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## Use of Electronic Resources by the Research Scholars in University of Hyderabad: A study

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### Abstract

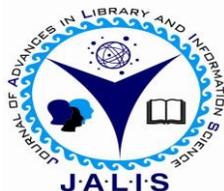
*This paper is an attempt to study the use of electronic information resources by the research scholars in University of Hyderabad library. A survey was conducted with total number of 180 research scholars from different disciplines of subjects were selected and their response was obtained with the help of questionnaire. The findings show that users from all these categories were using e-resources; the awareness about e-resources encourages users to use such resources to the maximum; and the users are using e-resources was visible from the decrease in number of e-resources. The primary electronic information sources in the library is OPAC and purpose of using of e-resources 12.62% of the respondents said that the use for research work.*

### Keywords

Electronic Resources; e-resources; University of Hyderabad; User studies; e-journals; Use of e-resources; e-databases; e-books

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## Introduction

Developments in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have drastically changed every sphere of activity in University Libraries and availability of Electronic resources are playing a major role. The new technologies have not only transformed the shape of libraries but also created many exciting possibilities and opportunities. Electronic resources have become more important source of information in University Libraries. Academic community has gone through a rapid change with the influence of technology driven applications. The Electronic resources available in different formats can be used simultaneously by more number of users with easy access and they excel in furnishing information of current value and interest to the academic community. University Libraries started subscribing to electronic resources to support the teaching and research work.

The proliferations of electronic resources, along with network, computer technology and technologies have facilitated rapid changes. Electronic resources refer to those materials that require computer access that may either be locally mounted or accessed remotely via the internet. Electronic information may be broadly defined as the information stored in a medium, which require an electronic device to read and access its content. Information stored in different electronic media such as Floppies, Magnetic including Online, Journals, etc. Constitute electronic information. In the present electronic age, various new technologies are emerging to facilitate information storage, process and transfer much faster than the traditional print media. Information stored in electronic form (such as in CD-ROMs Computer Databases) can break all the physical and geographical barriers and reach the remotest corner of the world.

The types of Electronic Resources available in Libraries are:

- E-journals
- E-books
- Databases
- E-Thesis/ Dissertations
- Digital Resources
- E-newspapers

### Definition: Electronic Resources

According to AACR2, (2005 Update), an electronic resources are “Material (data and programs) encoded

for manipulation by a computerized device. This material may require the use of a peripheral directly connected to a computerized device (e.g. CD-ROM drive) or a connection to a computer network (e.g. Internet).”

According to Wikipedia e-resources means information usually a file which can be stored in the form of electronic signals usually on a computer, information available on the internet

### **University of Hyderabad**

The University of Hyderabad was founded by an Act of Parliament (Act No. 39 of 1974) on 2nd October, 1974 as a Central University, with Prof. Gurbaksh Singh as its first Vice Chancellor. The university is wholly funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The university has a vast sprawling campus set in a picturesque area of about 2,000 acres. The University Library The university library was established in the year 1975 and shifted to the present building during 1988, inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the then Vice-President of India and named after Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Library (IGML) is a central facility providing information support for academic and research activities of the University. The Library All the in-house library operations are fully computerized. The UGC-INFLIBNET has identified the library as one of the 26 document delivery centres in India for providing photo copies of journal articles to the research scholars of other universities. The IGM library is the first university library to computerize all in-house operations. The university library to established a centre of competency in digital libraries and e-learning with the assistance of SUN Micro systems and UGC. Library has good collection of printed and electronic form of materials, 322036 Books, 20500 Reference books, 12126 Theses and Dissertations, 399 Journal (Print), 23 Newspapers, 94215 Bound Volumes, 2500 Braille Books, 46 Databases, 35000 E-Journals, 8729 CD-ROMs and total collection of 495574 documents.

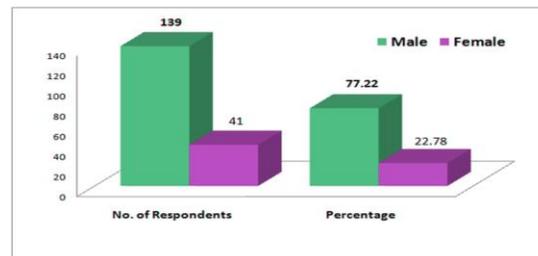
### **Review of Literature**

Vasudevan, T. M., & Rakhi, N. R. (2015) the paper explains about “Use of Electronic Information Resources by the Doctoral Students of Calicut University”. Paper aims to investigate the use, awareness, purpose of use, frequency of use, reason for using e-resources, satisfaction level, and problems

facing while accessing e-resources by the doctoral students in Calicut University campus. They opined that e-resources improve quality of their work but lack of accessibility and lack of training of e-resources are the main problems faced by the doctoral students while accessing e-resources. Singh J. (2016) in his article titled “Usage of E-Resources by the PG Students of Doaba College Jalandhar: A Case Study”. Students are the backbone of any institution and success of any institution especially library depends upon the use of library resources. Post Graduate students use e-resources for their study, research and for consultancy purposed. The study focuses on the role of e-resources in their study, research orientation, level of satisfaction, quality of search, number of e-resources, accessibility, services, training and assistance provided by library for the use of e-resources. Sritharan (2018) study investigated the level of user satisfaction of electronic information resources and services available at library, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo. The study revealed that 95.5% of the respondents have their own computers and Internet connection to access electronic resources. Postgraduate medical trainees use electronic resources for multiple purposes. Among them 98.6 % of the respondents use the electronic resources for their studies and updating knowledge. The satisfaction level of subscribed e-journals was agreed by 56.8% of the respondents. Lack of time to access e-journals at library, lack of training, non-availability of remote access for subscribed resources were identified as significant issues. Sivakami & Rajendran (2019) The study investigates the “Awareness, access and usage of E-resources available in the Arts and Science Colleges faculty members in Erode district”. A total of 300 questionnaires were distributed to the Sample of Faculty Members of Arts and Science Colleges; 280 valid samples were collected. Hence, the total respondent for the study is 280(93.33%). Findings shows that the majority of male respondents using E-Journals (20.83%) tool frequency and E-Books are use female respondents (26.25%)of E-resources by faculty members in gender-wise. Majority of the male users (86.59%)and (84.48%)of the female users were aware about the availability of E-resources. The analysis reveals that most of the respondents (31.43%)use E-resources only for Lecturer notes.

### Objectives of the study

1. To find out the usage of electronic resources by the research scholars in UOH;
2. To know how frequently the users are using electronic resources provided by their library.
3. To find out the purpose for which electronic resources are used in UOH;
4. To examine the infrastructure facilities available in UOH;
5. To know the problems in usage of electronic resources in UOH;



*Fig.1: Gender-wise distribution of respondents*

**Table-2: Frequency of library visit**

Frequency	Male	Female	Total	%
Daily	79	19	98	54.44
Alternative days	33	10	43	23.89
Ones in three days	15	6	21	11.67
Ones in a week	10	4	14	7.78
Rarely	2	2	4	2.22
Total	139	41	180	100

In order to access the frequency of use of electronic resources, the respondents were asked to mention any out of six categories of frequency lag i.e Daily, Alternative days, Ones in three days, ones in a week, Rarely and reply of respondents were depicted in table-2 out of 180 respondents, majority of the 54.44% respondents visiting library daily, 22.89% of the visit library alternative days, 11.67% of them visit ones in three days, 7.7859% of them visit ones in a week and very few 2.22% of the respondents visit library rarely .

**Table-3: Subject-wise distribution of respondents**

Subject	Male	Female	No of Respondents	%
Humanities	52	15	67	37.22
Economics/ Business studies	41	12	53	29.44
Social Sciences	24	8	32	17.78
Pure Sciences	9	2	11	6.11
Engineering	7	2	9	5.00
Computer Science /IT	6	2	8	4.44
Total	139	41	180	100

Table-3 illustrates the subject-wise distribution of respondents, among 180 majority of the 37.22% respondents are humanities, followed 29.44 % of

### Methodology

There are various methods of data collection for profiling data including questionnaire, interview, transaction log, and citation study. Each method is having its strengths and weakness. In this survey questionnaire method was used for collecting the primary data. For the purpose of this study, secondary data and information have been collected from the library records, annual reports, and downloaded usage data of electronic resources from the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad. The survey was conducted during the academic year 2019-20. For this purpose a questionnaire was distributed personally to the research scholars of University of Hyderabad. The questionnaires were given to the users at the library, departments, hostels and computer centre. 200 questionnaires were distributed to researcher scholars and their feedbacks were 180 (90%) per cent. Collected data is analyzed in the terms of study objectives and hypothesis by descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage. The results are presented by using frequency tables and graphs. Data is been analyzed on the basis of observation with clear description.

### Data Analysis & Interpretation

**Table-1: Gender-wise distribution of respondents**

Gender	No. of Respondents	%
Male	139	77.22
Female	41	22.78
Total	180	100

It is found from the Table-1 that the majority 77.22 of the respondents is male, and remaining 22.78% of the respondents are female respondents.

them are from economics/business studies, 17.78% of them are from social sciences, 6.11% of them are from pure sciences, 5% of them are from engineering, 4.44% of the respondents are from computer science/IT.

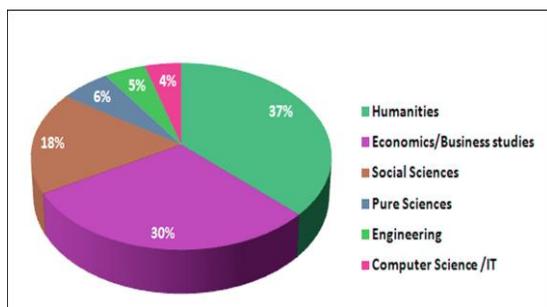


Fig.2: Subject-wise distribution of respondents

Table-4: Primary electronic information sources in the library

E-resources	Yes, library has	No, library does not has	Not sure
Electronic books	176(97.78%)	3(1.67%)	1(0.56%)
Electronic journals	175(97.22%)	4(2.22%)	1(0.56%)
Library Web site	177(98.33%)	2(1.11%)	0(0.56%)
Online databases	178(98.89%)	1(0.56%)	1(0.56%)
Online reference materials	170(94.44%)	6(3.33%)	4(2.22%)
OPAC	179(99.44%)	1(0.56%)	0(0.00%)

Table-4 shows the primary electronic information sources in the library, majority 99.44% of the respondents said library OPAC followed by 98.89% of the respondents said library has online databases, 98.33% of them said library has library website, 97.78% of them said library has electronic books, 97.22% of them said electronic journals and 94.44% of the respondents said library has online reference materials. 3.33% of them said library do not have online conference materials and 2.22% of them not sure about the online reference materials.

Table-5: Knowledge of using electronic resources

Opinion	Male	Female	Total
	(N=139)	(N=41)	(N=180)
Excellent	105(75.54%)	31(75.61%)	136(75.56%)
Good	27(19.42%)	9(21.95%)	36(20%)
Average	6(4.32%)	1(2.44%)	7(3.89%)
Poor	1(0.72%)	0	1(0.56%)

Table-5 briefs that a majority of 75.56% the respondents expressed their opinion excellent knowledge of using e-resources, 20% of them said good, 3.89% of them said average knowledge, only 0.56% of them expressed very poor knowledge of using e-resources.

Table-6: Types of e-resources used by the respondents

E-resources	More Frequently	Frequently	Not at all
CD/DVDROMs	112(62.22%)	61(33.89%)	7(3.89%)
Internet	43(23.89%)	41(22.78%)	0(0.00%)
E-Databases	120(66.67%)	59(32.78%)	1(0.56%)
E-Journals	110(61.11%)	67(37.22%)	3(1.67%)
E-Maps	67(37.22%)	49(27.22%)	64(35.56%)
E-Newspapers	59(32.78%)	117(65.00%)	4(2.22%)
E-Reports	42(23.33%)	35(19.44%)	103(57.22%)
E-Repository	37(20.56%)	48(26.67%)	95(52.78%)
E-Thesis & Dissertation	86(47.78%)	67(37.22%)	27(15.00%)
Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)	112(62.22%)	62(34.44%)	6(3.33%)

The Table-6 shows the types of e-resources used by the respondents, majority 62.22% of the respondents use e-resources and CD/DVD ROMs use more frequently, 33.89% use frequently, 3.89% of them not at all use e-resources, 66.67% of them use e-database more frequently, 32.78% of them use frequently and 0.56% not at all use e-database, 61.11% of them use E-Journals more frequently, 37.22% of them use E-Journals frequently 1.67% of them not at all use E-Journals, 20.56% of them use E-Repository more frequently, 26.67% of them use frequently, 52.78% of them not at all use e-repository, 42(23.33% of them use E-Reports more frequently, 19.44% of them use frequently, and 57.22% of them not all use e-reports, 23.89% of them use Internet more frequently, 22.78% of them frequently, 32.78% of them use E-Newspapers more frequently, 65.00% of them frequently, 2.22% of them not all use E-Newspapers, 37.22% of them use E-Maps more frequently, 27.22% of them frequently, 35.56% of them not at all use e-maps, 47.78% of them use Thesis & Dissertation more frequently, 37.22% of the respondents use frequently and 15.00% not at all use thesis & dissertations.

Table-7: Purpose of using of e-resources

Purpose	Male	Female	Total	(%)
for authentication of information	128	38	166	11.77
for communication	131	40	171	12.13

for finding relevant information	127	37	164	11.63
for literature review	134	39	173	12.27
for preparation of articles	132	40	172	12.20
for publishing books	49	24	73	5.18
for research work	138	40	178	12.62
for general study	125	29	154	10.92
for updating knowledge	128	31	159	11.28

(Multiple responses)

Table-7 shows the purpose of using of e-resources, majority 12.62% of the respondents said that the use for research work, 12.27% of them said use for literature review purpose, 12.20% of them said for preparation of article, 12.13% of them said for communication purpose, 11.77% of them said for authentication of information, 11.63% of them said for finding relevant information, 11.28% of them said for updating knowledge, 10.92% of them said for general study, and very few 5.18 of them said that they use for publishing books purpose.

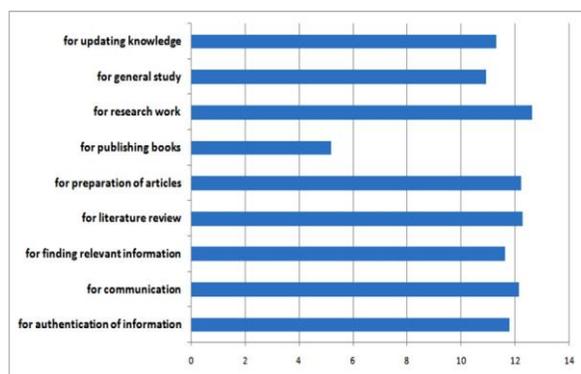


Fig.3: Purpose of using of e-resources

Table-8 Satisfaction with the services provided by university library

Level of satisfaction	No. of respondents	%
Fully satisfied	143	79.44
Not satisfied	7	3.89
Somewhat satisfied	30	16.67
Total	180	100

Table-8 indicates the satisfaction with the services provided by university library, majority 79.44% of the respondents expressed that they are fully satisfied, 16.67% of them somewhat satisfied and 3.89% of the respondents not satisfied with services provided by university library

Table-9: Problems expressed by users while accessing E-resources & services

Problems	Most frequently	Frequently	Not at all
Frequent power disturbances	95(52.78%)	68 (37.78%)	17(9.44%)
Lack of knowledge & expertise	51(28.33%)	47(26.11%)	82(45.56%)
Lack of knowledge in internet searching	24(13.33%)	19(10.56%)	137(76.11%)
Lack of maintenance	27(15.00%)	31(17.22%)	122(67.78%)
Lack of support from the library staff	34(18.89%)	36(20.00%)	110(61.11%)
Lack of time	52(28.89%)	59(32.78%)	69(38.33%)
Lack of training	21(11.67%)	35(19.44%)	124(68.89%)
Less computers to work	19(10.56%)	24(13.33%)	137(76.11%)
Low-end Computer systems	28(15.56%)	29(16.11%)	123(68.33%)
No information knowledge	16(8.89%)	19(10.56%)	145(80.56%)
Poor Internet connectivity	12(6.67%)	16(8.89%)	152(84.44%)
Resources are not adequate	10(5.56%)	19(10.56%)	151(83.89%)
Slow downloading	16(8.89%)	21(11.67%)	143(79.44%)

Table-9 illustrates the problems expressed by users while accessing e-resources and services.

The majority 84.44% of them respondents expressed that problem while accessing e-resources and services is poor internet connectivity at all the time, 6.67% of them said most frequently, and 8.89% of them said frequently, 83.89% of them said not at all adequate of resources, 5.56% of the said most frequently, and 10.56% of them said problems of frequently appears, 80.56% of them said no information knowledge not at all adequate, 8.89% of them said most frequently, and 10.56% of the said frequently, 79.44% of them said always slow downloading of internet, 76.11% of them said problem of lack of knowledge in internet searching

not at all have in the respondents, 76.11% of them said that they adequate computers, 45.56% of the said very less people have lack of knowledge & expertise, 38.33% of the said always lack of time for using e-resources, 28.89% most frequently, and 32.78% of them said frequently, 52.78% of the respondents expressed that most frequent power disturbances, 37.78% of them said it is frequent problem, and 9.44% of them said not all a problem university library has UPS power backup system.

### Major findings of the study

- It is found that the majority 77.22 of the respondents is male, and remaining 22.78% of the respondents are female respondents.
- Majority of the 54.44% respondents visiting library daily, 22.89% of the visit library alternative days, 11.67% of them visit ones in three days, 7.7859% of them visit ones in a week and very few 2.22% of the respondents visit library rarely.
- Majority of the 37.22% respondents are humanities, followed 29.44 % of them are from economics/business studies, 17.78% of them are from social sciences, 6.11% of them are from pure sciences, 5% of them are from engineering, 4.44% of the respondents are from computer science/IT.
- It is found that the majority 99.44% of the respondents said library OPAC.
- Majority of 75.56% the respondents expressed their opinion excellent knowledge of using e-resources, 20% of them said good, 3.89% of them said average knowledge, only 0.56% of them expressed very poor knowledge of using e-resources.
- Majority 62.22% of the respondents use e-resources and CD/DVD ROMs use more frequently, 33.89% use frequently, 3.89% of them not at all use e-resources.
- It is found that the majority 12.62% of the respondents said that the use for research work.
- The majority 84.44% of them respondents expressed that problem while accessing e-resources and services is not all facing problems poor internet connectivity, 6.67% of them said most frequently, and 8.89% of them said frequently.

### Conclusion

Use of electronic resources recorded huge success among research scholars and they demonstrated the positive impact of the e-resources on research work. E-resources have been widely and rapidly accepted in academic spheres and academic universities have widely indicated that they can ably use and access electronic resources. It is necessary that the university library professionals should be proactive in working with the academic community to develop training program aimed at enabling them to use e-resources more effectively. Most of the research scholars in the university library have equally claimed they can operate computers. E-Journals are most used among the array of available electronic resources. E-resources will continue to enjoy a wider acceptance among the researchers as the future unfolds and barriers to their use are reduced. This study investigate the overall perception and usage of e-resources in the University of Hyderabad library.

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