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**Awareness and Use of Electronic Information  
Resources at Arts and Commerce College,  
Madha: A Study**

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**Abstract**

*E-resources have become bubbling boon for library professionals as well as library users in this Google era. The e-resources are available in multi-variety forms. The study examine the awareness of different types of e-information resources, access and use of subscribed UGC N-LIST and freely available e-resources by the faculty members, Ph. D scholars and UG Students of the Arts and Commerce College, Madha. A structured questionnaire was distributed among the users. The study confirmed that the all Ph. D Scholars are aware of various types of e-resources. Study evaluates the satisfaction level of the users on e-resources and the role of Internet in access of e-resources through different search engines (e.g. Google, Yahoo, etc.) and also offline databases in CD/DVD formats, Study also aims to highlight the problems encountered by the users and suggest some remedial measures for its improvements.*

**Keywords**

*E-resource;, awareness of e-resources; use of e-resources; e-information literacy*

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## INTRODUCTION

Information is generating from the every corner of the world and its explosion rate is very high and ever growing. It is difficult to retrieve particular information without wasting time, but today the information technology has changed the complexion of the academic libraries in a big way. On a side academic libraries were suffer three challenges-shrinking budgets, shortage of space and increasing cost of publications; on other side there are the challenges posed by the advances in the field of Information and Communication Technology. With the last few decades scenario has changed. The remarkable growth of e-publishing and access of the information in local, regional, national and international basis has solved the problem of time and space.

Changes in the technology in recent years have dramatically altered how information is accessed, stored and disseminated. Now information is available on CDs, audio, cassettes, video cassettes etc., as well as on the internet. These types of web-based electronic information resources have become a most popular in academic research. One needs not to go the library to make use of print formats as the digital resources can be use of any user through On-line access via networks. E-resources usually consist of e-books, e-journals, articles, newspapers, thesis, dissertation, databases and CD-ROMs, which are to be the alternative to the print media. All updated information is published in these e-resources and its play a prominent role in facilitating access to the required information to the user. The familiarity and use of e-information resources in the libraries is necessary and important for rapid development in any type education.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Many studies have been undertaken on e-resources in the areas of awareness, usage, relevance, access, preference, orientations and training, and evaluation among others. It is found in the literature that there are sometimes a gap between awareness and usage of digital resources. Either users are aware of the resources and use them, users are aware and do not use them, or users they are unaware of them and therefore do not use them. Chandra et al. (2014) conducted a study on Use Pattern of E-resources among Faculty Members in Arts and Science College in Chennai concluded that most of the respondents were aware of e-resources available in their college

library. They have accessed e-resources for their study and research purpose. Majority respondents opine that e-resources are useful. Parthasarathy & Kavitha (2014) explained the experience in using E-resources, adequacy of using e-resources, Preferred Search engine, possible reasons for using E-resources and Satisfaction level of using e-resources by the teachers of Government Colleges in Tiruchirapalli. They found that about 484(42.20%) Male and 207(39.81%) Female respondents fulfilled between 51-75 percent of their information needs and 85(7.41%) Male and 28(5.38%) Female respondents fulfilled less than 10.00 percent of their information needs through Electronic Information Resources. Bhat & Mudhol (2014) presented the findings of a survey about the awareness and use of electronic resources by medical students available in the medical institute libraries. The subject's chosen for these studies were 300 faculty members and medical students of Sher-E-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science (SKIMS), Jammu and Kashmir, India.

Madhusudhan (2008) Studies carried out on the use of electronic resources by teachers, students and research scholars of universities and research organizations. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the respondents feel that the use of the UGC – INFONET e-journals has created high dependency value on their research work and they needed current article alert services and electronic document supply services. Ojo and Akande (2005) in a survey of 350 respondents examined student's access, usage and awareness of electronic information resources at the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, Nigeria. The study revealed that the level of usage of the electronic information resources is not high. A major problem however identified was lack of information retrieval skills for exploiting electronic resources, thus making the level of usage of resources by medical students very low.

### SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The study based on the awareness and use of the consortia (Online) and Library e-resources (offline) based information resources by the faculty members, PhD Scholars and UG students of Arts and Commerce College Madha, Dist- Solapur. The scope of the study is limited to the electronic resources mainly available in ACC, Madha

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives are:

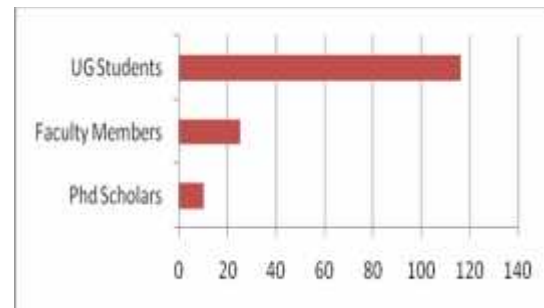
- Examine the use of online journals and library e-resources by the faculty members, PhD scholars and UG students of Arts &Commerce College, Madha.
- The purpose for which the electronic the resources are most preferred by The A&C College, Madha.
- Their awareness and use of the kinds EIS and of INFLIBNET N-LIST consortia.
- Elicit the problems faced in accessing e-resources.

### METHODOLOGY

The survey used the questionnaire tool to know the awareness and use of the electronic resources among the PhD scholars and faculty members of Arts and Commerce College Madha. At present 25 faculty members, 10 PhD scholars and 135 under graduate (BA III year and B.Com III) students in this college. Out of that 35 questionnaires were distributed among the PhD scholars and faculty members and all copies of questionnaires were received. In case of UG (BA III year and B Com III) students 135 questionnaires were distributed and 116 questionnaires were received. Total 151 questionnaires have been received for the study. The collected data tabulated, critically analyzed and expected in percentage.

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

User profile section of the questionnaire provides information regarding the different academic status (as can be seen from figure 1). The population studied was 77% UG students, 17% Faculty members, 7% PhD scholars.



**Fig 1:** Population taken for survey

The response from table 1 shows that 100% of PhD scholars were aware about the ACC library's E-resources. In case of faculty members and UG

students 88% faculty members and 37% UG students were aware about the e-resources of ACC library. Whereas 18% faculty members and 63% of UG students were not aware about the ACC Library E-resources.

**Table 1:** Awareness about library E-resources

Respondents	Awareness (Response)		Total
	Yes	No	
Faculty	22 (88%)	4 (18%)	25 (100%)
PhD Scholars	10 (100%)	-	10 (100%)
Under Graduate Students	43 (37%)	73 (63%)	116 (100%)

The A&C College, Madha library subscribes to e-journals/portals for their users under UGC INFLIBNET N-LIST consortium. It is important to know from the users if they are aware of UGC INFLIBNET N-LIST consortium's name and of the e-resources. 10 (100%) of the PhD scholars and 21 (84%) of the faculty members were aware of UGC INFLIBNET N-LIST. In case of under graduate students 80 (69%) were aware. The result shows that faculty 4 (16%) members were comparatively less aware about the N-LIST consortium and majority of undergraduate students 36 (31%) were not aware.

**Table 2:** Awareness about N-LIST Consortium

Respondents	Awareness(Response)		Total
	Yes	No	
Faculty	21 (84%)	4 (16%)	25 (100%)
PhD Scholars	10 (100%)	-	10 (100%)
Under Graduate Students	80 (69%)	36 (31%)	116 (100%)

The data shows that faculty and PhD scholars make more use of e-resources as compared to UG students. 100% of PhD Scholars make use of UGC INFLIBNET N-LIST consortium. 84% of Faculty members and 31% of UG Students make use of UGC INFLIBNET N-LIST consortium respectively. The percentage of UG students for non use of UGC

INFLIBNET N-LIST consortium was high 69 (table 3)

**Table 3:** Use of UGC INFLIBNET N-LIST Consortium

Respondents	Awareness(Response)		Total
	Yes	No	
Faculty	20 (84%)	5 (16%)	25 (100%)
PhD Scholars	10 (100%)	-	10 (100%)
Under Graduate Students	36 (31%)	80 (69%)	116 (100%)

Table 4 shows that the percentage of users using various e-resources provided by their library. 100% of Faculty members and PhD scholars make use of e-journals, e-books, CD-ROM Databases respectively. In case of Under Graduate students 83% make use of CD-ROM databases, 75% using free e-resources through Google and Yahoo search engines and 58% make use of E-books respectively.

**Table 4:** Use of Electronic Information Resources

Type of e-information	Faculty	PhD Scholars	Under Graduates Students
E-resources freely available through Internet using search engines like Google, Yahoo etc	22 (88%)	10 (100%)	87 (75%)
E-Journals	25 (100%)	10 (100%)	8 (7%)
E-Thesis	19 (76%)	10 (100%)	3 (75%)
E-Magazines	14 (56%)	8 (80%)	18 (16%)
E-Books	25 (100%)	10 (100%)	67 (58%)
Databases	11 (44%)	7 (70%)	3 (3%)
E-Archives	8 (32%)	5 (50%)	1 (1%)
E-News Papers	19 (76%)	10 (100%)	47 (41%)
E-	9	10	•

Encyclopedia	(36%)	(100%)	
e-Dictionaries	7 (28%)	9 (90%)	22 (19%)
CD-ROM databases	25 (100%)	10 (100%)	96 (83%)
Others	-	-	-

The respondents were asked to give reasons as to purpose of use electronic information resources but based on choices fixed. Table 5 shows that the 100% of PhD scholars were using e-resources for research and teaching respectively. 96% faculty members use e-resources for update knowledge and teaching. In case of UG students 78% use e-resources for study and 63% use for update their knowledge.

**Table 5:** Purpose of Using E-resources

Purpose	Faculty	PhD Scholars	UG Students
For Study	19 (76%)	4 (40%)	91 (78%)
For Research	21 (84%)	10 (100%)	4 (3%)
For update Knowledge	24 (96%)	7 (70%)	73 (63%)
Teaching	24 (96%)	10 (100%)	1 (1%)
Projects and Others	11 (44%)	3 (30%)	13 (11%)

Another question sought to ascertain the problems faced by the users while using/accessing e-information resources. Table 6 it is evident that 76% of faculty members feel that online e-resources takes too long time to view/download. 80% PhD scholars and 96% UG students said that they have facing problems due to lack of training. 70% of PhD scholars are facing problem with slow speed and overload of information on the Internet. And 94% of the UG students expressed that it has been lack of knowledge an e-Information resources.

**Table 6:** Problems in Using and accessing E-Information Resources

Type of Problems	Faculty	PhD Scholars	UG Students
Lack of Facilities	7 (28%)	3 (30%)	45 (39%)
Slow Speed/Connectivity/	11 (44%)	7 (70%)	12 (10%)

PCs			
Overload of Information on the Internet	3 (12%)	7 (70%)	25 (22%)
Difficult to find relevant information	15 (60%)	5 (50%)	75 (65%)
It takes too long time to view/download	19 (76%)	5 (50%)	68 (59%)
Lack of knowledge on electronic Inf. Resources	5 (20%)	3 (30%)	109 (94%)
Lack of training	4 (16%)	8 (80%)	111 (96%)

Majority of the respondents are highly satisfied with the e-information services provided by the library.

**Table 7:** Level of Satisfaction accessing E-Information Resources

Satisfactory Level	Faculty	PhD Scholars	UG Students	Total
Highly Satisfied	22 (88%)	7 (70%)	82 (71%)	111
Satisfied	2 (8%)	2 (20%)	10 (9%)	14
Average	-	1 (10)	3 (3%)	4
Not Satisfied	1 (4%)	-	21 (18%)	22

**Findings**

- The study concluded that almost all respondents have fully awareness about the available e-resources, such as freely available through internet, e-journals, e-books, e-magazines, e-thesis and dissertations, e-newspapers, e-directories, CD-ROM databases.
- It has been found that all PhD scholars are aware and using UGC INFLIBNET-N-LIST consortia.
- Most of the PhD scholars were using e-resources for research and teaching respectively. Faculty members use e-resources for update knowledge and teaching. UG students use e-resources for study and for update their knowledge.
- Majority of the respondents are highly satisfied with the e-information services.

**SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Based on the data analysis of the present study has been laid on efficient use of e-resources

among the faculty members, PhD scholars and all the UG students of the ACC of Madha. Following suggestions/recommendation is derived out the study.

- Library should subscribe to e-resources keeping in mind the preferences of users.
- Special training programs should be organized for UG students and faculty members for the maximum use of e-resources especially for UGC INFLIBNET-NLIST Consortia, so that users can easily find their required information.
- Library should organize orientation programme for the UG students and faculty members every year.
- Announcement should be done by the library about the availability of new e-resources or additions of new (CD-ROM) databases for user of the library.
- Library should provide the facilities for the user to get familiar with e-resources subscribed by the library.
- Library staff promotes and provide instructions for the maximum use of e-resources. Various freely available websites are available from a variety of databases, e-journals, e-books which there still not well exploited by many academic libraries.

## CONCLUSION

In the changing information environment in electronic era the users have knowledge about availability if e-resources in ACC library. Many users also need to know the complete potential of the resources. The library should provide and explore more facilities of CAS to keep aware and keep up to date to the faculty members and UG students. Accordingly, the library has to evolve more scientific methods to develop a standard collection E-resources along with print documents. It is concluded that e-resources which are available and subscribed by the library are being effectively used by users.

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