

## Use Pattern of Electronic Resources by the IET Faculty in MJP Rohilkhand University: A Study

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### **Abstract:**

Now-a-days the availability of e-resources is very common in the university libraries. But their proper and maximum use is a matter of discussion. The present study sought to identify the use of e-resources by engineering faculties of the MJP Rohilkhand University. The study also highlights the preferences and importance of online resources.

*Keywords: e-resources, online journals, online databases.*

### **Introduction:**

Doubtlessly, libraries are the lighthouses of information dissemination, an important component of any educational institution and hub of learning activities where students, researchers and teachers can explore the huge amount of information resources. The application of computers in information processing has brought several products and services to the scene. The internet and web are constantly influencing the development of new modes of scholarly communication. Electronic resources are one of the emerging environment in libraries and information communication in the competitive service. E-resources usually consist of e-books, e-journals, articles, newspaper, thesis, dissertation, databases and CD-ROMs, which are likely to be the alternative to the print media. Emerald, Ebsco, Scopus are some of the examples of online databases. All updated information is published in these e-resources. The familiarity and use of electronic information resources in the libraries for rapid development is necessary and important. According Narayana and Goudar <sup>(1)</sup> Libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis in recent years both in their collection development and in their service structure. Over the last several years, a significant transformation has been noticed in collection development policies and practices. Print medium is increasingly giving way to the electronic form of material.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of this study are as under:-

- a) To assess the amount of familiarity and frequency in the use of the different types of electronic resources
- b) To find the purpose and utilization of the electronic resources and services by the users
- c) To know the level of satisfaction on current e-resources
- d) To know the difficulties encountered by the users while using e-resources
- e) To assess the opinions of users on electronic format over the print format

### **Review of Literature:**

A number of relevant studies have been carried out on the use of e-resources by teachers, students and research scholars of universities and research organizations. In 2005, Kumbar and Lohar <sup>(2)</sup> have made a survey which was focused on student attitudes toward digital resources and services. It revealed that the majority of the students are using the digital resources frequently. Doraswamy <sup>(3)</sup> has conducted a survey in the year 2005 by using the questionnaire method. The findings show that 61.25% students are familiar with electronic information resources, 27.50% of the students use the computer daily and 5.63% have never used it. The main problem faced while using electronic information resources was lack of proper training. Razaand and Upadhyay <sup>(4)</sup> have carried out a survey in the year 2006 to examine the usage of e-journals by the researchers at Aligarh Muslim University. They used questionnaire method to find out purpose and place used by research scholars for using e-journals. The survey reveals that all the researchers are aware of e-journals in AMU. Mostly research scholars are consulting e-journals from their departmental labs/libraries and computer centers, not only for research purposes but also to update their knowledge. Some problems like lack of proper training and slow downloading have been found and the researchers felt about the need for print journals as well as electronic journals. Kaur <sup>(5)</sup> reports in her survey in 2006 that e-resources can be good substitutes for conventional resources if the access speed is fast, access to all the important e-journals is provided and more computer terminals are installed to provide access to e-resources. Kaur and Verma <sup>(6)</sup> have conducted a survey that was an attempt to study the issues like use of electronic information resources, its impact on the collection of print and electronic journals its awareness among the users, and the places where the users are accessing these resources. This survey was conducted in the academic year 2006-07 at the Thapar University, Patiala. A total number of 504 users from the undergraduate, postgraduate, research scholar and faculty members were selected and their response was obtained with the help of questionnaire. The findings show that users from all the categories were using e-resources. The awareness about e-resources encourages users to use such resources to the maximum; and the users are using computer center and hostels more for accessing the information. The impact of e-resources was visible from the decrease in number of printed journals in comparison to the increase in number of electronic

journals. The use of e-journals has increased manifold. The printed material is being quickly replaced by the electronic resources. Naqvi <sup>(7)</sup> has found in his survey that 49% of respondents are marginally satisfied with online services provided by the library. The survey indicates that the use of e-resources in Jamia Millia Islamia is not satisfactory and needs constant guidance/orientation to enhance their usage. Thanuskodi <sup>(8)</sup> has carried out a study in Annamalai University. In this he found that the growth rate in usage of electronic information resources is sufficiently high and if this trend continues for few more years, a time may come when the print versions will get 'totally eclipsed'.

### Methodology:

Keeping in view the above objectives in mind, a questionnaire was prepared to collect data from the faculty members in the Institute of Engineering and Technology, MJP Rohilkhand University. Questionnaire contains the various questions pertaining to the use of internet and e-resources. For this purpose a total of 90 questionnaires were distributed. Out of 90 questionnaires, 80 were collected and then data was analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in the following manner.

### Data Analysis/Interpretation:

Data analysis is the ultimate step in research process. It is the link between raw data and significant results leading to the conclusions. This process of analysis has to be result oriented.

Table1: Uses of Different Electronic Resources

Databases	Respondents
E-Journals	56 (70%)
E-Manuscripts	20 (25%)
E-Data Archives	14 (10.75%)
E-Books	26 (30.25%)
E-Thesis	12 (10.50%)
E-Mail	54 (60.75%)
WWW	55 (60.87%)

The above table shows that majority of the teachers 56 (70%) prefer to use e-journals. Second highest preference is www and use of e-mail with 55 (60.87%) and 54 (60.75%). Rest of the e-resources i.e. e-manuscripts, e-data archives, e-books and e-thesis are comparatively less used.

Table 2: Level of Internet and Computer Literacy

Variables	Number	Percentage
Expert	47	58.75

Average	20	25.00
Below Average	13	16.25
Total	80	100.00

The respondents were asked to indicate their level of Internet and computer literacy. It is evident from table 2 that majority of respondents (58.75%) have an expert level of internet and computer literacy. 25% admitted that they are average level of internet and computer literacy. Only 16.25% respondents reported that they have below average level of internet and computer literacy.

Table 3: Methods of Learning Internet Skills

Variables	Number	Percentage
Trial and Error	23	28.75
Guidance by colleagues and others	28	35
Refresher/Orientation programs	29	36.25
Total	80	100.00

Table 3 depicts that the most popular method of acquiring the necessary skills to use internet is via refresher/orientation programs. A majority of the respondents (i.e. 36.25%) used this method to learn the internet, followed by guidance from colleagues and others with 35% responses. 28.75% learnt through trial and error.

Table 4: Frequency of use

Frequency	Number	Percentage
Usually	33	41.25
weekly	26	32.50
Monthly	21	26.25
Total	80	100.00

Table 4 shows that, majority of the faculties (41.25%) using e-resources usually. 32.50% use e-resources weekly and 26.25% use the monthly.

Table 5: Frequency of use of different databases

Databases	Use Often	Use Sometimes	Never Use
IEEE	32 (40%)	40 (50%)	8 (10%)

Springer Link	36 (45%)	33 (41.25%)	11 (13.75%)
Emerald	31 (38.75%)	40 (50%)	9 (11.25%)
JSTOR	22 (27.5%)	28 (35%)	30 (37.5%)
DOAJ	33 (41.25%)	39 (48.75%)	8 (10%)
Wikipedia	27 (33.75%)	35 (43.75%)	18 (22.5%)
UGC Infonet	29 (36.25%)	37 (46.25%)	14 (17.5%)

Table 5 shows that percentage of using Springer link is highest and JSTOR is lowest. 40% faculties use often IEEE, 50% use sometimes and 10% never use. 45% faculties use often Springer link, 41.25% use sometimes and 13.75% never use. 38.75% faculties use often Emerald, 50% use sometimes and 11.25% never use. 27.5% faculties use often JSTOR, 35% use sometimes and 37.5% never use. 41.25% faculties use often DOAJ, 48.75% use sometimes and 10% never use. 33.75% faculties use often Wikipedia, 43.75% use sometimes and 22.5% never use. 36.25% faculties use often UGC Infonet, 46.25% use sometimes and 17.5% never use.

Table 6: Purpose of using E-resources

Purpose	Number	Percentage
For research/review work	42	52.5%
For preparation of projects	38	47.5%
For gathering subject specific information	45	56.25%

Various professional purposes for which electronic information resources was used were elicited from the respondents. Table 6 indicates the purpose of using the electronic information resources. Most of the faculties used e-resources for ongoing research work, projects work and for gathering subject specific information.

Table 7: Reasons for using E-resources

Reasons	Number	Percentage
Time saving	46	57.5%
Ease to use	45	56.25%
More informative	44	55.0%
Less expensive	47	58.75%
More useful	43	53.75%

Table 7 elaborates that majority of the faculties prefer to use e-resources in comparison to traditional resources because 46 (57.5%) of them feel that e-resources are time saving, followed by easy to use, i.e. 45 (56.25%), further followed by more informative, less

expensive and more useful, i.e. 44 (55.0%), 47 (58.75%) and 43 (53.75%) respectively. The results from aforesaid table reveal that e-resources are much preferred by respondents due to their various natures.

### **Findings:**

The findings of this survey obviously ascertained the opinion that engineering faculties have good computer skills that enable them to search and utilize e-resources. It also seems the possession of computer skills alone are not adequate for efficient use of e-resources, hence more organized training programs are needed to familiarize some of the members.

### **Conclusion:**

Study shows that e-resources provide latest, comprehensive and up to date information which are essential for research and study. E-resources are very common among the faculties of IET, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University. The emergence of electronic information and communication environment has provided the academic community with wide opportunities to satisfy their information needs. In terms of information seeking, today's user seems to be comfortable with using a wide variety of sources for information.

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