

Importance of information and knowledge services to the users, researchers and professors in Electronic Era: A survey

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ABSTRACT

The paper emphasizes importance of information and knowledge services to the users, researcher and professors in an electronic era. It also highlights points like increasing use of World Wide Web and electronic resources. Due to that use of libraries decreases. The data have been collected through structured questionnaire. 25 users data have been collected and analyzed. Result reveals that information and knowledge is importance for users, researchers and professors, but their way of accessing information have been changed. They are more attracted towards Electronic resources. Because of that libraries have to change their resources they have to accommodate electronic resources with print resources.

Keyword: emphasizes, electronic era, questionnaire, accommodate, analyzed.

INTRODUCTION

The information overflow on the internet is the common question today. More and more information are available on the internet. This global change radically affects the information seeking behavior of the users. Before the advent of computer and World Wide Web users were mostly depend upon the libraries to get the required information. Print resources are the only way to get information. Due to that libraries and print publications were at considerable high position. But now the situation is completely changed, users get all required information from computer and internet. Due to that users were not limit to the geographical distance. They can access information from any place at anytime from anywhere. Electronic resources are used to provide accurate and timely information to specially to the professors and research scholars. (Upkebor 2011) . Electronic resources have been greatly contributing to the research activity.

When we define electronic resources it includes electronic journals, E-databases, E-Magazines, Wiki books, etc. Many of these resources are freely available on the internet. Some of them are of License version. These huge changes transform the large scale development in the information world. To meet the user's high demand for electronic information many consortia have also been in existence which provide access to electronic information at low subscription rate. Main aim of these consortia is to increase productivity in terms of research and education.

In this competition era use of information has a great importance. Users of any discipline are keen for accessing information to meet the competition in the global market. But on the way of information path they do not want libraries because they want information speedy and without visiting the local place, so that importance of information increases but they are more interested to use electronic information resources. (Kamila 2007)

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES:

An "electronic resources" is defined as any work encoded and made available for access through the use of computer. It includes electronic data available by remote access and direct access via computer network. An "Electronic resources" is any information sources that the library provides access to an electronic format. These e-resources includes lots of things like full-text journals, newspapers, company information, e-books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, economic data, digital image, industry profile, market research, career information etc. (Ask Librarian) (libanswers.utep.edu/a.php?qid)

LITERATURE REVIEW

Fredrick Olatunji Ajegbomogun and Olaronke O. Fagbola in the article, “Electronic Resources Access and Usage for Scholarly Research Work by Postgraduate Students at Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta” said about increasing usage of electronic resources and usage for the research scholars by post graduate students at University of agriculture in Abeokuta. The purpose of this paper is analyses accessing the frequency of use of e-resources and strategies to improve the use of e-resources among students. With the descriptive survey design with the help of questionnaire found that the postgraduate students use email as a means of communication while other electronic facilities that can aid their research works were not adequately used by them. Recommendations were made for improvement. Data collected were analysed using simple percentage, frequency counts and the mean. (Fagbola 2015)

Bajpai,R P, Mal, Bidyut K. and Bajpai, Geetanjali in the article, “Use of e-resources Through Consortia :A Boon to Users of Indian University Libraries” said that libraries work as an important part in higher education system. In India academic libraries are facing lots of problems due to low budget and high price in library resources. Now a days library’s environment have been under the considerable revolution, new generation are more interested to use electronic resources. Many efforts have already been taken to overcome the problem of financial crises. One of the option found and that is resource sharing. This resource sharing are possible through consortia for university libraries. GUC-INFONET and INDEST-AICTE are two major consortium working on that. It provides peer reviewed journals, databases at lower rate of subscription. These efforts must be a boon to university library users which will definitely boost the level of higher education system in our country. (Bajpai 2009)

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

1. To know the importance of information and knowledge for students, researcher and professors
2. To identified information seeking habit of students, researcher and professors
3. To find out distinction between usage of digital resources and print resources.
4. Users perception about libraries.

RESEARCH METHOD

In order to identify importance of electronic resources among the students, research scholars and professors 25 academic libraries data have been collected through structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was design in a way which find out number of print resources used by students, research scholars and professors and number of e-resources used by them, the data can be found by librarians form their issue register. Observation of users have also been done in the library to know the importance of information and knowledge for students, researcher and professors.

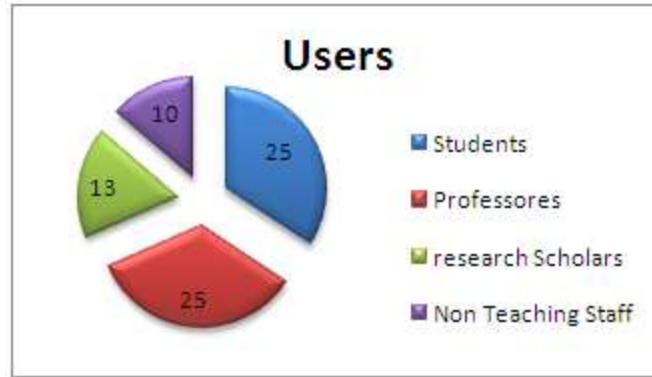
FINDINGS:

Data have been collected from the 25 academic libraries and following results have been found.

Users	Students	Professors	research Scholars	Non Teaching Staff
Users	25	25	13	10

1. 100% librarians responded that their users are students and professors. 52% librarians responded that their users are research scholar and 50% responded that teaching staff is also their users.

Objective: 1 To know the importance of information and knowledge for students, researcher and professors

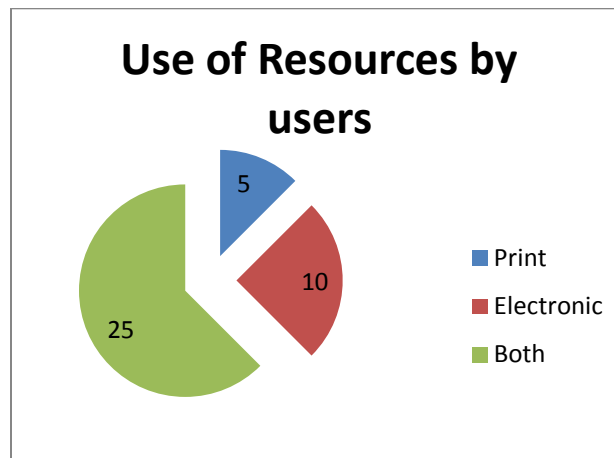


Weekly visit	50-100	100-150	150-200	>200
No of users visit	15	5	4	1

60% librarians responded that 50 to 100 users visit libraries in a week. 20% librarians responded that 100 to 150 users visit libraries in a week. 16% librarians responded that 150 to 200 users visit libraries in a week and 4% responded that more than 200 users are visiting libraries in a week. From this analysis low rate of visit libraries we can say that either users are not required information or knowledge or they get information from other sources.

Objective: 2 To identified information seeking habit of students, researcher and professors

Resource	Print	Electronic	Both
Use of Resources by users	5	10	25



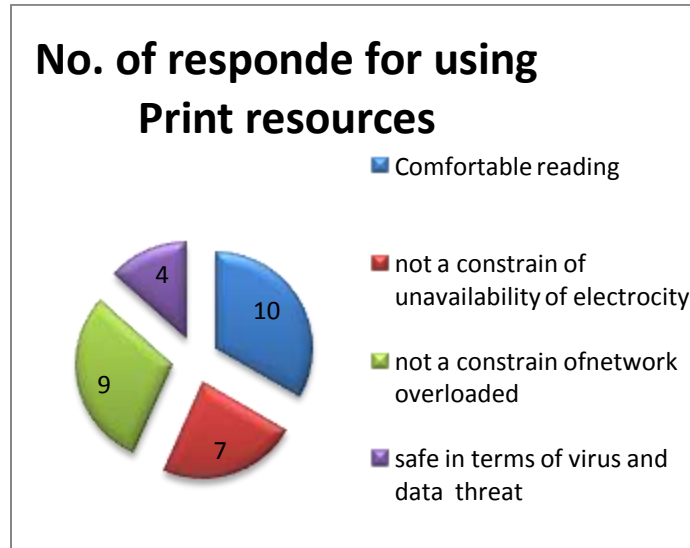
20% users are using print resources, 40% users are using electronic resources and 100% users are using both print and electronic resources for getting information and knowledge. It shows that information is important for the users but they are more into using electronic resources.

• **Why users are using Print resources?**

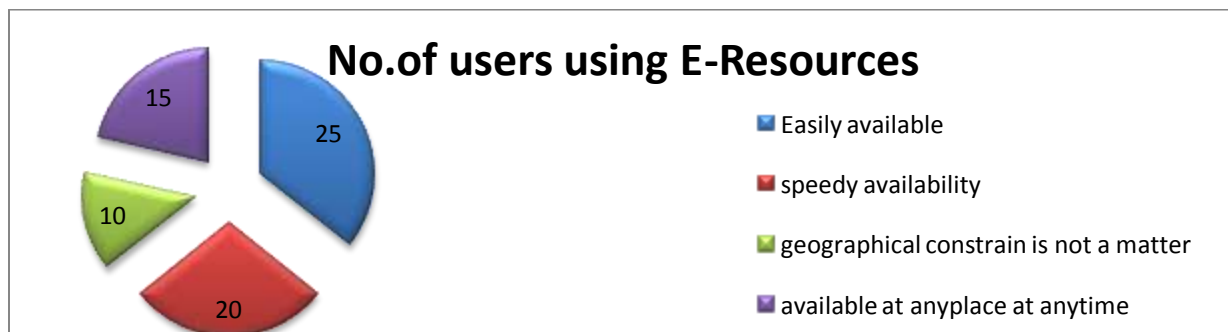
Reason of using E-Resources	Comfortable reading	not a constrain of unavailability of electricity	not a constrain of network overloaded	safe in terms of virus and data threat
No. of response for using E-Resources	10	7	9	4

Out of 25 users 10 users are using print resources because they feel it is comfortable way of reading. 7 users feel that if they are using print resources then unavailability of electronic resource does not effect. 9 users said that network overloaded is also not constraint. 4 users feel that for usage of print resources virus or threat of data is not constrain.

- What is the reason of using electronic resources by the users?



Reason of using E-resources	Easily available	speedy availability	geographical constrain is not a matter	available anyplace at anytime
No.of users using E-Resources	25	20	10	15



100% responded that usages of electronic resources are easily available. 80% users responded that these resources are available speedy. 40% users believe that when they are using electronic resources then geographical location is not constrain. 60% users responded that this resources can be access at any place and anytime. Thus they found that electronic resources are more useful and easily available to access.

OBJECTIVE: 3

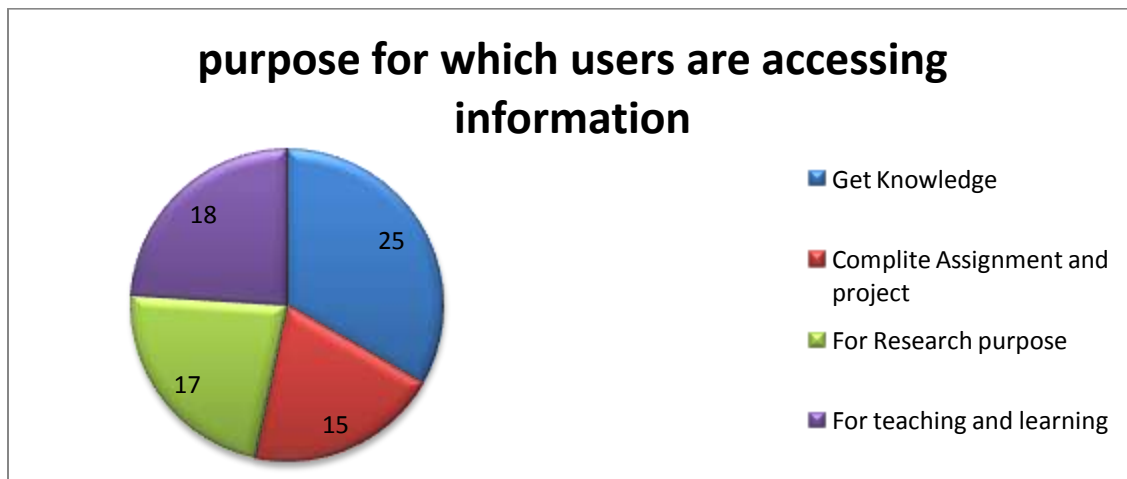
FOLLOWING ARE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN USAGES OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES:

1. Users commented that print resources are comfortable for using where as electronic resources are easily available.

2. They believe that for using print resources electricity is not constrained at the same time they believe that e-resource are speedy available.
3. For using print resources network overloaded is not constrain where as using electronic resource geographical distance is not constrain.
4. Users believe that use of print information is safe with threat and virus where as e-resources are available at any place and at anytime.
5. Users are mainly using E-Books, E-journals, E-article and online website for getting knowledge.

USERS PERCEPTION ABOUT LIBRARIES

	Get Knowledge	Complite Assignment and project	For Research purpose	For teaching and learning
purpose for which users are accessing information	25	15	17	18



This analyze shows that 100% users are accessing information to get knowledge, 60% users responded for completion of assignment, 68% users using information for research purpose where as 72% responded that they are using information for teaching and learning. Thus it proves that students, researcher and professor are satisfying their information need for different purpose but the main aim is to get knowledge.

OBJECTIVE: 4

USERS PERCEPTION ABOUT LIBRARIES

When it is asked to the users their perspective about using libraries for getting information and knowledge they responded that library is good source of information where they are getting all the required information. But just libraries need to update their resources and have to accommodate both print as well as electronic resources. Many libraries are updating their resources and have electronic resources with print materials. When it is asked them the reason for low visit of library, common answer is that they are not getting time to move from their work place to visit library and therefore they are using more electronic resources and satisfy their information need.

CONCLUSION

From the above findings the discussion reveals that information and knowledge is very much importance for students, researcher and professors for satisfying their varying needs. In academic library students are more using libraries to access information for their exam preparation, project work and reading. They are equally using print as well as electronic

resources. But when they are asked they prefer that they wish to use online information if it is available in their library. Researchers are visiting less to libraries because all most of them are working persons and they are not having time to visit libraries and because of that they are more dependent on electronic resources for their research work. They also said that they required more amount of information and it is easily available on internet. Professors are using print resources as well as electronic resources for getting information. Thus, for every person information and knowledge is more important in an electronic era.

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