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Awareness and Perception towards Open Access Resources among the Students and Faculty of Management Science: A Case Study of TIMT, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana

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ABSTRACT

The information resources available in electronic form are playing very important role in academic, research and teaching work in higher educational institutions all over the world. Nowadays, the trend goes with the open access resources. This study analyses the awareness and perception towards open access resources among the management students and faculty of Tilak Raj Chadha Institute of Management and Technology (TIMT), Yamuna Nagar, Haryana. The data were collected from postgraduate students and faculty members of Management Science of the institution. The study reveals that the majority of the respondents (82.95%) were aware about open access resources and use for their academic activities. Various purposes and reasons for using open access resources, various problems facing and satisfaction level of the respondents towards the awareness and use of open access resources was also discussed in the study. Finally, the researchers also suggested that more awareness and training programs should be conducted on regular intervals so that users get familiar with the use of open access resources effectively.

Keywords: Open access, Open access e-resources, ICT, Awareness, Management

INTRODUCTION

In this era of Information Communication Technology (ICT), the format of information and resources has been changed and also the way of access to the resources also been changed dramatically. Priorities of users towards required information and resources have changed rapidly. Even the advancement in information technology has also impacted the information scenario as well as users requirements. Now, the trend of e-resources has in vogue specially the e-resources available in open access mode, which are freely available in public domain. Open access resources are those electronic resources, which are available to the users free of charge. In open access mode, users can freely read, copy, download, sharing with others, print and may link to full texts of these articles. Open access resources are not limited only to open access journals but it may found in various other forms, which are widely used by the users such as open e-book, open databases, open access repositories and institutional depositories (Prince and Sarvanan, 2015, p.1). Modern academic library is a conglomeration of printed books and journals as well as electronic resources where both forms of the documents can be stored, retrieved and delivered as and when required.

The diversified hunt for information and knowledge, the innumerable books and other printed materials together with endless and ever increasing scholarly e-resources makes the traditional management of academic library a difficult task. Now access of information is no longer restricted to what is physically available in a particular library. Worldwide access can be enabling to libraries for never-ending sharing of information and knowledge in digital form that is 24×7 available, easily edited or updated and easy to use; however, the effective utilisation depends on the positive perception of users towards open access resources. In this technological era, every type of libraries is changing their collection type and services. Nowadays, a trend is going with electronic resources available in open access domain, which can be accessed free of charge. Therefore, a study was planned to know the awareness and perception towards open access resources among the management students and faculty of TIMT, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana.

Electronic Resources

Simply, any information resource, which is available in digital form rather than physical form, called electronic resource. With the rapid development of electronic publishing, libraries are not only acquiring documents in physical form such as printed books and journals but also arranging for providing access to various learning resources in electronic form. In the new situation, librarians are now playing the new role of access manager of e-resources rather than acquisition manager and custodian of scholarly resources in print form (Karanjkar, 2010, p. 215). Most of the scholarly resources are now available only in electronic form because of ease of access.

Open Access Resources

In simple words, open access, which means the information resources available in open access domain and given the rights to the end users to access the desired

information free of charge. According to Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI),

In response to the growing demand to make research free and available to anyone with a computer and an Internet connection, some recommendations were developed by leaders of the Open Access movement, which has provide the public with unrestricted, free access to scholarly research-much of which publicly funded and without most copyright and licensing restrictions.

In this era of information explosion, one of the major barriers for scholars and researchers is lack of access to the current literature in their concerned field of subject or specialisation. The open access movement addresses this barrier by arguing for the free availability of literature on the public Internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or link to the full texts of information or resource, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the Internet itself. (www.soros.org/openaccess/).

LITERATURE REVIEW

An attempt has been made to review some of the existing literature on open access resources, which are discussed in this section.

Obuh (2013) conducted a study to know the perceptions and attitude towards the use of open access scholarly publications among the library and information science lecturers in Southern Nigeria and found that though the level of usage of open access publications by both senior and junior lecturers of library and information science in Nigeria is high; however, junior lecturers appear to utilise open access publications slightly more than their senior colleagues. In an another study, Kaba and Said (2015) found that the faculty members possess a good knowledge and a

positive perception of open access resources and they frequently use open access resources for teaching, learning and research activities; however, the female faculty members were more likely to use open access resources than male faculty members of Al Ain University of Science and Technology (AAU), Al Ain, UAE. Kassahun and Nsala (2015) conducted a survey to know the awareness of academic librarians towards open access resources to support reference services in private institutions of higher learning in Gaborone, Botswana and found that out of total 12 academic librarians, only four were aware of open access resources; however, those who were aware had adopted the open access concept but were not actively involved in its practice when providing reference services. In another study conducted on open access behaviours and perceptions of health sciences faculty and roles of information professionals of Tanzanian health sciences universities, Lwoga and Questier (2015) found that most of the faculty members were aware about open access issues; however, the high level of open access awareness among faculty member did not translate into actual dissemination of faculty's research outputs through open access web avenues. Prince and Saravanan (2015) conducted a survey in the higher educational institutions in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu and found that the majority of the respondents were fully aware about open access resources and use for their academic activities and also found that the majority of the respondents were using open access resources for their course-related work and satisfied its uses in their academic activity. In an another study conducted by Nagaraj and Bhandi (2016) at Raman Research Institute, Bangalore found that more than 50% of the respondents were aware about open access resources and they regularly use the contents available on open access for their research and scholarly work. More than 67% of the respondents or social scientists were aware about open access resources available in

their concerned research area but were not keen to publish their research work in open access resources because of publishing charges are very high; however, more near about 55% of the respondents were positive towards the citation of open access resources in their research publications (Hegde, 2017). Soni *et al.* (2018) found that 'Shodhganga' and 'DOAJ' were the most used open access resources by the library and information science research scholars at Jiwaji University, Gwalior; however, among them most of the scholars were facing difficulty in accessing e-resources due to inadequate number of computers (27.3%), lack of skills in searching (22.7%), complicated searching interface of e-resources (18.2%) and unavailability of required information (13.6%).

Keeping in view these findings, a study was planned to know the awareness and perception towards open access resources among the management students and faculty of TIMT, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana.

TIMT, YAMUNANAGAR: A BRIEF PROFILE

TIMT was established in 1999 in Yamuna Nagar city of Haryana State of India. TIMT is a sister concern of Seth Jai Parkash Mukand Lal Institutions that runs as many as 25 institutions of repute in Northern India. It has been named after Prof. Tilak Raj Chadha, who persistently worked for the cause of morals and standards in education. TIMT is affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, and approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The institute is offering MBA, MCA, BBA and BCA courses.

TIMT LIBRARY: A BRIEF PROFILE

TIMT library is operating in fully computerised environment with using Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). Library is well stocked in print and electronic collections of books, periodicals, databases, and so on.

The library is providing best lending and reference services to its users. A brief status of the library is given as under:

Table 1: Current Status of the TIMT Library, Yamuna Nagar

Information resources	Quantity
Books	17,912
Bound journals	6,762
Databases	01
CDs/DVDs/VCDs	2,983
Total	27,658
Library membership	
Faculty	25
Students	521
Total	546

Source: Questionnaire survey

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Several studies have been conducted in different states of India about the e-resources on its usage, perception, attitude, user satisfaction, information literacy and so on, but few studies were conducted among the open access resources, such as use and user perception of electronic resources. However, in Haryana, no systematic study has been conducted on awareness and perceptions towards open access resources. Hence, the researchers have felt the need to fill this gap and has decided to conduct a study on awareness and perception towards open access resources among the management students and faculty of TIMT, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana. The open access resources are very useful for students, research scholars and faculty members to fulfil their desired information requirements.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Problem for this study was the awareness and the perception of the management students and faculty of TIMT, Yamuna Nagar on open access resources, purpose for using open access resources, level of satisfaction and facing difficulties while accessing open access resources. Hence the problem for the present study was entitled as 'Awareness and perception towards Open Access Resources among the management students and faculty: A Case Study of TIMT, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana' and to suggest some possible actions in order to improve service delivery and to achieve ultimate users' satisfaction.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study is basically concerned with the awareness and perception towards open access resources among management students and faculty of TIMT, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana. However, the following specific objectives were identified:

- To determine the awareness about open access resources among the users

- To identify the gender-wise usage of open access resources among the users

- To determine the purpose of using open access resources among the users

- To understand the satisfaction level of users on using open access resources

- To determine the users' perceptions towards the open access resources

- To investigate the problems facing by the users while using open access resources

- To provide suggestions based on the findings for better utilisation

METHODOLOGY

The study intends to measure the awareness and perception towards open access resources among the management students and faculty of TIMT, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana. Therefore, the method adopted for the study is survey method. The population of the study consists of PG students (MBA) and faculty

members of management discipline. Respondents for the study were selected based on the stratified random sampling technique. The study mainly based on primary data collected through questionnaires from the respondents. A structured questionnaire was used to collect the data from the respondents. The questionnaires were distributed among the 100 users in the month of December 2017, which includes 75 postgraduate (MBA) students and 25 faculty members, out of which, 88 filled questionnaires (67 students and 21 faculty members) were received back with 88% response and finally consider for analysis. The secondary data were collected from the institute websites, pamphlets, prospectus and other electronic and print resources.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The collected data were analysed and interpreted by using simple percentage method in the form of tables as given below:

Table 2: Academic Status of the Respondents

Academic status	No. of respondents (*n*=88)	Response (%)
Postgraduate (M.B.A.)	67	76.14
Faculty	21	23.86

The data given in Table 2 reveals the academic status of the respondents. Out of total 88 respondents, 76.14% respondents were studying in postgraduate program (MBA) who gave their response positively to the survey, whereas 23.86% respondents were the faculty members of management discipline.

Table 3 highlights the gender-wise distribution of the respondents. Out of total 88 respondents, 61.37%

Table 3: Gender-Wise Distribution of Respondents

Gender	No. of respondents (n=88)	Percentage
Male	54	61.37
Female	34	38.63

were male respondents and 38.63% were the female respondents.

Table 4: Frequency of Library Visit

Frequency	No. of respondents (n=88)	Percentage
Daily	24	27.27
Twice a week	19	21.59
Weekly	09	10.23
Fortnightly	15	17.05
Monthly	21	23.86

It is evident from Table 4 that 27.27% respondents were visited the library daily followed by 23.86% monthly, 21.59% twice a week, 17.05% fortnightly and 10.23% once in a week.

Table 5: Awareness and Use of Open Access Resources

Awareness	No. of respondents (n=88)	Percentage
Yes	73	82.95
No	15	17.05

The data presented in Table 5 show the awareness and use of open access resources among the respondents. Figures in table show that majority of the respondents (82.95%) were aware about the open access resources and use the same for their academic, research and teaching work, whereas 17.05% of the respondents show their unawareness towards the open access resources.

An examination of the data presented in Table 6 indicates the various purposes of the respondents towards the use of open access resources. The data showed that 55.68% of the respondents were using the open access resources for studying course-related material, whereas 39.77% of the respondents mostly the faculty members were using open access resources for writing articles/papers. It is also evident from the data that 37.5% of the respondents were using the open access resources for updating their subject

Table 6: Purpose of Using Open Access Resources (Multiple Answers Permitted)

Purpose	Respondents (n=88)	Percentage
For studying course-related material	49	55.68
For preparing class assignments	22	25
For research/project work	19	21.59
For updating subject knowledge	33	37.5
For preparing campus interview	14	15.90
For writing articles/papers	35	39.77
For teaching	16	18.18

knowledge followed by for preparing class assignments (25%), for research/project work (21.59%), for teaching (18.18%) and for preparing campus interview (15.90%).

Table 7: Reason for Using Open Access Resources (Multiple Answers Permitted)

Reason	Respondents (n=88)	Percentage
Freely available	88	100
May use anywhere/anytime	75	85.23
Available in full text	44	50
Easy to collect and use	63	71.59
All information in one place	58	65.90
Comfortable with digital contents	27	30.68

Table 7 shows the various reasons for using open access resources by the respondents. The data revealed that all the respondents (100%) were using open access resources because of freely available, whereas 85.23% respondents were preferred to use open access resources because they may use these resources anywhere/anytime due to availability in open access domain.

Table 8: Satisfaction Level towards the Use of Open Access Resources

Satisfaction level	Respondents (n=88)	Percentage
Fully satisfied	32	36.36
Satisfied	48	54.54
Not satisfied	08	9.10

The data presented in Table 8 highlight the satisfaction level of the respondents towards the use of open access resources and found that 54.54% of the respondents were responded that they were satisfied with the use of electronic resources available in open access mode, whereas 36.36% of the respondents said that they were fully satisfied with the use of open access resources; however, 9.10% of the respondents were not satisfied towards the use of open access resources.

The presented data in Table 9 indicate the various problems faced by the respondents while using open access resources. The data demonstrate that 31.81% of the respondents were not get sufficient time to access the e-resources available in open access mode due to their busy schedule of classes followed by lack of awareness and skills to use computer and Internet (21.60%), data speed or network problem (19.32%), not comfortable with e-resources (14.77%) and information resources are not up to dated (12.5%).

MAJOR FINDINGS

Based on the analysis, the following major findings have been summarised as given below:

Table 9: Problems Faced while Using Open Access Resources

Problems	Respondents (n=88)	Percentage
Data speed or network problem	17	19.32
Not comfortable with e-resources	13	14.77
Lack of awareness and skills to use computer and Internet	19	21.60
Lack of time to access the e-resources	28	31.81
Information resources are not up to dated	11	12.5

- Only 27.27% of the respondents were visited the library daily

- The majority of the respondents (82.95%) were aware about the open access resources and use the same for their academic, research and teaching work

- Among the respondents, 55.68% were using the open access resources for studying course-related material, whereas, 39.77% of the respondents among which mostly the faculty members were using open access resources for writing articles/papers

- Majority of the respondents (85.23%) were preferred to use open access resources because they may use these resources anywhere/anytime due to availability in open access domain

- Among the respondents, 54.54% were satisfied with the use of electronic resources available in open access platform

- About 31.81% of the respondents were not get sufficient time to access the e-resources available in open access mode due to their busy schedule of classes.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Electronic resources especially available in open access domain are getting high worth in academic, research and teaching work nowadays. Awareness and use of open access resources in the management or any higher educational institutions has usual these days. Lot of electronic books, electronic journals, electronic database and multimedia database are freely available in the Internet on various open access platform. It provides more benefits to the academic community in the higher education system for quality education initiatives to the younger generation. Even the open access resources would help the organisations, which cannot afford to subscribe or purchase expensive databases or e-resources but lots more need to be done. The Internet searchers need to be systematic and accurate for which subject thesaurus needs to be developed. This may be helpful to the students, researchers and faculty of academic institutions of higher education with special reference to the management science or discipline. This study reveals that the majority of the users in TIMT, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, have awareness and uses open access resources to fulfil their information needs. After analysing the data, the findings reveal that some of the respondents were not using open access resources or e-resources due to lack of awareness and skills to use computer and Internet. Therefore, it is suggested that the concerned authority should conduct more awareness and training programs on regular intervals so that users can enhance their familiarity in use of open access resources effectively especially e-resources available in the web or Internet.

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