

Awareness and Use of E-Resources among Undergraduate Students Nutan Ramnagar, Cachar (Assam)

Sangita Yadav

Research Scholar, Department of Library and Information Science, Assam University, Silchar

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ABSTRACT: *Electronic Resources made everything easy for everybody. It is also one of the most important tools for transferring information to one people to another with the help of internet. Electronic Resources now serve as a most important sources for students. With the help of internet the students quickly get their desired material.*

The paper has an attempt to study the awareness and usage of E-Resources by the undergraduate students Nutan Ramnagar, Cachar, Assam. For the present Study Survey Method was adopted using structured questionnaire and interview schedule as a tool of data collection. On the basis of response received data was tabulated and analyzed using SPSS and MS Excel. The important survey findings in respect of demographic profile of students and their awareness and E-Resource use pattern.

Key Words: *Undergraduate Students, ICT, E-Resource, Nutan Ramnagar, Cachar.*

I. Introduction

In the Present era of Information Society, The Information and Communication Technology has brought tremendous changes in the way the information resources are generating organizing preserving and delivery the information Resource to the end users. Emergence of multimedia, e-publishing and internet, there has been a significant growth of printed as well as electronic resource.

The Internet has given rise to the development of electronic versions of printed library material like book, journal, reports, monographs which have brought changes collection development of policies of Academic and technical institutional libraries. The Electronic Resources can be access over internet which may be on the basis of ownership or access right for the journals, e-book subscribers.

The concept Electronic resources are regarded as the mines of information that are explored through modern ICT devices, refined and redesigned and more often stored in the cyber space in the most concrete and compact form and can be accessed simultaneously from infinite points by a great number of audience. The phrase “*electronic resources*”, has broadly been defined as, information accessed by a computer, may be useful as bibliographic guides to potential sources but, as of yet, they infrequently appear as cited references in their own right (Graham, 2003, pp. 18-24). Moreover, e-resources refer to that kind of documents in digital formats which are made available to library users through a computer based information retrieval system.

1.1 Background of the Study

Electronic Resources has great potential to attract the users. It combines all the benefits of the multimedia, digital body and Internet .It enable students to carry information anywhere. It can read in all types of devices Electronic Resources saves the time of the students.

Nutan Ramnagar village is located in Sonai Tehsil of Cachar district in Assam, India. It is situated 367km away from sub-district headquarter Sonai and 24km away from district headquarter Silchar.Silchar is the nearest town to Nutan Ramnagar. Nutan Ramnagar is comes under rural area. Most People of this village are agricultural living. The main aim of the study is to know the Awareness and Use of E-Resources by the Undergraduate students of Nutan Ramnagar, Cachar, Assam.

1.2 Objective of the Study

1. To know the gender wise Distribution of Respondents;
2. To Find out the Awareness of E Resource;
3. To Find out the Usage of E-Resource;
4. To Find out the Purpose of use of E-Resources;
5. To find out using E-Resource through Mobile phone;
6. To find out Information Sharing through Mobile Phone.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The Scope of the Study is limited to the undergraduate students of Nutan Ramnagar, Cachar, Assam.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

- The study has been further delimited to the undergraduate students of Nutan Ramnagar, Cachar, Assam ;
- The data pertaining to the study were collected through the Questionnaires, Interview-Schedule and Personal Observation.
- The reliability of the facts depends on the honesty of the respondents.

II. Review of Literature

For the present study the primary as well as the secondary source of literatures has been consulted. Some journal articles and theses have also been consulted. Gakibayo et al.(2013) in his study utilization of Electronic Information Resource in Mbarara University Library Uganda found that because of the lack of illiteracy skill, inadequate number of computers and slow internet connectivity the use of electronic Resources was constrained. Kennedy, I.R.V (2017) in his Study Awareness and Usage of E-Resources among undergraduate students with Special Reference to ST.John's College Palayamkottai: A Case Study found that electronic resources are used by the students for class work and major electronic resources are used by the students are internet search engine, e-lecture notes and e-books. Tariq and Zia (2014) carried out a survey the use of electronic Information resource resources by the students and faculty of Science, university of karachi, Pakistan. From the study it was found that they use electronic Resources for class assignments and to get update. Sinha (2009) has also carried out a survey on specialized group of samples who belongs to scientific disciplines (Participants of Workshop on Basic Science Research) in terms of ICT and Internet awareness and observed the similar trends of finding towards awareness of ICT and Internet and utilization of EResources available under UGC-INFONET Programme. Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Internet Awareness Amongst the College and University Teachers (Sinha 2008) ; participants of Workshop on Basic Science Research (Sinha 2009) , Sinha (2010) and Borthakur, Das and Gohain (2010), ICT and Internet Literacy for accessing to E-Resources available under UGCINFONET Digital Library Consortium in North Eastern Region of India (Sinha, 2011, Sinha 2012).

III. Research Methodology and Research Design

3.1 Source of Data

In the present study, the Survey method of research has been adopted using structured Questionnaire as a tool for collection of data. The questionnaire was designed keeping in view of the stated objectives and the structured questionnaire comprises mainly of closed ended-questions.

3.2 Tools for Data Collection

The tools of data collection translate the research objectives into specific questions/item, the response to which will provide the data required to achieve the research objectives. The following tools were used for collection of data pertaining to the present study.

3.2.1 Questionnaire

Questionnaire is widely used tool for data collection in research. It is a systematic compilation of questions logically related to problem under study. It has been assured that the information given by them would be used for the research purpose only would be kept confidential.

Personal Interview

The researcher also adopt personal interview for the collection of more reliable data. Personal interview were arranged by the undergraduate students of Nutan Ramnagar, Cachar, Assam giving prior intimation to the respondents. The interviews were conducted according to an interview schedule.

3.3 Data Analysis

On the basis of collected data the questionnaire/interview data is coded tabulated analysed to come on the findings and conclusion. All the results have been presented in the form of tables and/or graphs. SPSS/MS-Excel (Software's) was used for data analysis and interpretation.

IV. Analysis of data among the undergraduate students of Nutan Ramnagar, Cachar, Assam.

A. Personal Background of the Respondents / Demographic Characteristics of the Undergraduate Students

4.1 Distribution of Questionnaire to Respondent and Responses Received

To know the response rate altogether 80 questionnaire were distributed among the undergraduate students out of which, 69 (86.25%) respondents have responded. Thus the response rate is 86.25%.

Table No 1: Responses Received from the Respondents (N=80)

Questionnaire	Nos.	Percentage (%)
Received	69	86.25
Not received	11	13.75
Total	80	100.00

4.2 Gender wise distribution of Respondents

Table 2 shows the gender wise distribution of respondents which indicate that no of female respondents is high in comparison to male respondents that is 57.97% respondents are female and 42.02% respondents are male.

Table No 2: Gender wise distribution of Respondents

Gender	Nos.	Percentage (%)
Male	29	42.02
Female	40	57.97
Total	69	100.00

4.3 Aware of E-Resource

Table 3 described that 85.50% respondents were aware of E-Resources information where 14.48% respondents were not aware of using E-Resources

Table 3: Aware of E-Resources

Aware of E-Resources	Nos.	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	12	17.39
Agree	47	68.11
Disagree	7	10.14
Strongly Disagree	3	4.34
Total	69	100

4.4 Usage of E-Resources

Table 4 Shows that 52(75.36%) respondents used E-Resources information regularly where 17(24.63%) respondents did not used E-Resources Information.

Table 4: Usage of E-Resources

Usage of E-Resources	Nos.	Percentage (%)
Yes	52	75.36
No	17	24.63
Total	69	100

4.5 Purpose of Using E-Resources

Table 5 shows that purpose of using E-Resources which indicate that 57.97% respondents used E-Resources to know latest information, 42.02% respondents used for preparing their class 17.39% respondents used for reading newspaper where 50.72% used for self improvement

Table:5 Purpose of Using E-Resources

Purpose	Nos.	Percentage (%)
To know latest information	40	57.97
To Prepare for class work	29	42.02
Reading Newspaper	12	17.39
For Self Improvement	35	50.72

4.6 Use of Information through Mobile Phone

Table 6 shows 44(63.76%) respondents' used E-Resources information through mobile phone where 25(36.23%) respondents did not use through mobile phone

Table 6: Use of Information Through Mobile Phone

Use of Information Through Mobile Phone	Nos.	Percentage (%)
Yes	44	63.76

No	25	36.23
Total	69	100

4.7 Sharing Information Resources through Mobile Phones

Table 7 indicate that out of 69 respondents, 50(72.45%) used mobile phones to shares information and 19(27.53%) did not use mobile phones for sharing information.

Table7: Sharing Information Resources through Mobile Phones

Sharing Information	Nos.	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	21	30.43
Agree	29	42.02
Disagree	12	17.39
Strongly Disagree	7	10.14
Total	69	100

V. Conclusion

The study shows that E- Resources is common among students and Internet plays a very important role in student's life because they also take help from the resources which are available in the Internet. As we know that many e-resources are available in the internet as open source resources, the Students also get benefited from those e-resources .With the help of e-Resources students get desired and relevant information for preparing their notes, assignments and project works. Students also shares e resources through facebook, whatsapp with the help of Mobile Phones.

The present study is based on the survey of Awareness and E-Resource Use Pattern among undergraduate students of Nutan Ramnagar, Cachar, Assam. The survey findings are interesting. The paper also highlights the important survey findings in respect of demographic profile of undergraduate students and also highlighting their E-Resource use pattern.

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