A Study on E-Resource Usage Pattern among the Undergraduate College Students of Karimganj District, Assam

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Abstract

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has become a fundamental constituent of the educational practice and is giving educationalist new way to renovate learning and teaching. The present study has undertaken with a vision to be acquainted with the status of e-resource use pattern of undergraduate students of Karimganj District, Assam. The respondents of the present study are mainly drawn from the six government aided colleges of the Karimganj district. To collect data, survey method was used by the investigator. The questionnaire was distributed to the respondents as per the requirement of the objectives of the present study. 60 Questionnaire were distributed to each college to collect the data. The data have been coded, tabulated and analyzed. The results have been shown in Tabular format. For the data analysis, only percentage techniques adopted. Besides this, some of the suggestions and recommendations were also discussed to increase the use of e-resources by the undergraduate students of that district.

Keywords

ICT; E-resources; Karimganj; Assam;undergraduate students.

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1. Introduction

A well traditional library is important for any educational institution and Information Communication Technology (ICT) is one of the important part of it in this digital world. People use computers, notebook, and mobile to access the information for their academic as well as non-academic purposes (Sinha et al 2013). ICT has created an environment to communicate with other world. It has transformed the society into information society. Due to information explosion people are moving towards the online resources or e-resources to gather their relevant information for different purposes (Swaminathan et al 2017). The academic library cannot challenge with the latest information technology in its conventional collection of print material. To catch the attention of the students and to offer superior services to its users, the academic library should expand electronic resources along with print materials.The electronic resources offered in a library play a important role in facilitate access to essential information to the users in a simple and speedy way (Thavamani, 2013). The e-resources, like CD-ROM database, online journals, online books, OPACs and the internet are gradually replacing the significance and practice of print media. It is vital that one should be well-known with the use of e-resources for their swift and helpful usage for endorsement of intellectual excellence and research.

2. Significance of the study

The main purpose of the present study is to know the status of the extent of utilization of e-resources amongst the undergraduate students of Karimganj district, Assam. This would help the college library authority to recognize the troubles faced by the users while accessing to the e-resources and try to put into practice the suggestions put forward by the library users for the enhancement of library services.

3. Scope and delimitation of the study

For the present study, six Assam university affiliated colleges of Karimganj district of Assam were taken. The respondents from the following colleges have participated in the study:
1. Karimganj College, Karimganj
2. Nabin Chandra College, Badarpur
3. Rabindra Sadan girls College, Karimganj
4. Patherkandi College, Patherkandi
5. Ramkrishna Nagar College, Ramkrishna Nagar
6. Nilam Bazar College, Nilambazar

The study has been limited to the undergraduate student library users of six selected colleges of Karimganj district affiliated to the Assam University, Silchar.

4. Objectives of the study

➢ To know the awareness of e-resources.
➢ To identify the purpose of using e-resources.
➢ To know the satisfactory level of using e-resources.
➢ To know the frequency of using e-resources.

5. Review of literature

Rajeev Kumar and Amritpal Kaur (2004) studied the use of internet by teachers and students in Shaheed Bhagat Singh College of Engineering & Technology, Ferozepur (Panjab). They found that 46.7% teachers and 36.7% student's daily use the internet. About 90% respondents use internet at their college.(Kumar et al 2004).Bhattacharjee, Bhattacharjee and Sarmah (2011) have conducted a study to find out the use and awareness of E-journals through N-LIST consortium to the users of college libraries of Cachar District, Assam. This study also tried to underline the present position of the college libraries as well as the opinion and satisfactory level of the different categories of users like students, teachers and staff. (Bhattacharjee et al 2011).Sinha (2012) conducted a study to know the level of Internet Literacy among the University Library Users in Assam University library. The results explain that the younger generation has acknowledged the Internet as a means for accessing to the appropriate information for academic and research works, whereas the elderly people are still happy with traditional resources who are using printed resources available in library, but the volume of recurrent usage of e-resources among the users have been found to be at best level. (Sinha, 2012).Bhattacharjee (2014) conducted a survey to know the E-resource and Internet Use Pattern of Social Science Community of Tripura University, from the study he has found that majority of library users visit library regularly. But Information seeking and gathering is a difficult task to the library users as most of the users are not aware of using electronic-resources. Many users were suggesting subscribing more online journals and e-resources of various publishers. Lack of training among library users is one of the crucial factors in the usage of Internet, e-resources and e-journals in Tripura University (Bhattacharjee, 2014).

Murugan (2015) conducted a study, among the 80 respondents, 62.50% of students and 37.50 % of faculty members are assessing e- resources. It is concluded that 14(54.00%) of E-journals are used by faculty, 16(50.00%) are used by students. In addition the study states that the academic community in the academic institutions prefers to use most e- resources available in present digital era (Murugan, 2015).

6. Research methodology adopted

The random sampling technique was used for selection of sample for the study. The sample was drawn from the undergraduate students of six colleges of Karimganj district, Assam. The questionnaire was distributed to the respondents as per the requirement of the objectives of the present study. 60 Questionnaire were distributed to each college to collect the data. The data have been coded, tabulated and analyzed. The results have been shown in Tabular format. For the data analysis, only percentage techniques adopted.

7. Data analysis and findings

Altogether 360 questionnaires have been distributed amongst the randomly selected undergraduate students of six selected colleges of Karimganj district, Assam

Table 1: Distribution of questionnaire and responses received

Sl. No.	Response	No. of Respon dents	%
1	Questionnaire Received	298	93.6
2	Questionnaire Not received	62	6.4
	Total/Overall Percentage	360	100

Table-1 shows that the questionnaires were distributed to 360 respondents. Out of which 298 (93.6%) respondents have returned the filled up questionnaire whereas 62 (6.4%) respondents have not returned the questionnaire. Therefore the response rate is 93.6% which is fairly a good response.

College Wise Distribution and Receipt of Questionnaire

In the present study 360 respondents from six colleges of Karimganj district, Assam have been selected. It was decided to distribute 60 questionnaires to each college. Accordingly 360 questionnaires (60 questionnaires to each college) were distributed and college wise responses have been shown in Table-2.

Table 2 : College Wise Distribution and Receipt of Questionnaire

Sl. No.	Name of College	Questionnaire received	%
1	Karimganj College	53	17.7
2	Nabin Chandra College	49	16.4
3	Rabindra Sadan Girls College	52	17.4
4	Patherkandi College	50	16.7
5	Ramkrishna Nagar College	48	16.1
6	Nilambazar College	46	15.4
	Total/Overall Percentage	298	100

It is evident from the Table -2 that out of 298 respondents the maximum responses 53(17.7%) was received from the respondents of Karimganj College which is followed by 52 (17.4%) respondents each from Rabindra Sadan Girls college whereas 50 (16.7%) respondents are from Patherkandi College, 49 (16.4%) respondents are from Nabin Chandra College, 48 (16.1%) respondents are from Ramkrishna Nagar College and 46 (15.4%) are from Nilambazar College.

Table 3 : Gender wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. No.	Gender	No. of respondents	%
1	Male	169	56.7
2	Female	129	43.3
	Total/Overall Percentage	298	100

From the Table-3, it is also evident that out of 298 respondents, 169 (56.7 %) of respondents are male whereas 129(43.3%) respondents are female which shows that in the present study male respondents have participated in more number than that of female.

Table 4 : Age group wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. no	Age group	No. of respondents	%
1	15-19	104	34.8
2	20-24	167	56.1
3	25-Above	27	9.1
	Total/Overall Percentage	298	100

Table 4 indicates that out of 298 respondents , 167(56.1%) respondents belong to (20-24) years age group which is followed by 104(34.8 %) respondents who belong to (15-19) years age group and 27(9.1%) respondents belong to (25- Above) years age group. The survey findings states that more undergraduate students belongs to age group (20-24) years.

Table 5 : Internet Literacy skills

Sl. no.	Level	No. of respondents	%
1	Expert	79	26.5
2	Intermediate	107	35.9
3	Novice	112	37.6
	Total/Overall Percentage	298	100

Table 5 reveals that out of 298 respondents, 112(37.6%) respondents are novice, followed by 107(35.9%) are intermediate and 79(26.5%) respondents are Expert in using internet.

Table 6: Awareness of E-resources

Sl.no.	Response	No. of respondents	%
1	Yes	263	88.2
2	No	35	11.8
	Total/Overall Percentage	298	100

Table 6 shows that 263(88.2%) respondents are aware of E-resources and only 35(11.8%) respondents are not aware of it.

Table 7: Usefulness of e-resources

Sl .no.	Usefulness	No. of respondents	%
1	Highly Useful	187	62.8
2	Useful	89	29.8
3	less Useful	14	4.7
4	Not Useful	8	2.7
	Total/Overall Percentage	298	100

Table 7 states that 187(62.8%) respondents has said it is highly useful, 89(29.8%) respondents has said it is useful, 14(4.7%) respondents has said it is less useful and very few 8(2.7%) respondents has said it is not useful.

Table 8: Types of E-resources accessed (Multiple response allowed)

Sl. no.	Types	No. of respondents	%
1	E-Books	257	86.2
2	E-Journals	153	51.3
3	E-Newspaper	206	69.1
4	E-Lectures	87	29.1
5	Bibliographic Database	20	6.7

Table 8 reveals that 257(86.2%) respondents access E-books, followed by 206(69.1%) respondents access E-Newspaper, 153(51.3%) respondents access E-journals, 87(29.1%)respondents access E-lectures and only 20(6.7%) respondents access bibliographic database.

Table 9: Frequency of using E-resources

Sl. no.	Types	No. of respondents	%
1	Daily	127	42.7
2	twice a week	78	26.2
3	Once a Week	39	13.1
4	Monthly	18	6
5	Depends upon need	36	12
	Total/Overall Percentage	298	100

Table 9 reveals that out of 298 respondents, 127(42.7%) respondents access e-resources daily, 78(26.2%) respondents access twice a week, 39(13.1%) respondents access Once a week, 36(12%)

respondents access when they need and only 18(6%) respondents access Monthly.

Table 10: Purpose of Using E-resources (Multiple responses allowed)

Sl. No.	Purpose	No. of respondents	%
1	To Update Knowledge	243	81.5
2	Preparing for different competitive exams	178	59.8
3	Preparing for class assignment	236	79.1
4	For career development and growth	147	49.3
5	Others	195	65.4

Table 10 shows that 243(81.5%) respondents use e-resources to update their knowledge, 178(59.8%) respondents use for different competitive exams, 236(79.1%) respondents use for preparing their class assignments, 147(49.3%) respondents use for career development and growth and 195(65.4%) respondents use for other purposes.

Table 11: Time spend in the library for e-resources

Sl. No.	Time	No. of respondents	%
1	Less than 15 minutes	24	8.1
2	15 to 30 minutes	182	61.1
3	1 to 2 hours	73	24.5
4	More than 2 hours	19	6.3
	Total/Overall Percentage	298	100

Table 11 states that highest 182(61.1%) respondents spend time 15 to 30 minutes daily, followed by 73(24.5%) spend 1to 2 hours, 24 (8.1%) respondents spend less than 15 minutes and 19(6.3%) respondents spend more than 2 hours daily.

Table 12: Satisfactory level of using e-resources

Sl. No.	Opinion	No. of respondents	%
1	Extremely satisfactory	74	24.8
2	Satisfactory	176	59.1
3	average	31	10.4
4	Poor	17	5.7
	Total/Overall Percentage	298	100

Table 12 reveals that 176 (59.1%) respondents are satisfied, 74(24.8%) respondents are extremely satisfied , 31 (10.4%) are average and 17 (5.7%) respondents are poorly satisfied with the level of using e-resources.

Table 13: Problems faced in using e-resources (Multiple response allowed)

Sl. No.	Problems	No. of respondents	%
1	Too much information is retrieved	213	71.4
2	Lack of knowledge to search relevant materials	198	66.4
3	Limited access	236	79.1
4	Others	253	84.8

Table 13 states that 213 (84.8%) respondents are facing the problem of much retrieved information, 198 (66.4%) respondents has lack of knowledge to retrieve the relevant information, 236 (79.1%) respondents are facing the limited access to e-resources and 253 (84.4%) respondents are facing some other problems not listed there.

Table 14: Preferred file format for e-resources

Sl. No.	File format	No. of respondents	%
1	PDF	214	71.7
2	HTML	21	7.1
3	DOC	45	15.1
4	PPT	18	6.1
	Total/Overall Percentage	298	100

Table 14 shows that 214 (71.7%) respondents preferred PDF file format, followed by 45 (15.1%) respondents preferred DOC file format, 21 (7.1%) respondents preferred HTML file format and only 18 (6.1%) respondents preferred PPT file format.

Table 15: Suggestions to improve usages of e-resources (Multiple responses allowed)

Sl. No.	suggestions	No. of respondents	%
1	Develop infrastructure to access e-resources	174	58.3
2	Conduct training to search e-resources easily	266	89.2
3	To start CAS/SDI services	197	66.1
4	To increase the no. of computer systems	253	84.8
5	Others	215	72.1

Table 15 reveals that 174 (58.3%) respondents suggested to develop infrastructure to access e-resources, 266 (89.2%) respondents suggested to conduct training to search e-resources, 197 (66.1%) respondents suggested to start CAS/SDI services, 253 (84.8) respondents suggested to increase the number of computer system and 215 (72.1%) respondents suggested other not listed there to improve the usages of e-resources.

8. Major Findings

- 298(93.6%) questionnaire were received out of 360 questionnaire distributed, which is fairly good response. Highest number (17.7%) of responses received from the Karimganj College.
- Maximum (56.7%) respondents are male out of total 298 responses received.
- More than half (56.1%) of the respondents lies between the age group 20-24 years followed by age group 15-19 years.
- Maximum respondents (37.6%) are novice in using internet. A good number (88.2%) of respondents are aware of E-resources.
- Maximum of the respondents (62.8%) states that e-resources are highly useful.
- E-book is the type of e-resources accessed by maximum (86.2%) number of respondents.
- Maximum (42.7%) of the respondents use e-resources daily.
- A good number (81.5%) of respondents uses e-resources to update their knowledge.
- Most of the respondents (61.1%) daily spend 15-30 minutes for e-resources.
- Maximum (59.1%) respondents have said they are satisfied by using e-resources. 71.7% respondents preferred file format PDF for their e-resources.

9. Suggestions and recommendations

From the survey results it is found that most of the undergraduate students of the Karimganj district are not satisfied with the service provided by their colleges. To retrieve the desired information they are

facing various kinds of problems especially in electronic information. Some of the suggestions recommended by the users to meet their expectations are:

- ➢ To develop better infrastructure to access the e-resources.
- ➢ Library should conduct awareness and training program to search e-resources easily.
- ➢ For the betterment of users, library should start CAS/SDI service.
- ➢ There must be sufficient computer system to access the e-resources.
- ➢ Library should recruit ICT skilled professionals to provide better services to meet the users need.

10. Conclusion

Information is the most important aspect of one's life. It is embedded in this digital environment in different new forms. From the study it is obvious that maximum of users visit library daily to gather information although it is a challenging task for them to gather relevant information. To resolve those issue many users suggested that library should recruit the skilled professional staff, to conduct training program. So that users can get attracted towards the library to use the e-resources and access the resources more comfortably without any trouble.

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