



Problems faced by the Postgraduate Scholars to Access E-resources in Rajasthan

Shubham Mishra¹, Rajneesh² and Seema Yadav³

Department of Extension Education, RCA, MPUAT, Udaipur (Rajasthan)

ABSTRACT

The present study aimed at identifying the constraints faced and suggestions as reported by the postgraduate scholars in the use of e-resources. In Rajasthan, out of five agricultural universities, three agriculture universities namely MPUAT (Udaipur), SKNAU (Jobner) and SKRAU (Bikaner) running postgraduate programmes for more than 20 yr were selected purposively. From each university, 60 respondents were selected randomly. The primary data were collected using questionnaire method and analysed using simple tabular analysis. The results revealed that the major constraints faced by the postgraduate scholars in use of e-resources were lack of trainings for e-resources, lack of professional & skilled persons in the library and lack of knowledge about information technology. As reported by the respondents to use e-resources the major suggestions were strengthening the library by employing the professional and technical staff by the university, training programmes must be organized for the students about use of e-resources and awareness generation by arranging different programmes for the users to educate them about e-resources. Hence, it was recommended that university should organize training programs for better use of e-resources. Besides, the facilities like improvement of internet speed, number of workstations with Wi-Fi facility and increasing the number of terminals and printers in the libraries, computer laboratories with access to internet should also be done.

Key Words:- e-Resources, Postgraduate scholars, Training, Internet, Rajasthan.

INTRODUCTION

The use of ICT technologies in academic libraries open the ways to the use of the internet, automation systems and arrangement of electronic information infrastructure in library operation and services. Today we can say that nearly everything is having electronic prefix, and the way information is accessed has changed substantially due to many factors that are becoming more and more widespread every day, such as fast advances in computer technology and the internet. The fact that electronic resources offer innovation and irresistible option in terms of cost and time is obvious, although some people stick to printed resources. Today, many tools such as: books, journals, encyclopaedia, theses, scientific articles and studies are available to access in digital media online databases (Assist

and Ongoz, 2010). The information superhighway, the internet has become a global gateway for information dissemination in recent years, with the ability to share information collected around the world (Ekwelem, 2013). Given the growing trend in the design of digital libraries, portals, intranets, Web 2.0 usage repositories and databases, it was imperative to study the problems faced in the use of e-resources.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Rajasthan state comprises of five Agricultural Universities, out of these three Agriculture Universities were selected on the basis of post graduate programmes (M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Agriculture) running for more than 20 yr in various disciplines. sixty postgraduate scholars were

Corresponding Author's Email: krishnaagrains.1990@gmail.com

^{1&2}Ph.D. Scholar

³Ph.D. Scholar Department of Extension Education, Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture University, Jobner, Jaipur (Rajasthan)

Table 1: Constraints faced by the postgraduate scholars in use of e-resources.**n=180**

Sr. No	Constraint	MPUAT		SKNAU		SKRAU	
		Udaipur		Jobner		Bikaner	
		MPS	Rank	MPS	Rank	MPS	Rank
1.	Lack of trainings for e-resources	93.33	I	91.11	I	89.44	I
2.	Lack of professional & skilled persons in the library	92.77	II	90.56	II	86.67	II
3.	Lack of knowledge about information technology	92.22	III	87.78	III	85.56	III
4.	Inadequate infrastructure facilities of e-resources	91.66	IV	85.56	IV	85.50	IV
5.	Poor network connection for e-resources	90.00	V	85.11	V	84.56	V
6.	Slow speed of internet in the library	89.77	VI	85.00	VI	84.00	VI
7.	Limited computer terminals in the library	89.33	VII	83.33	X	81.00	XII
8.	Lack of subscription in more foreign journals	89.00	VIII	84.56	VII	82.50	IX
9.	Absence of technical network in digital libraries	88.77	IX	84.11	VIII	82.88	VIII
10.	Access to e-resources is time consuming	88.00	X	81.11	XV	79.33	XIV
11.	Lack of publicity on the contents of the available e-resources by the university	87.66	XI	82.00	XIII	83.33	VII
12.	Restrictions of websites for students to download the materials	85.66	XII	83.89	IX	82.22	XI
13.	Inadequate fund for developing e-resources	85.55	XIII	82.66	XII	79.00	XV
14.	Distract the attention of students due to online advertisements	85.00	XIV	78.66	XIX	77.11	XVIII
15.	Websites are blocked by the Internet Service Provider	84.44	XV	83.00	XI	81.88	X
16.	High cost of surfing time	83.77	XVI	79.00	XVIII	77.88	XVII
17.	Decrease in frequency of reading printed materials due to internet usage	83.00	XVII	79.66	XVI	79.88	XIII
18.	Non-availability of password to the students for using e-resources	82.00	XVIII	81.67	XIV	78.11	XVI
19.	Health issues due to continuous use of computer	81.77	XIX	75.11	XXV	76.11	XXI
20.	Non-user friendly interface to the resources	81.00	XX	75.66	XXIII	76.56	XX
21.	Lack of facilities for timely repair & maintenance of computers	79.33	XXI	79.11	XVII	73.00	XXVI
22.	Lack of knowledge about paid and unpaid sites	79.00	XXII	77.66	XXI	75.11	XXIII
23.	Limited access to older issues	78.77	XXIII	78.11	XX	77.00	XIX
24.	Inadequate skills in using e-resources technologies	78.00	XXIV	72.89	XXIX	74.00	XXV

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25.	Problem of privacy	77.44	XXV	75.00	XXIV	72.99	XXVII
26.	Paid software's are not feasible to access by the students	77.33	XXVI	77.11	XXII	75.88	XXII
27.	Problem of power outage	77.00	XXVII	73.00	XXVIII	70.56	XXIX
28.	Problem of virus for damaging the data	76.66	XXVIII	75.11	XXVI	72.88	XXVIII
29.	Lack of familiarity with the electronic text	75.55	XXIX	73.89	XXVII	74.88	XXIV
30.	e-resource devices are more expensive than printed materials	68.88	XXX	72.22	XXX	68.33	XXX

MPS= Mean Percent Score

selected randomly from each identified college. Thus, a total of 180 postgraduate students were included in the sample for study.

The possible 30 constraints were selected after thoroughly reviewing the literature and pieces of advice of an expert panel. After the pre-testing of the statements, necessary modifications were made. The responses were recorded on three-point continuum *viz.* most severe, severe and least severe, and the numerical value was assigned by 3, 2 and 1, respectively. Afterwards, responses were counted and converted into mean per cent score for each constraint and then ranked accordingly.

Mean score was calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Mean score} = \frac{\text{Total score of each statement}}{\text{Total number of respondents}}$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A perusal of data (Table 1) showed that lack of trainings for e-resources with mean per cent score of 91.29 was perceived as most important constraint by the postgraduate scholars and hence ranked first. The next important constraints reported by the postgraduate scholars were lack of professional & skilled persons in the library with MPS 90.00 and lack of knowledge about information technology with 88.52 MPS which were ranked second and third, respectively by the respondents.

It was evident from the table that constraints *i.e.*, inadequate infrastructure facilities of e-resources, poor network connection for e-resources, slow

speed of internet in the library, lack of subscription in more foreign journals, absence of technical network in digital libraries, limited computer terminals in the library, lack of publicity on the contents of e-resources by the university with mean per cent score 87.57, 86.56, 86.26, 85.35, 85.25, 84.55 and 84.33, respectively, were also reported by the respondents.

The other notable constraints as realized by the respondents for use of e-resources were restrictions of websites for students to download the materials, websites are blocked by the Internet Service Provider, access to e-resources is time consuming, inadequate fund for developing e-resources, non-availability of password to the students for using e-resources, decrease in frequency of reading printed materials due to internet usage, distract the attention of students due to online advertisements, high cost of surfing time, limited access to older issues and, non-user friendly interface to the resources with MPS of 84.55, 83.11, 82.81, 82.40, 80.59, 80.85, 80.26, 80.22, 77.96 and 77.74, respectively.

It was also revealed that health issues due to continuous use of computer, paid softwares were not feasible to access by the students, lack of knowledge about paid and unpaid sites, lack of facilities for timely repair & maintenance of computers, problem of privacy, inadequate skills in using e-resources technologies, problem of virus for damaging the data, problem of power outage and e-resource devices are more expensive than printed books were also realized as important constraints by the postgraduate scholars in the use

of e-resources with the level of 77.66, 77.48, 77.26, 77.15, 75.81, 74.96, 74.88, 74.77, 73.52 and 69.81 MPS, respectively.

University-wise analysis of data in table reveals that the extent of constraints faced by the postgraduate scholars of MPUAT, Udaipur was from 68.88 to 93.33. While in case of postgraduate scholars of SKNAU, Jobner the extent of constraints was from 72.22 to 91.11. The extent of constraints perceived by the respondents of SKRAU, Bikaner was noted to be from 68.33 to 89.44 per cent in the use of e-resources. The possible reason in facing problems with e-resources might be that majority of the postgraduate scholars did not have sufficient knowledge and skills about e-resources. Moreover, experts were not available in the universities for training to the students about various e-resources. Similar findings have been reported by Mani *et al* (2019) also found that lack of training, lack of expertise in ICTs, lack of subscription of more foreign authors and inadequate infrastructure were key constraints that prevent effective use of e-resources.

SUGGESTIONS

The data (Table 2) revealed that strengthening the library by employing the professional and technical staff by the university as suggested by the majority of the postgraduate scholars was ranked first with MPS 96.77. The next important suggestions reported by the respondents were training programmes must be organized for the students about use of e-resources with MPS 95.74 and awareness generation by arranging different programmes for the users to educate them about e-resources with MPS 94.62 ranked second and third, respectively.

It was further revealed that library should open a separate e-resources section and it should be open 24X7 so that the users can access e-resources, networking system should be upgraded in the library and hostels, institutes should organize seminars, workshops and orientation programmes

for student at regular intervals on use of e-resources, library should increase their working hours of e-learning/e-resources section, the accuracy of internet speed should be maintained to have fast access to e-resources, academic libraries should prioritize e-resources as the major information resources and ensure its potential usage and library should preserve and protect e-resources because the security is needed to prevent unauthorized changes to websites were important suggestions provided by the postgraduate scholars with MPS 99.29, 95.74, 91.66, 89.81, 89.03, 88.33 and 88.29, respectively.

Moreover, use of EIR must be increased in the library for improving the academic performance of the users, improved software must be installed for making e-learning more effective, proper internet facilities should be maintained among intra & inter departments, changing era of e-learning needs to encourage the users about e-learning which is used anywhere, anytime at minimum cost and computer terminals are installed to provide fast access to e-resources were also viewed as important suggestions for effective use of e-resources with 87.00, 86.92, 86.44, 85.92 and 85.66 MPS, respectively.

The other suggestions were the library must automate housekeeping operations and ensure that services to their users are efficiently provided, financial assistance should be provided to the institutions strengthening the e-resources by the government and ICAR, high speed Wi-Fi needs to be established, regular power supply should be ensured by the institutions and the e-resources subscribed by the library should be periodically evaluated with the extent of 84.51, 83.70, 83.52, 82.33 and 82.22 MPS, respectively.

Least preferable suggestions as reported by the postgraduate scholars were library should give much attention in making availability and building the electronic information resources on ETD (Electronic Thesis or Dissertation), more number of e-journals must be subscribed by the university, development policy of acquisition of e-resources

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Table 2: Suggestions of postgraduate scholars for effective use of e-resources.

n=180

Sr. No	Suggestion	MPUAT		SKNAU		SKRAU	
		Udaipur		Jobner		Bikaner	
		MPS	Rank	MPS	Rank	MPS	Rank
1.	Strengthening the library by employing the professional and technical staff by the university	97.77	I	95.88	I	96.66	I
2.	Training programmes must be organized for the students about use of e-resources	96.66	II	95.00	II	95.55	II
3.	Create awareness by arranging different programmes for the users to educate them about e-resources	95.55	III	93.88	III	94.44	III
4.	The library should open a separate e-resources section and it should be open 24X7 so that the users can access e-resources	94.44	IV	89.11	VI	93.33	IV
5.	Library should increase their working hours of e-learning/e-resources section	93.33	V	85.00	VIII	90.00	IX
6.	Institutes should organize seminars, workshops and orientation programmes for student at regular intervals on use of e-resources	92.77	VI	90.00	IV	92.22	VI
7.	Networking system should be upgraded in the library and hostels	92.22	VII	89.66	V	93.33	V
8.	The accuracy of internet speed should be maintained to have fast access to e-resources	91.66	VIII	84.33	X	91.11	VII
9.	Use of EIR must be increased in the library will improve the academic performance of the users	91.11	IX	82.11	XV	87.77	XII
10.	Academic libraries should prioritize e-resources as the major information resources and ensure its potential usage	90.66	X	84.88	IX	89.44	X
11.	Proper internet facilities should be maintained among intra & inter departments	90.11	XI	83.11	XII	88.33	XI
12.	Library should preserve and protect e-resources because the security is needed to prevent unauthorized changes to websites	89.88	XII	85.00	VIII	90.00	IX
13.	Improved software must be installed for making e-learning more effective	89.33	XIII	83.11	XII	88.33	XI
14.	Changing era of e-learning needs to encourage the users about e-learning which is used anywhere, anytime at minimum cost	88.88	XIV	83.88	XI	85.00	XVII
15.	High speed Wi-Fi needs to be established	88.33	XV	80.00	XVII	82.22	XX
16.	The library must automate housekeeping operations and ensure that services to their users are efficiently provided	87.77	XVI	79.11	XIX	86.66	XIV

17.	Computer terminals are installed to provide fast access to e-resources	87.22	XVII	82.77	XIV	87.00	XIII
18.	The e-resources subscribed by the library should be periodically evaluated	86.66	XVIII	76.11	XXIII	83.88	XIX
19.	Financial assistance should be provided to the institution for strengthening the e-resources by the government and ICAR	86.11	XIX	80.55	XVI	84.44	XVIII
20.	Library should give much attention in making availability and building the electronic information resources on ETD (Electronic Thesis or Dissertation)	85.55	XX	79.88	XVIII	79.55	XXII
21.	More number of e-journals must be subscribed by the university	85.11	XXI	78.66	XX	79.00	XXIII
22.	Development policy of acquisition of e-resources must be formed	84.00	XXII	75.88	XXIV	81.11	XXI
23.	Regular power supply should be ensured by the institutions	83.33	XXIII	78.11	XXI	85.55	XVI
24.	Publicity programme should be organized timely on the availability of e-resources	82.88	XXIV	77.44	XXII	78.55	XXIV

MPS= Mean Percent Score

must be formed and publicity programme should be organized timely on the availability of e-resources with the extent 81.66, 80.92, 80.33 and 79.62 MPS, respectively. Dongradive (2015) also reported the similar results.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study revealed that the major problems faced by the respondents to use e-resources were lack of trainings for e-resources, lack of professional & skilled persons in the library and lack of knowledge about information technology. As suggested by respondents strengthening the library by employing the professional and technical staff by the university, training programmes must be organized for the students about use of e-resources and awareness generation by arranging different programmes for the users to educate them about e-resources. Hence, it was recommended that university library need to take more initiations to enhance the utility by orientation and training programmes on the various e-resources. The facilities like improvement of internet speed,

number of workstations with Wi-Fi facility and increasing the number of terminals and printers in the libraries, computer laboratories with access to internet, may also be provided by the Agriculture Universities.

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