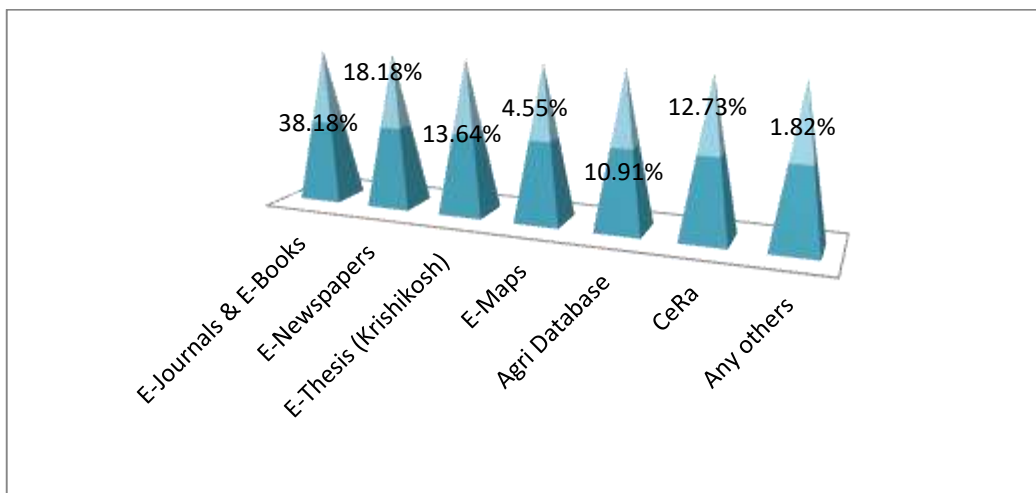
Total Response	110	100
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Electronic reading material have influence the readers. Their multimedia features, easily accessible and sharing make it very favourite to users. Purpose is of this question is observe the reasons for using Electronic reading material. The Figure shows that sufficient quantity of information and time saving feature make electronic reading material very user friendly. Very few readers marked that the cost is necessary. It means that in the point view of students cost is ignorable for getting information.

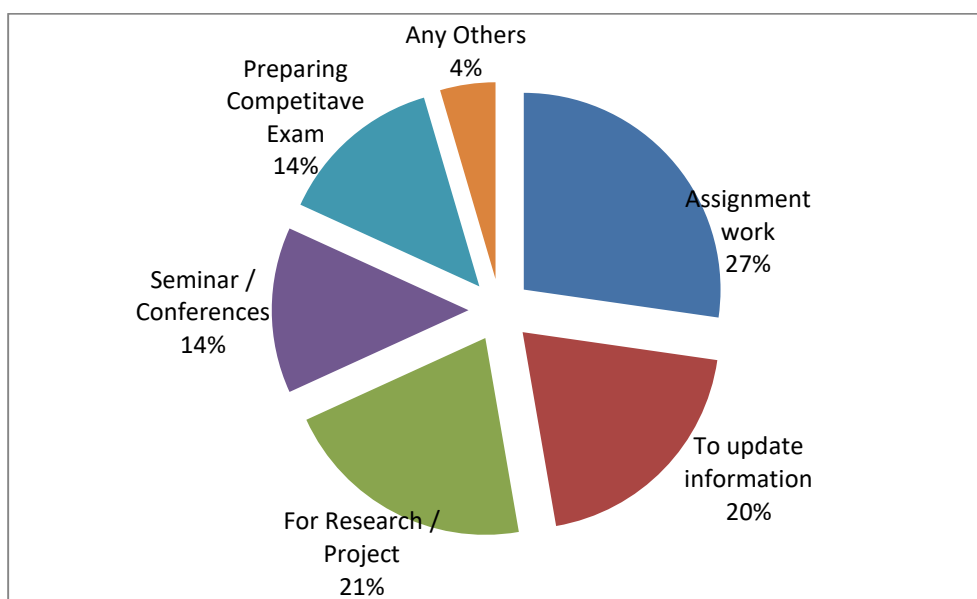
Table. No. 03

Preferred from E-Resources for reading

Particular	Response	Percentage
E-Journals & E-Books	42	38.18%
E-Newspapers	20	18.18%
E-Thesis (Krishikosh)	15	13.64%
E-Maps	5	4.55%
Agri Database	12	10.91%
CeRa	14	12.73%
Any others	2	1.82%
Total Response	110	100



Form of reading material plays an important role in reading. There are various literary forms are available in electronic reading material. Via this question we find the preferred form of electro reading material for reading by the students. The Figure explained the Electronic journals and the electronic books 42 (38.19%) are the highest preferred form by Research scholars of UASR. Electronic news paper on the second choice.20 (18.18%) E-thesis preferred to research scholars 15 (13.64%).

Table. No. 4 Utility of Electronic material toward study

Electronic material provides help in many ways. By this study we find the prefer area of utility of the students. The way where Electronic environment in helpful in study and research work: Data states from the Figure that maximum numbers of students (27%) are used for preparing assignment work and 20% electronic reading material for update themselves by current information. Electronic reading material useful in Project and Seminar almost 21% students shows their view in this regard.

Table. No. 05

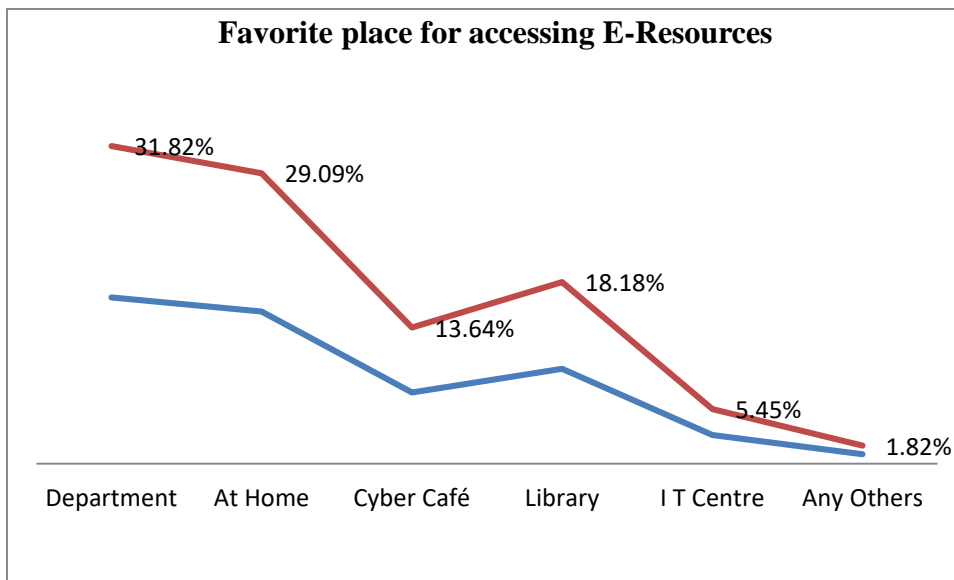
Preference of use of search strategy to searching information

Particular	Response	Percentage
Advance Search	32	29.09%
Subject Search	37	33.64%
Boolean Search	18	16.36%
Keyword Search	19	17.27%
Any others	4	3.64%
Total Response	110	100

There are varieties of search strategies available for search Information on This question helps to find the favourite search strategy used by the research scholars of UASR. Search strategy is essential for the search information on internet. There is various kind of search strategy for find information on electronic media. Data states that advance search and subject search are the pet form of strategy used by the students. Advance search 29.09%, second subject

search 33.64%, third one is Boolean search 16.36%, keyword is 17.27% choice the search strategy to searching information. .

Table. No.06



There is Intranet as well as Internet facilities available to each department for the student (31.82%). This question helps to discover favourite place for accessing electronic resources by the students. Home (29.09%) is the first choice of the research scholars of UASR.. The cyber cafe is 13.64%, fourth place is library 18.18% choice the favourite place.

Table. No. 07.

Difficulties Feel While Using E- Resources

Particular	Response	Percentage
Heavy to read continuous	45	40.91%
Lack of Ability to Browse	32	29.09%
Most of them can not access free of charge	15	13.64%
Lack of proper network connectivity	18	16.36%
Total Response	110	100

Data describes that reading on electronic environment is so hard. 40.91% student’s response that reading to electronic resources is heavy to read. Cost of electronic reading material also affects the use. The response shows that all the electronic reading material not free of cost. Lack of connectivity and Lack of ability to browse are also push behind to use electronic reading material.

Table. No. 08

Electronic environment is more useful than print reading material

Particular	Response	Percentage
YES	98	89.09
NO	12	10.91
	110	100

Through this question we understand the student view toward usefulness of print reading material. Graph states that Most of the students are feel that electronic resources are very useful. It means in the age of information technology print reading material going behind from the readers. Multimedia features and easily access and dissemination of information make electronic resources readers friendly.

Table. No. 09 :

Reason of attraction with reading electronic material

Particulars	Response	Percentage
Electronic reading material is express information on various angles like PPT, 3D etc..	52	47.27
Electronic reading material can use easily	34	30.91
Electronic reading material share without time	15	13.64
Electronic reading material covered latest information than print material	7	6.36
Any others	2	1.82
Totals Response	110	100

Electronic resources provide various choices to its readers to serve information as on readers taste. By this question we find the motive to use electronic resources by the students. Figure shows that various file formats are the main reason to attach with Electronic resources. Electronic reading material covered latest information than print material; it is another reason to accessing electronic resources.

Table. No. 10

Print Material is more charming than electronic material

Particular	Response	Percentage
Yes	99	90
No	11	10
	110	100

There is a lot of difference between usefulness and charm of anything. Reading on print or electronic media is plays vital in reading. By this question we understand the preference toward reading. Figure shows that various file formats are the main reason to attach with Electronic resources. Electronic reading material covered latest information than print material; it is another reason to accessing electronic resources.

Table. No. 11

Reason of Attraction with reading print material

Particular	Response	Percentage
The print material lived in memory for a long time	52	47.27
Print material is absorbing	25	22.73
Electronic reading material is attractive but not recall	14	12.73
Everyone cannot understand electronic reading material	15	13.64
Any others	4	3.64
Total Response	110	100

There is a lot of difference between usefulness and charming. Reading on electronic resources is necessity on current ICT era but the magic of print material is beyond imagination. The responses show that students are in favour of print material. It means the reading of electronic reading material is the necessity of the students but the print material is near the heart of the Engineering faculty students of UASR.

Findings and Suggestions

The major findings of the study conducted A Study on reading in electronic environment of research scholars of Agriculture University, Bangalore

1. In current ICT age reading is 0-1 hours preferred choice of the student (44.55%).Study find that good number of students (7.27%) more than four hours have read daily.
2. There are so many places where students can read, but the library with 18.18% library is the third choice, first one is department 31.82% of research scholars of UASR.
3. Preferred from e-resources for reading e-books/journals preference. Most of students (38.18%) first preferred Point to point for reading. It means the student read only specific topics in their reading e-thesis (krishikosh,13.64%).

4. Most of the students feel that they are over loaded by course study. So they have very less time for leisure reading.
5. The 31.27% students feel that information provided by E-resources is useful and sufficient manner. The unavailability of reading material is the main reason for using electronic reading material.

It is found from the study that Electronic media is more useful than print because the it have latest information, but print also maintain its charm between the readers

1. The research scholars should visit library regularly to get required information. Visiting library should become as a habit. It will lead to become a knowledge person by visiting library daily.
2. Majority of the respondents not spending their majority of their time in the library. Hence, research scholars should spend at least three to four hours in the library consultation with reference and other reading materials.
3. More than one fourth of the research scholars relied that reading materials are old. Hence, latest editions of the reference books and other materials are the procured.

Conclusion

Electronic resources are already accepted as an important collection of libraries and information centres especially in university libraries of today's environment that is call digital era. While concluding we can say, both print as well as electronic sources of information as of now are almost equally preferred by the user community. Definitely the trend has increase towards the use of electronic resources but not at the cost of printed sources of information.

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