

STATUS OF E--JOURNALS IN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN HARYANA, PUNJAB AND DELHI

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Abstract:

The present study has been carried out to know the status of electronic journals in a few agricultural university libraries of Haryana, Punjab and Delhi. This paper has also covered other aspects like historical background and general profile in respect of services, membership, and internet facility etc. to assess the basic requirement for access and management of e-journals. After collecting data from selected agricultural libraries using survey technique it was assessed and analyzed and in tabled, on the basis of which findings related status of e-journals and other facilities have been drawn.

Key Words: Scenario of e-journals, Agriculture University Library

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Universities in every country play a significant role in building up its capacity for many advantageous engagements. Similarly, information is also very important for the development of a nation. So, the use of information and communication technologies is being encouraged and practiced with a great zeal in every university of various developing countries like India.

The Agricultural Universities are major partners in growth & development of Agricultural Research and Education under National Agricultural Research System. There are total 62 state agricultural universities, 5 Deemed to be universities, 2 Central Agricultural University and 4 Central Universities with Agriculture Faculty. (ICAR, 2016)

2.0 Objectives:

- To know the status of e-journals in Agricultural university libraries of Haryana, Punjab and Delhi.
- To peep in historical background of Agricultural university libraries of Haryana, Punjab and Delhi.
- To assess the general profile of selected Agricultural university libraries of said states.
- To identify and compare the membership, services and other facilities of selected Agricultural university libraries
- To know the librarians' opinion about use of e-journals in respective Agricultural university libraries.

3.0 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The study has been conducted in a few selected Agricultural universities of Haryana Punjab and Delhi viz. Central Library (IARI, New Delhi), M.S Randhawa Library (P A U, Ludhiana), Nehru Library (CCSHAU, Hisar), National Library in Dairying (NDRI, Karnal) only. Data was collected through Librarian Questionnaire, telephonic discussions with Librarians/Representatives annual reports, library brochures/online brochures, documents provided by librarian/library staff as well as from respective Library's website/portals during 2009-10.

3.1 CENTRAL LIBRARY, IARI, NEW DELHI

IARI was originally established in 1905 at Pusa (Bihar) with the financial assistance of an American Philanthropist, Mr. Henry Phipps, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) started functioning from New

Delhi since 1936 when it was shifted to its present site after a major earthquake damaged the Institute's building at Pusa (Bihar). The Indian Agricultural Research Institute is the country's premier national institute for agricultural research, education and extension. It has the status of a 'Deemed-to be-University' under the UGC Act of 1956, and awards M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in various agricultural disciplines. (IARI, 2016)

IARI Library is well known as one of the largest and the premium agro biological libraries. The Library was providing reference service, Internet surfing, OPAC/Web opac, circulation service, reprography/ printing Service. Library was a member of DELNET (Developing library Network) and AGLINET (Agricultural Library Network) and served as the depository of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome and Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) institute's publications (IARI, 2009-10).

3.1.1 Scenario of e-journals

The central library was giving access of various journals of different publishers namely Springer, Taylor & Francis, Annual Reviews, CSIRO (Australia), etc. The e-journals in library were accessible through CeRA (Consortium for e-resources in Agriculture) and all were IP authenticated thus, could be accessible only within the campus of the University connected internally by LAN. However abstract level access was provided outside the campus.

Table 1 E-journals available through CeRA

E-journals	Publisher
22 e-journals	Annual Reviews Inc
08 e-journals	CSIRO Publishing
357 e-journals	Elsevier Science
91 e-journals	IndianJournals.com
71 e-journals	Springer-Verlag
1184 e-journals	Taylor and Francis Ltd
1089 e-journals	Open access journals

Beside these e-journals, Library provided access to 27 e- journals subscribed against print journals.

4.0 MOHINDER SINGH RANDHAWA LIBRARY, PAU, LUDHIANA

The Punjab Agricultural University was established in 1962 to serve the state of erstwhile Punjab. On trifurcation of Punjab in November 1966, Haryana Agricultural University was carved out of PAU by an Act of Parliament in February 1970. Later, in July 1970, Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidalya was established (PAU). Punjab Agricultural University Library had five storey building, centrally air-conditioned and surrounded by lush green lawns. This library had 760 seating capacity in its five Reading Halls. The library was providing Reference Service, Internet surfing, OPAC/Web Opac, Circulation Service, Reprography/ Printing Service (M.S. Randhawa library, 2016).

4.1 Scenario of e-journals

The library was giving access of various journals of different publishers namely Springer, Taylor & Francis, Annual Reviews, CSIRO (Australia), etc. The e-journals in library were accessible through CeRA (Consortium for e-resources in Agriculture) and all were IP authenticated thus, could be accessible only within the

campus of the University connected internally by LAN. However abstract level access was provided outside the campus. Besides e- journals through CeRA, the Library provided access to 7318 online journals subscribed through J-Gate. (Information provided by Librarian/ Representative)

5.0 NEHRU LIBRARY, CCSHAU, HISAR

CCSHAU was initially a campus of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. After the formation of Haryana in 1966, it became an autonomous institution on February 2, 1970 through a Presidential Ordinance, later ratified as Haryana and Punjab Agricultural Universities Act, 1970, passed by the Lok Sabha on March 29, 1970. A. L. Fletcher, the first Vice-Chancellor of the university, was instrumental in its initial growth. Though the establishment of the library coincides with the establishment of College of Veterinary Sciences in 1948, the year 1975 is a land-mark in its history, as the present library building - named after Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India - was officially dedicated to the university community in this year. The Library has six big reading halls with capacity to accommodate 650 readers, a night reading hall, 21 carrels for research scholars and scientists, 6 seminar rooms, a browsing hall, a bookshop, an exhibition hall, a committee room, 10 office rooms, bindery and, spacious lobbies. It is providing reference service, CDROM database service, OPAC/Web opac, Internet surfing, circulation service, HAU bookshop, book bank service, videoconferencing and multimedia facility, reprography/ printing service (Nehru library, 2016).

5.1 Scenario of e-journals

The Nehru Library of HAU was also providing access to e-journals through CeRA. More than 2800 e-journals were accessible to library users via facility of CeRA. The Library was also providing access to 15 e-journals subscribed against print journals (Nehru library, 2009-10).

6.0 NATIONAL LIBRARY IN DAIRYING, NDRI, KARNAL

The National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal was originally started as Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in 1923 at Bangalore. It was expanded and renamed as Imperial Dairy Institute in 1936 and was known as National Dairy Research Institute after independence in 1947. Subsequently, in 1955, NDRI headquarter was shifted to Karnal. Facilities at Bangalore were retained to function as a regional station to serve the Southern States. The Institute provides high quality education in the field of dairying, which has no parallel in Asia. It is noteworthy that NDRI is not only an important contributor of manpower in dairying required at State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) but also it plays an important role in enhancing the teaching capabilities of SAU's dairying faculty.

National Library in Dairying was established in 1955 consequent on the transfer of the institute from Bangalore to Karnal. During the year, library developed with the growth of the institute. The library collection comprised a choice collection of publications on dairying, animal husbandry and related discipline. The library was providing reference service, CDROM database service, OPAC/Web opac, Internet surfing, circulation service, book bank service, reprography/ printing service.

6.1 Scenario of e-journals

Library was also providing journals through CeRA and of different publishers namely Springer, Science Direct, Annual Reviews, CSIRO (Australia), Taylor & Francis etc. through CeRA. The Library was giving access to 13 e-journals subscribed against print journals.

7.0 COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SELECTED TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

An analysis of data collected from selected technical university libraries viz IITD, NITK, NITJ, TIET, PEC, CCSHAU, PAU, NDRI, IARI has been provided and compared in the following tables:

Table. 2 General profile of Agricultural Libraries

Agricultural Universities				
Profile	CCSHAU	PAU	NDRI	IARI
Year of Est.	1970	1962	Origin in 1923, in Bangalore Karnal since 1955	Origin in 1905, Pusa Bihar New Delhi since 1936
Name of the Library	Nehru Library	M.S Randhawa Library	National Library in Dairying	Central Library
Website Address	www.hau.ernet.in	www.pau.edu	www.ndri.res.in	www.iari.res.in
Year of Est. of Library	1975	1962	1955	1936
Library Automation Year	2000	1998	1995	1998
Campus LAN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Software being Used	Libsys	Libsys	Libsys	Libsys
Total Collection	3,34,118	3,78,127	88,925	6,00,000

Table 2 shows that

- Among all agricultural university libraries selected for study, IARI library was oldest among all agricultural university libraries.
- All Agricultural libraries have their own websites. Three agricultural university libraries (CCSHAU, PAU and NDRI) had separate names while IARI named as 'Central Library'. Libraries were generally established in the same year when the institution came into being but Nehru library of CCSHAU was established as a university library after five years of establishment of the university. Earlier, it was functioning with a small collection in two big halls each in agriculture and veterinary college.
- Among all agricultural libraries, NDRI library was the first library to start automation in the year 1995 while CCSHAU was the last to start automation in 2000. Automation was first NDRI (1995) followed by PAU and IARI (both 1998).
- All libraries were using LIBSYS software
- IARI library was having largest collection of 6 lakh printed documents followed by CCSHAU library and PAU library having more than 3 lakhs printed documents.

Table 3 Library membership

University	Total Students' membership	Faculty's membership	Total membership
CCSHAU	2232	650	2882
IARI	225	1400	1625
PAU	3023	849	3872
NDRI	405	597	1002

Total membership of students and faculty members in the selected agricultural university libraries has been shown in above table 3. It is clear that among all the agricultural university libraries, more membership (3872) was registered in PAU library, whereas NDRI registered least members (1002) during the period. It is also clear that IARI had registered more than double number of faculty (1400) than CCSHAU (650 in same period).

Table 4 Services offered

Services	Libraries			
	CCSHA U	NDRI	PAU	IARI
a) Reference Service	√	√	√	√
b) Internet surfing	√	√	√	√
c) Videoconferencing and Multimedia facility	√			
d) Circulation Service	√	√	√	√
e) Library Bookshop	√			
f) OPAC/Web OPAC	√	√	√	√
g) Book Bank Service	√	√	√	√
h) CD-ROM Database Service	√	√	√	√

Table 4 reveals that all agricultural university libraries provided Reference Service, Internet Surfing, OPAC and Circulation Services. CD-ROM database service and Book Bank Service were being provided by all agricultural libraries. It is also clear that among all agricultural libraries only CCSHAU Library provided Library Bookshop facility by the name of 'HAU Bookshop'. Similarly, Videoconferencing and multimedia facility were also been provided by CCSHAU Library only.

Table 5 Internet/Intranet access locations

Universities	Campus Library	Dept Lib/Labs	Faculty Cabins	Hostels
CCSHAU	√	√	√	-
NDRI	√	√	√	-
PAU	√	√	√	-
IARI	√	√	√	√

Table 5 shows that all faculties of PAU, NDRI and IARI had internet/intranet connections in their cabins while in IARI only senior faculty had this facility. It is also revealed that only IARI had given internet/intranet facility in students' hostels

Table 6 Ratio of use of print and e-journals: Librarians' opinion

Use Ratio					
E-journals	Print journals	HAU lib	PAU lib	NDRI lib	IARI lib
50	50			√	√
25	75	√	√		
75	25				

Above table shows the librarian's opinion about the ratio of use of print and e-journals during the period. The views expressed here are of the library professionals handling the periodicals section. It is clear that among all agricultural universities, users at CCSHAU and PAU libraries were viewed by the librarians to use print and e-journal at ratio 75:25 while in NDRI and IARI libraries it was viewed to be 50:50.

Electronic Journals subscribed in libraries through CeRA-consortium

Among all the technical university libraries, only agricultural university libraries were getting the benefit of e-journals through CeRA. The publisher wise list of e-journals is given in the following table:

Table 7

Electronic Journals subscribed in agricultural libraries through CeRA-Consortium

• Annual Reviews Inc	• Springer-Verlag
• CSIRO Publishing	• Taylor and Francis Ltd
• Elsevier Science	• J-Gate
• IndianJournals.com	

8.0 CONCLUSION

In the era of Information Communication and Technology, growth of e-resources in every academic library is going on but the speedy growth is being done in Research University /Institutional libraries. Agriculture Libraries are hub of many researches being done in agriculture field and ICT has been proved a boon for this field for advance researches. Under the umbrella of ICT, Information via different kind of e-resources mainly the latest information in the form of e-journals is being communicated among agricultural scientists/researchers. The study has depicted the scenario of e-journals in a few agricultural universities of three states only during a particular period but this type of studies can be carried out in other agricultural libraries in India.

9.0 REFERENCES

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