Challenges Faced in Accessing Electronic Resources by the Faculty Members of Colleges Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala

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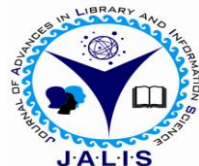Central University of Himachal Pradesh

Abstract

The objective of the study is find out the challenges faced by the faculty members of colleges affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala. The study is conducted to analyse the various types of electronic resources, barriers, frequency and advantages in accessing electronic resources. The data for the study is obtained by distributing well structured questionnaire with the aid of Survey method. The questionnaires were sent by email to some and to others personally. It has been found that electronic resources are more advantageous on comparative consideration with the disadvantages on accessing electronic resources among the faculty of the selected colleges.

Keywords

E-resources; database; Search engine; information; education

Electronic access

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1. Introduction

Every second changes are abruptly found in all spheres of life. The sphere of education is also one such. The changes owe its responsibility to the technological innovations and advancements with the advent of information technology and its various components. With regard to education system, information technology has provided electronic resources for its promotion and updation in tune with time. From traditional forms of books to e-resources as e- book, e- journal, e- magazine, e-research report, e-newspaper e- newsletter, & Dissertation, CD/ DVD-ROM etc. as rendered as prompt transition in par with changing needs of time.

2. Literature Review

The studies pertaining to the electronic resources and its access with issues and challenges are reviewed as follows:

Ron Houlihan (2005) has discussed to the critical importance of providing a comfortable and stimulating environment for students and the rewards for doing so are confirmed, with reference to various Canadian and US schools. Some of the almost – universal characteristics of today's academic research and communication. Haneefa K (2007) presented the results of an investigation in the study "Use of ICT Based Resources and Services in Special Libraries in Kerala, India. The email service was used by the largest percentage of the users. WWW was being used by 60 per cent of the library users. A good no. of users was not satisfied with the application of ICT in the libraries and indicated 'inadequate ICT infrastructure' as their reason for dissatisfaction. Users proposed a variety of measures of formal orientation and training in ICT based resources and services. Dhanavandan (2011) paper highlighted that a large portion of librarians are aware of the internet, but they do not know all of its techniques and applications. Further, the librarians still do not have knowledge about the internet and related applications. For this purpose, there is need for effective user education, to develop awareness and knowledge to the users. Sunil Kumar, Swadesh Kumar (2019) examined the utilization of data assets and administrations accessible in the library by the PG students' understudies and research researchers of Vivekananda Library of Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak. For the present investigation, a well-organized poll has been defined and disseminated among the PG students understudies and research researchers of Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, so as to find out the recurrence of

visit to the library, recurrence of utilization of printed data assets, utilization of library administrations, The result and recommendations of the examination would be helpful to take fitting measures to improve data assets and administrations. Ram and Singh (2020) talked about Mobile innovation and concentrated on its application and difficulties in library administrations. With help of cell phones, libraries can create new administrations and give speedier access to its accumulation. The ramifications of portable library administrations have made open doors and difficulties for academic libraries. Ganesan & Gunasekaran (2022) focused on the information literacy skills and how the resources are being used by medical students of Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute (MGMCRI), Pondicherry, India. The study intended to find out the use, purpose, search strategies and sources to use the electronic resources among the medical students. The investigator opined that the library electronic resources shall be strengthened and periodic awareness programme should be provided for the students.

3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

a) To find out the significance of electronic resources among the Faculty members.
b) To find out the advantages of electronic resources among the Faculty members.
c) To examine the convenient places of access of electronic resources.
d) To know how frequently electronic resources are accessed by the faculty members.
e) To find out the problems faced while accessing electronic resources.

4. Data Analysis

100 questionnaires were distributed and 90 were returned duly filled in. Therefore, the total numbers of respondents were taken as 90. The data collected through the questionnaires was classified and tabulated for proper understanding and scrutiny. Table No.1 Ratio of Gender in electronic resource access

Ratio of Gender in electronic resource

Table 1: Ratio of Gender in electronic resource access

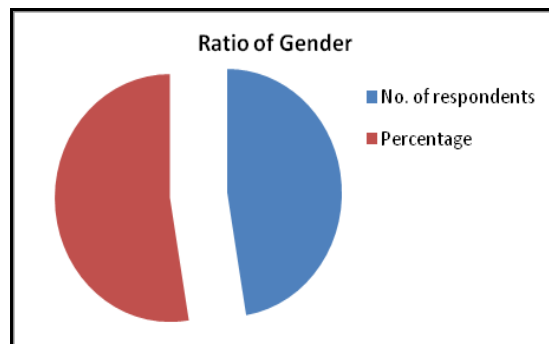| Sl.No.	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Female	50	55.55
2.	Male	40	44.44
	Total	90	100

Fig 1. Ratio of Gender in electronic resource access

There are 55.55% of females and 44.44% males out of 90 respondents in the present study. Place of electronic resource access

Table 2: Place of electronic resource access

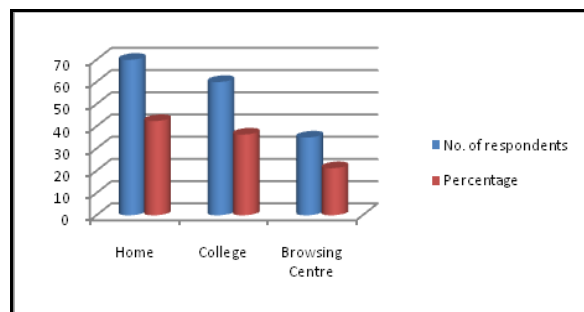| Sl. No.	Place	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Home	70	42.42
2.	College	60	36.36
3.	Browsing Centre	35	21.21
	Total	165	100

Fig 2. Place of electronic resource access

It is found that the majority of respondents used electronic resources from home (42.42%). The respondents also used College (36.36%)and Browsing Centre as convenient to access electronic resources (21.21%).

Frequency of use of electronic resource access

Table 3: Frequency of use of electronic resource access

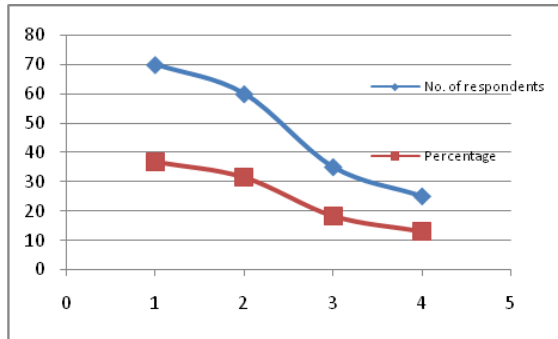| Sl.No.	Frequency	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Daily	70	36.84
2.	Weekly	60	31.57
3.	Monthly	35	18.42
4.	Up on requirement	25	13.15
	Total	190	100

Fig 3.Frequency of use of electronic resource access

It is found that the majority of respondents used electronic resources daily (36.84 %). The respondent used weekly(31.57%), monthly(18.42%) and up on requirement as convenient to them (13.15%).

Various types of electronic resources frequently accessed

Table 4: Various types of electronic resources frequently accessed

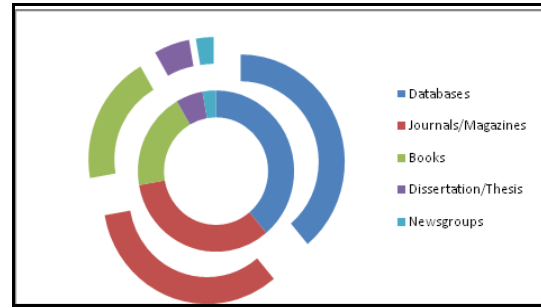| Sl. No.	Electronic Resources	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Databases	70	38.88
2.	Journals/Magazines	60	33.33
3.	Books	35	19.44
4.	Dissertation/Thesis	10	5.55
5.	Newsgroups	5	2.77
	Total	180	100

Fig 4.Various types of electronic resources frequently accessed

It is found that the majority of respondents used Databases (44.44%) as requisite in accessing electronic resources. The respondents also used Journals/Magazines (22.22%), Books (16.66%), Dissertation/Thesis (11.11%) and Newsgroups (5.55%).

Barriers while accessing electronic resources

Barriers met when used electronic resources are depicted on the basis of answers obtained by posing a question as given in the table hereunder.

Table 5: Barriers on electronic resources

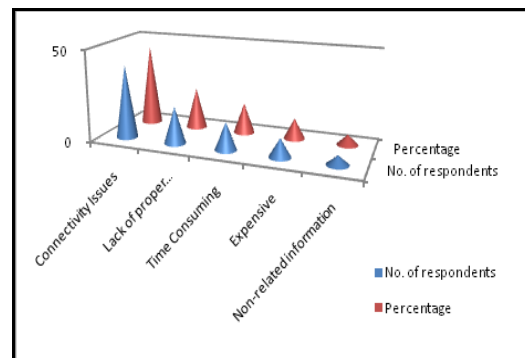| Sl. No.	Barriers	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Connectivity Issues	40	44.44
2.	Lack of proper awareness	20	22.22
3.	Time Consuming	15	16.66
4.	Expensive	10	11.11
5.	Non-related information	5	5.55
	Total	90	100

Fig 5.Barriers on electronic resources

It is found that the majority of respondents considered connectivity (44.44%) issue as prime problem in accessing electronic resources. The respondents also faced barriers like Lack of proper awareness (22.22%), Time Consuming (16.66%), Expensive (11.11%) and Non-related information (5.55%).

Reasons for dissatisfaction on accessing electronic resources from Library

Table 6: Reasons for dissatisfaction

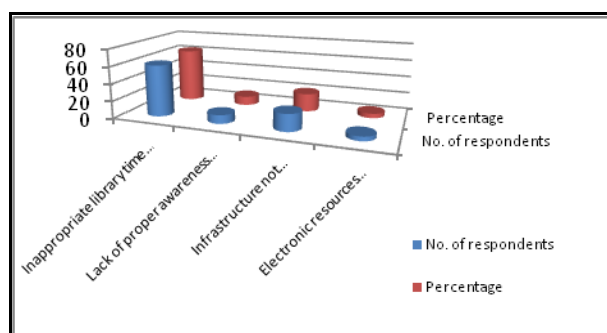| Sl. No.	Reasons	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Inappropriate library time schedule	60	63.15
2.	Lack of proper awareness among library staff	10	10.52
3.	Infrastructure not congenial	20	21.05
4.	Electronic resources cumbersome	5	5.26
	Total	95	100

Fig 6.Reasons for dissatisfaction

It is found that the majority of respondents considered inappropriate library time schedule (63.15%) as main reason for dissatisfaction in accessing electronic resources. The respondents also faced barriers like lack of proper awareness among library staff (10.52%), infrastructure not congenial (21.05%)and electronic resources cumbersome (5.26%).

5. Conclusions

It is categorically found that the users are accessing electronic resources pertaining to education with utmost satisfaction though there is some dissatisfaction and barriers regarding the access are

pointed out. Infrastructural facilities and the time schedule of the library while accessing the electronic resources has to be compatible with the requirement is another concern highlighted.

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