ACCESSIBILITY AND USAGE OF E-RESOURCES AT SKUAST-K : FACULTY MEMBERS & RESEARCHERS' VIEWPOINT

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Abstract : The paper seeks to examine the awareness and usage of e-Resources among the faculty members and research scholars of SKUAST-K. It highlights the usage of e-Resources among the research community as well as the awareness about the e- books. The present study was carried out by conducting a survey using questionnaire method. The study explores about the availability of e-Resources in the Library for the research community. It reveals the factors which affects the access and usage of e- Resources. The paper examines the satisfaction level of the users about the facilities provided by the Library to access and download the e- Resources. The study may be very useful for those interested in exploring the e- Resources models or wish to buy the collections and then assess the return on investment.

Keywords: E- Resources, E-Books ,Central library SKUAST-K, faculty libraries, Usage study

1.0 Introduction

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) was established in the year 1982, and is a multi-campii University. The Library System of SKUAST-K comprises of 'Central Library' (CL) at the main campus Shalimar, and five Faculty Libraries and ten Research Centre/Station Libraries all across the Kashmir & Ladakh. The Library has about 80,000 + volumes of books and about 20,000 current and old journals in hard and soft copies .On an average, about 250 students, teachers and other members visits the central library alone every day. It has world few famous rare collection of manuscripts and large number of artifacts. It also subscribes to the electronic resources and e-books for various disciplines to facilitate the patrons. The present study focuses on the faculty members and   research community and the use of e-Resources by them. The large community of Faculty Members and   research scholars uses the Library day and night; the Library provides various facilities to access the e-Resources and e-books. The Library has recently opened a Digital Resources Centre with 10 computer terminals having the Linux/Windows operating system. This Digital Resources Centre provides a high speed internet facility to access the e-resources of the Library. The Information Technology has brought out a rapid change in every aspect of life as well as in the field of education. Nowadays, people want remote and quick information available on Internet as well as stored on their PCs, laptops, smart phone, etc. This concept of information delivery was unexpected before computer's epoch. These days, library users wants the information and reading material in electronic and digitized format and this concept differs from country to country and region to region. However this trend is not that much popular in developing countries. In India, the use of e-journals in libraries is increasing rapidly but the use of e-books is not so much as compared to the e-journals. This is due to certain circumstances like availability of reading devices, proper infrastructure and networking, fund crunch etc. The Library System supports the teaching, research and extension programmes of the University. All the Libraries in the System have been computerized and barcoded. The services are rendered in an automated mechanism both through online and offline mode. Efforts have been made to facilitate the users with nascent information resources in the field of Agriculture and allied disciplines. A sound IT Infrastructure base and Network facility has been established in all the constituent Libraries of the System. The sources and services of the System have been made highly visible through a dynamic Webpage incorporated in the University website and has also a live Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). The Library Webpage has attracted researchers/ scholars of the valley. Details about the faculties are as under: 1. Faculty of Agriculture (FOA) Library at Wadura Sopore; 2. Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & AH (FVSc.) Library at Shuhama Srinagar; 3. Faculty of Fisheries, Rangil, Ganderbal (FOFy); 4. Faculty of

Forestry, Benihama, Ganderbal; 5. Faculty of Horticulture, Wadura Sopore. The library system though multi-campus in nature is quite adequate, and well commensurate with the number of registered Library Members.

2. 0 History and Definition of E-Resources (An overview)

An electronic resource or e-resource "is any cohesive publication in digital form that is being marketed" or "any electronic product that delivers a collections of data, be it text, numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available resource" and includes "full text databases, electronic journals, image collections, multimedia products, collections of numerical data" (Lee & Boyle, 2004, p. 5.). The International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC, 1998) (http://www.icolc.net) defines e-information (or electronic information) as "a broad term that encompasses abstracting and indexing services, electronic journals and other full text materials, the offerings of information aggregators, article delivery services, etc." which can be accessed via remote networks from information providers, or locally mounted by a consortium or one of its member libraries. The electronic information resources, commonly known as e-resources are becoming an important component of modern libraries. E-resources started to emerge in 1740s with the invention of semi-mechanised punch card readers. But it took a lot of time to establish its significance and ultimately in 1970s most of the electronic sources were available on a new medium of storage and communication called magnetic tapes. This medium paved a way for their future online mode (Ravichandra Rao, 2000). The kinds of e-resources that are available and accessible today are based on physical storage media (CD-ROM, magnetic tapes, audio, video cassettes etc); intranet (locally produced e-resources) and Internet also called online (remotely stored & remotely accessible e-resources). The first ones are much like the traditional 'paper based publications' with the exception that they require computer hardware and software for their utilization (Jodelis, 2003). The e-resources have found place in all academic and research libraries of India. The Agricultural libraries of India have also developed rich collection of e-resources both in offline and online mode. The CDROM and Mirror Server based abstracting databases like that of CAB abstracts, FST abstracts, MEDLARIS, CA and the like were the foremost e-resources introduced by them. Nowadays thousands of online e-journals, e-theses, e-books are made available to scientists and the students of agricultural universities on cooperative basis like that of CeRA, KrishiPrabha, CAB e-books, open sources of information, etc. Being an agricultural university Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) is not an exception to it.

3. 0 Availability of E-Resources Like E-books and e-journals in Library

Central Library SKUAST-K   currently subscribes to e-books and e-journals from Elsevier Science Direct and providing access to 850 subscribed e-books for the below disciplines/subjects as mentioned:

- CeRA,
- JABS and Open Access Journals
- 7500 full text Indian Agricultural
- Doctoral Dissertations available as KrishiPrabha
- 554 Masters' and Doctoral Electronic Theses
- 225 full text post-prints
- 850 e-books available as CAB e-books;

4.0 Important Online E-resources Like

- OpenDOAR,
- OpenDOAB
- AGRIS
- KrishiKosh

5.0 Purpose & Objectives

The aim of this paper is to assess the awareness and utilization of e-Resources and e-books among the Faculty Members and the researcher scholars of SKUAST-K. The study also reveals the problems faced by faculty members and the research scholars in accessing and downloading of the e-Resources.

The other objectives of the study are:

- To explore the ability and inability of users in accessing the e-Resources ;
- To understand barriers faced by the users while using/accessing the e-Resources ;
- To evaluate the satisfaction level of users regarding infrastructure facilities and other relevant mediums provided by the Library to access the e-Resource .

6.0 Methodology

The present study is based on questionnaire method which was used for collecting comprehensive and relevant data from the faculty members and   research scholars. A total of 150 questionnaires were sent online through Google forms out of which 100 valid samples were analyzed. The analysis of data collected covers awareness of E-Resources likes E-Books, E-journals ,Number of potential users of E-Books, problems faced by the users while accessing/downloading the E-Books, e-Journals infrastructure facilities available and satisfaction level of users.

7.0 Data Interpretation

The data which was collected by conducting an online survey was entered into the numerically coded MS-Excel spreadsheet. The collected data was organized, analyzed, compared, consolidated, tabulated and interpreted in percentages by using tables, charts, and diagrams The analysis of the data received from the online survey from the respondents has been discussed below.

Table 1 Represents the Response Rate of the Respondents

Mode of distribution of questionnaire	Questionnaire administered	Questionnaire received	Questionnaire analyzed
Google Forms	150	120	100

The investigators administered a total of 150 questionnaires through online medium, out of which 120 faculty members and researchers participated in the online survey, and only 100 valid responses were analyzed and included in the data representation

Table 2 shows about the familiarity of e-Resources among Faculty members and research scholars. 80% respondents says that they are familiar with the e-books, while 20% says that they are not familiar with e-resources.

Table- 2: Familiarity with E-Resources

Category	Percentage
Yes	80%
No	20%
Total	100%

Figure 1 represents the frequency of accessing and downloading the e-Resources by the faculty members as well as research scholars. 39% respondents says that they accesses and downloads the e-Resources on daily basis, 34% says that they access e-Resources on weekly basis, 22% access on monthly basis, 3% says that they access the e-Resources on a yearly basis. While 2% research scholars says that they never accessed and downloaded the e Resources
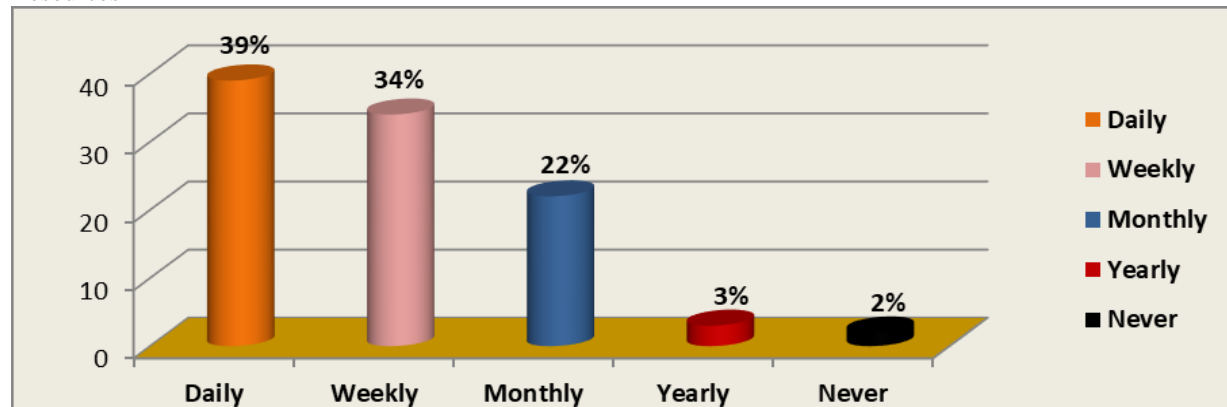

Figure-1: Frequency of accessing e- Resources

Table 3 below represents the subscription of e-Resources. 35% respondents says that Library doesn't purchase the relevant e-books from their subject areas or domain, while 65 percent accepted that the Library purchased the relevant e-books of their choice and need.

Table-3: Does Library Purchased Relevant E-Resources

Category	Percentage
Yes	65%
No	35%
Total	100%

The figure 2 shows the satisfaction level of the respondents about the facilities provided by the Library to access and download the e-Resources. The respondents were asked about the satisfaction level on four rating points

  a) Strongly Agree
  b) Agree
  c) Disagree
  d) Neither Agree/ Nor Disagree

10 percent faculty members and research scholars Strongly Agreed that the Library has a proper infrastructure and provided better facilities to access and download the e-Resources. While a majority of them i.e. 49 percent Agree on the same. 28 percent research scholars Disagree on the given point while a small number of respondents i.e. 13 percent say that they Neither Agree/ nor disagree on the given question.
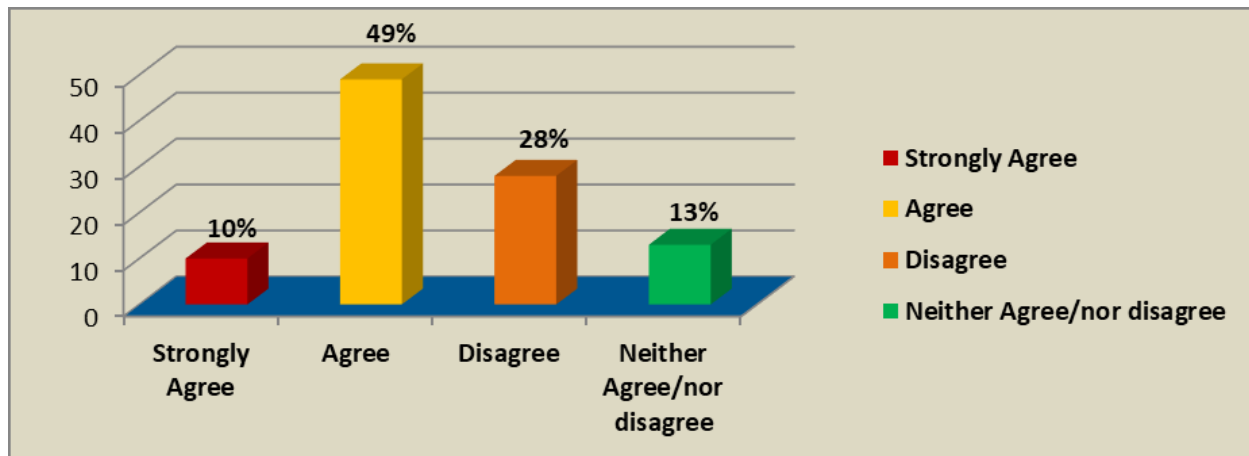

Figure-2: Satisfaction with facilities provided by the Library to access E-   Resources

The below table 4 explains about the problems faced by the research scholars during access and download of the e-Resources. 15 percent research scholars says that there is lack of computers for accessing the e- Resources , while a majority of 40 percent says that speed of internet is very slow when they access the e- Resources . 10 percent researchers says that there are old computers with low system configuration which stuck and create trouble for smooth access of the e- Resources, 6 percent respondents says that there is a lack of staff for helping them while they access the e-books and 29 percent of them have several others problems while they access and download the e-Resources .

Table-4: Problems In Accessing E-Resources

CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE
Lack of computer/Terminals	15%
Slow Internet speed	40%
Old computers with low configuration	10%

Lack of staff	6%
Others	29%
Total	**100%**

8. 0 Usage of Agriculture and allied disciplines (Abstract database)

It is evident that majority (64.79%) of the subjects under study were aware and using abstracting database of "Centre for Agricultural and Biological International" popularly known as CABI. followed by AGRIS (33.80) and Agricola (32.39%). Some users (15.49%) were also noted to use Science Direct or Web of Sciences, although the database was not subscribed by the Library System

Table 5: Abstract Databases Used

Sr.No.	Particulars	No of Respondent	Percentage
1	CABI (CAB Abs)	46	64.79
2	AGRIS	24	233.8
3	Agricola	23	332.39
4	Web of Sciences	11	15.49
5	Current Content	7	9.86
6	FSTA	6	8.45
7	MEDLINE	5	7.04
8	SOIL CD	4	5.63
9	BIOSIS (Bio Abs)	3	4.23
10	Vet CD	2	2.82
11	IPR CD/DVD	1	1.41
12	OCLC	1	1.41
13	PubMed	1	1.41

9. 0 Usage of E-Resources/E-books/E-Journals etc

As mentioned above that the Library subscribed the E-Resources/E-books/E-Journals from Elsevier Science Direct and providing access to 850 subscribed E-Resources/E-books/E-Journals, the investigators also analyzed the usage statistics and represented the usage below in the form of bar diagram
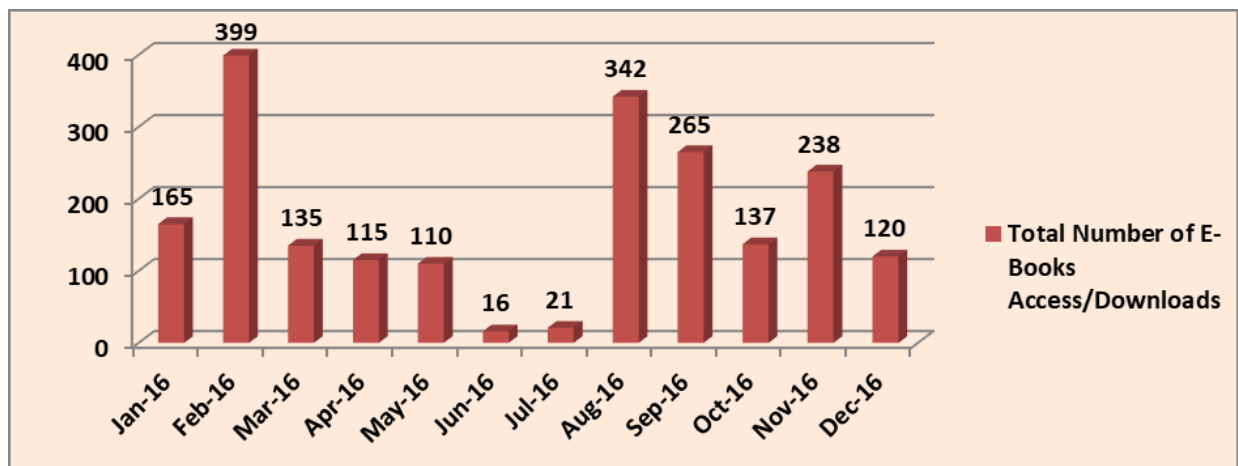

Figure-3: E-Resources/E-Books Usage 2016

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Figure 3 shows the usage statistics for the year 2016. The below data shows only the access/downloads, the data of no access/download of e-books has not been included in the below figures.

9.0 Findings

The findings of the present study shows that the users who know about e-resources see them as potentially useful tool and uses the same as per their need with different frequency of access. Meanwhile, a small number of users is still unaware about the e-books,e-journal,Datadbase. The findings of the study also reveals that the Library has lack of proper subscription/holdings of e-books which is also a drawback among the users at high intense. Though the Central Library and major other faculty libraries etc and academic areas have good internet facilities, however slow internet speed sometimes and promotion is a major cause and obstruction in the use of e-resources among the research community.

A major part of the users stated that Library doesn't subscribe the e-resources relevant to their field of study or subjects. This is due to many problems faced by the Library like the purchase and subscription methods of e-books which are different from print books, availability of e-books, etc. Sometimes the contents of choice are not available in e-books and another important factor is pricing of e-books are diverse, subject to subject and publisher to publisher.

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