

USAGE OF CERA BY THE RESEARCH SCHOLARS: A CASE STUDY

Anju V.C.,

Library Assistant

D.M. Venad Institute of Medical Sciences, Wayanad, Kerala

Email: anjucsekhar@gmail.com

Deepa John

Faculty, Dept. Library and Information Science, S. B. College, Changanacherry, Kerala

Email: jasminejm1984@gmail.com

Supriya Susan Kurian

Librarian, Mar Thoma College for Women, Perumbavoor, Ernakulam, Kerala

Email: supriyasusan@gmail.com

Yamuna P.B.

Faculty, Dept. Library and Information Science, S. B. College, Changanacherry, Kerala

Email: yamunakishor2@gmail.com

Abstract: The present study focuses on the usage of Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA) among research scholars in KUFOS. An attempt has been made to identify the information needs of research scholars in KUFOS. The main aim of this study is to identify the extent of use of CeRA by the research scholars. The study also examines the user's satisfaction on CeRA. Suggestions have been given to eliminate problems faced by the researchers while using CeRA and to make its effective use.

Keywords: Consortium, CeRA, Research Scholars, Fisheries and ocean studies.

1.0 Introduction

Consortium is the joint venture of homogeneous institutions working for the same goals. The concept of consortia provides a wide access of e-resources in the higher education system especially in universities. Libraries in consortia will get vast set of resources that single library cannot access. The consortium-based subscription offers access to high quality peer reviewed journals, published by society, commercial and institute publishers to its members. Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture is the second biggest of the eight prominent consortia in the country and it is popularly known as CeRA, established in November 2007 for facilitating accessibility of scientific journals to all researchers/teachers in the National Agricultural Research System by providing access to information for having excellence in research and teaching¹. The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies was established on 20th November 2010 by government of Kerala. This is the first university in India coming under the fisheries Ministry. The University offers Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Doctoral programmes in fisheries science. The contributions made by this University in the area of Fisheries and Ocean studies in the state are immense. KUFOS is a core member of CeRA consortium. Hence it is essential to know the usage of CeRA by the researchers. So that it will help the library authority to know the extent to which CeRA has been utilized by the research community of the institution.

2.0 Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the use, awareness and impact of CeRA among research scholars in Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies.
2. To identify the most preferable e journal publisher in CeRA by the research scholars in Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies.
3. To assess the level of satisfaction of CeRA among the research scholars in Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies.
4. To identify the problems faced by the research scholars while using CeRA.
5. To suggest remedial measures for the improvement & effective use of CeRA.

3.0 Review of Literature

Vasanth, N., and Anasuya (2012) studied consortia based e-resources subscription initiatives in Karnataka. The main objective of the study is to explore the status of connectivity to the national consortia among science

libraries, evaluating the existing consortia, problems in accessing e-resources. A total of 72 science libraries in Karnataka have been taken into the current research study by distributing questionnaire, out of which 45 questionnaires were duly received with a feedback of 62.5%. The libraries covered in the present survey are three types, namely engineering, medical and research. The study reveals that majority of the engineering colleges are well aware of INDEST consortium, medical and research institutes are well aware in the HELNET (71.4%) and other consortium (75%). 100% of the research institutes have extended the main goal of consortia in the field of increase in the access base. The majority of the engineering (23.1%) institutes are fully satisfied towards consortia to support academic activities.

Bhatt, R.K. (2010) focused on the use of UGC-Infonet digital library consortium resources by research scholars and faculty members of university of Delhi in history and political science. The main aim is to determine the needs of research scholars and faculty members of university of Delhi in the discipline of history and political science and to find out how far their information needs are fulfilled by the information resources available through UGC-Infonet digital library consortium. This study also attempts to define this consortium, its objective, scope, e-resources subscribed and the government initiative to provide current information in various disciplines for research and teaching excellence. Survey was conducted to study the information usage pattern and needs of the researchers and faculty members. The population included in the study comprised 105 respondents from both departments and of that, eight are faculty and 97 are research scholars. The scope of the study is confined to faculty members and researchers of the department of history and political science of the university of Delhi. The study tangibly explains the genesis, e resources facilities and usage of e resources available through UGC Infonet digital library consortium. The UGC- Infonet digital library consortium is the most important consortium providing access to a large array of e-resources to all academic universities and colleges in India and thus facilitates the prompt access and efficient and effective usage of e-resources for teaching and research activities.

4.0 Methodology

The study employed a descriptive survey design, utilizing the questionnaire to collect data. The research scholars of Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies are taken as the population of the study. The total number of research scholars in Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies are 56 and all of them have been included in the study. The questionnaires were distributed to all the research scholars during 12-03-2017 to 30-03-2017. The questionnaire was constructed while keeping in mind the objectives of the study. 54 filled in questionnaires were received back within 10 days of distribution. Percentage method was used to analyze the data gathered through questionnaires.

4.0 Data Analysis

The data collected was analyzed and presented in the forms of tables along with explanations, which made the calculations easy. The same data was also presented in the form of various diagrams, graphs, etc. to make the interpretation easy. Based on the analysis, findings and suggestions are given.

4.1 Awareness About CeRA

Respondents were asked about the sources, from which they came to know about CeRA.

Table 1 Awareness About CeRA

Sl. No	Sources	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Library professionals	18	40%
2	Research guide	17	37.78%
3	Colleagues/friends	13	28.89%
4	Internet surfing	3	6.67.%
5	Advertisement	2	4.44%
6	University website	9	20%

Table 1 shows that multiple responses were received for this question. It reveals that 40% of the respondents indicated that through library professionals they came to know about CeRA, followed by 37.78% from research guide and 28.89% from colleagues/friends, 20% from university website, 6.67% from the internet surfing and 4.44% got information from advertisement.

4.2 Frequency of Using CeRA

A question was asked to know, how often they access CeRA.

Table 2 Frequency of Using CeRA

Sl. No.	Frequency	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	7	15.56%
2	2-3 times in a week	6	13.33%
3	Several times in a week	4	8.89%
4	Occasionally	15	33.33%
5	Once in a week	13	28.89%

Table 2 shows that most of the respondents (33.33%) access CeRA occasionally, while 28.89% use once in a week, 15.56% of the respondents access it daily, 13.33% use CeRA 2-3 times in a week and only 8.89% of the respondents use CeRA several times in a week.

4.3 Search Method to Access e-journals

Respondents were asked to indicate their search method used for searching journals through CeRA.

Table 3 Search Method To Access E-Journals In CeRA

Sl. No.	Methods	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Author	2	4.44%
2	Title	6	13.33%
3	Subject keywords	22	48.89%
4	Combination of words	15	33.33%

Table 3 shows the search method they use to access e-journals in the consortia. It is found that 48.89% users are browsing journals by subject keyword field. When 33.33 % of the respondents browse journals by combination of words, 13.33% are using title for searching articles, and only 4.44% are using author field to access articles.

4.4 Purpose of Using CeRA

Respondents were asked to indicate their purpose of using CeRA.

Table 4 PURPOSE OF USING CeRA

Sl. No.	Purposes	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	To get updates of your subject field	39	86.67%
2	For career information	20	44.44%
3	For publishing articles	9	20%
4	For research purpose	45	100%

Table 4 shows that that multiple responses were received for this question. Analysis reveals that all of the research scholars are using CeRA for research purpose, whereas 86.67% of them are using CeRA to get updates of their subject fields followed by 44.44% of research scholars are using it for career information. And only 20% of them are using CeRA for the purpose of publishing articles.

4.5 Impact of CeRA on Research

Research scholars were asked about the impact of CeRA on their research productivity.

Table 5 Impact Of CeRA On Research

Sl. No.	Impacts	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Expedited research process	41	91.11%
2	Facilitate easier to access information	17	37.78%
3	Facilitate to access up to date information	27	60%
4	Improve professional competence	14	31.11%
5	Facilitate faster to access information	25	55.56%
6	Influence access to wider range of information	11	24.44%

Table 5 shows that that multiple responses were received for this question. Majority of the research scholars (91.11%) experienced an expedition in their research process because of using CeRA. When 60% respondents stated that it facilitated them to access up-to-date information, 55.55% opined that it helped them to access information faster followed by 37.78% responded that it helped them to access information easily, 31.11% said

that it helped to improve their professional competence and 24.44% of the respondents stated that it helped them to access wider range of information in their subject field.

4.6 Extent of Advantage of e-journals

A question was asked to know the extent of advantage of journals provided by CeRA.

Table 6 Extent Of Advantage Of E-Journals

Sl. No.	E-Journals	Update	Ease of search	Reliable information	Full text
1	Annual 0 x=sdhjpreview	18 (40%)	16 (35.56%)	22 (48.89%)	24 (53.33%)
2	AAAS	0	0	0	0
3	ASA	0	0	0	0
4	ASM	0	0	0	0
5	BioOne	0	0	0	0
6	CABI	0	0	0	0
7	CSIRO	6 (13.33%)	0	5 (11.11%)	12 (26.67%)
8	Springer link	39 (86.67%)	40 (88.89%)	34 (75.56%)	36 (80%)
9	Indian journals	32 (71.11%)	29 (64.44%)	26 (57.78%)	28 (62.22%)
10	IWA	0	0	0	0
11	ISHS	0	0	0	0
12	Taylor& Francis	20 (44.44%)	21 (46.67%)	24 (53.33%)	31 (68.89%)
13	Elsevier	40 (88.89%)	42 (93.33%)	39 (86.67%)	35 (77.78%)
14	NPG	0	0	0	0

Table 6 reveals that majority 88.88% of the respondents rated that Elsevier is up-to-date than other publishers, following 86.67% of them to Springer link, 71.11% rated Indian journals. When 44.44% of the research scholars Taylor & Francis, 40% of them rated Annual review and only 13.33% rated CSIRO e-journal publisher is up-to-date. When 93.33% of the respondents indicated that Elsevier journals are easier to search e journals among the publishers available in CeRA, 88.89% of them Springer link followed by 64.44% of the research scholars opinioned that Indian journals is easier to search e journals, 46.67% of them Taylor & Francis and 35.56% of them Annual review. When 86.67% of the respondents reveals that Elsevier provides more reliable information than other publishers in CeRA, 75.56% of the research scholars responded that Springer link provide more reliable information, followed by 57.78% Indian journals, 53.33% indicate that Taylor & Francis provides more reliable information than others, and 48.89% of them Annual review and 11.11% of them CSIRO opinioned provides more reliable information than any other publishers available in CeRA. When 80% of the research scholars responded that Springer link e-journal publishers are providing full text journals, 77.78% of them Elsevier, followed by 68.89% of them Taylor & Francis. When 62.22% of them to Indian journals, 53.33% Annual Review and only 26.67% of them responded that CSIRO helps to access full text e-journal publisher.

4.7 Level of Satisfaction

A question was asked to ascertain the research scholar's level of satisfaction in using CeRA.

Table 7 Level of Satisfaction

Sl. No.	Parameters	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Very much satisfied	3	6.67%
2	Satisfied	23	51.11%
3	Somewhat satisfied	10	22.22%
4	Not at all satisfied	9	20%

Table 7 determines the satisfaction level of the research scholars with the overall coverage of e-journals in CeRA. Only half of the respondents (51.11%) are satisfied with use of CeRA, followed by 22.22% of them are somewhat satisfied. When 20% respondents are not at all satisfied with the overall coverage of e journals in CeRA, a very few of them (6.67%) are very much satisfied with the e-journals available in CeRA.

4.8 Problems

A question was asked to the respondents to identify the problems faced by them in accessing the CeRA.

Table 8 Problems

Sl. No.	Reasons	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Slow internet	41	91.11%
2	Frequently power failure	6	13.33%
3	Difficulty in accessing full text	29	64.44%
4	Insufficient time	5	11.11%
5	Inadequate computer access	21	46.67%
6	Journal articles are not as per Need	11	24.44%
7	Lack of training	36	80%
8	Lack of accessibility in outside the library	38	84.44%
9	Lack of foreign and Indian Journal	4	8.88%
10	Lack of relevant information	25	55.55%

It is evident from the analysis of Table 8 that multiple responses were received for this question. Analysis shows majority of respondents (91.11%) main problem is slow internet and for 84.44% lack of accessibility of CeRA outside the library. When 80% of the research scholars indicated that lack of training is their major problem, for 64.44% difficulty in accessing full text and for 55.55% lack of relevant information are their problem, 24.44% of research scholars opined Journal articles are not as per their need as the main reasons followed by 13.33% of the research scholars indicated that frequent power failure, for 11.11% insufficient time and for 8.88% lack of foreign and Indian journal are their problems faced by them while accessing CeRA.

5.0 Findings

1. Analysis reveals that library professionals and research guides are major sources through which the respondents came to know about CeRA.
2. The study gives clear picture that most of the research scholars use CeRA occasionally.
3. It is found from the analysis that majority of the respondents were browsing journals by subject keyword field.
4. The study reveals that doing research work is the major purpose of using CeRA for the majority of research scholars.
5. It is evident from the analysis that majority of the research scholars experienced an expedition in their research process because of using CeRA.
6. It is clear from the analysis that the Elsevier is the most up-to-date, easy to search e-journal publisher and it provides most reliable information. It shall also be noted that according to the majority of the research scholars Springer link provides full text e-journals.
7. It is evident from the analysis that only half of the respondents are satisfied with the use of e-journals available in CeRA.
8. Analysis revealed that slow internet access, Lack of accessibility in outside the library lack of training and difficulty in accessing full text are the major hindrances faced by the research scholars while using e-journals through CeRA .

6.0 Suggestions

1. The study reveals that the researchers are familiar with e resources but most of them access CeRA occasionally and majority of the research scholars are not aware of all e-journal publishers available in CeRA. It shall be eliminated by taking proper measures such as giving awareness on the importance of effective usage CeRA for their research productivity.
2. Library Consortium agencies have to identify the area where the more opportunities are available for more and more use of the library consortium.

3. It is suggested to include more e-journals/ publishers in agricultural and allied disciplines in CeRA platform for the effective and efficient use of CeRA.
4. Consortia-based digital information services should be strengthened by adding more resources like e-books, databases, theses, reports, union catalogue, e- dissertation of all information documents available in all libraries. The document delivery service should be more effective and inter-consortia services between other consortiums maintained by agencies like ICAR, UGC, CSIR, DRDO, IITs, IIMs, etc., can be considered.

7.0 Conclusion

The study was carried out to evaluate the usage of CeRA by the research scholars of Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Science. Access to e-journals through CeRA has brought considerable benefits to the research community. The study reveals the impact of CeRA in terms of awareness and effective use of the e-journals available in CeRA, with a few constraints reported by the respondents. The drawbacks have also been found and remedial measures suggested. The result of the study will help to solve the problems and improve the use of e-journals through CeRA.

8.0 References

1. Chandrasekharan, H., et al. "CeRA – the e-Journal Consortium for National Agricultural Research System." *Current Science* 102,no.6 (2012):847- 851.
2. <<http://www.kufos.ac.in>>
3. Bhatt, R.K. "The use of UGC-Infonet digital library consortium resources by research scholars and faculty members of university of Delhi in history and political science: A study." *Library Management* 31, no.4/5(2010):42-55.
4. Vasanth, N., and Anasuya. "Consortia based e –resources subscription initiatives in Karnataka." *International Information Dissemination and Technology* 2,no.1(2012)18-23.