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### **Promotion of Use of E-resources in Arts Commerce & Science College Arvi Library**

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#### **Abstract:**

*India has one of the largest Higher Education System in the world. From the last five decades Higher Education systems have grown exponentially to meet the demands of quality education for all. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) has drastically changed the way for collection, processing, storage, retrieval and communication of information in libraries and information centers. With the advent of new information and communication technologies (ICT), a variety of electronic resources are came in to existence like E-journals, E-books, E-mails, patens, E-databases, E-standards, E-thesis, E-chats, etc. E-resources are playing prominent role in providing the access to the users in effective manner. Electronic resources are becoming an integral part of the collection of any institution/organization. Now a day E-resources are playing a vital role in supporting higher education and in fulfilling educational objectives as well as user's expectations .As a result of advent of information technology academic libraries are presently facing many challenges. Libraries must improve the quality of their services to overcome the challenges.*

*Thus, the paper aims to examine the advantages of e-resources, challenges and concerns in the use of E-resources, concerns and challenges related to E-resources and role of information literacy in the useof E-resources in academic libraries.*

**Key Words:** E-resources, E-books, E-thesis, CD-ROM, FTP, Gopher, Information literacy programme.

#### **Introduction**

##### **1. Concept of E-resources:**

According to AACR2, 2005 Update, an electronic resource is: "Material (data and/or program(s)) encoded for manipulation by a computerized device. This material may require the use of a peripheral directly connected to a computerized device (e.g., CD-ROM drive) or a connection to a computer network (e.g., the Internet)." This definition does not include electronic resources that do not require the use of a computer, for example, music compact discs and videodiscs. IFLA defines Electronic Resources as "to those materials that require computer access, whether through a personal computer, mainframe, or handheld mobile device. They may either be accessed remotely via the

Internet or locally". Some of the most frequently encountered types are: E-journals, E-books, Full-text (aggregated) databases, Indexing and abstracting databases, reference database (biographies, dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, etc.), Numeric and statistical databases, E-images, E-audio/visual resources (IFLA,2012).

According to Library and Information Technology Glossary "Term used to describe all of the information products that a library provides through a computer network..."

According to Wikipedia, Electronic Resources means "Information (usually a file) which Can be stored in the form of electrical signals, usually on a computer; Information available on the Internet". There are various types of e-resources available like E-books, E-journals, Databases, CDs/DVDs, E-conference proceedings, E-Reports, E-Maps, E-Pictures/Photographs, E-Manuscripts, E-Theses, E-Newspaper, Internet/Websites- List serves, Newsgroups, Subject Gateways, USENET, FAQs etc.

## **2. Types of E-Resources.**

The Internet is a channel with large number of E-resources. These resources include: E-books, E-journals, E-mail, inter-linked hypertext documents, online help centers, expert's view, file transfer protocol, databases and so on. Some of these resources are discussed as follows.

### **E-books:-**

E-book is a book-length publication in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, Readable on computers or other electronic devices, although sometimes defined as " an electronic Version of a printed book"(WIKIPAEDIA, 2008).An e-book is one of the very important medium in teaching and learning process. E-book covering the contents in the form of text, tables, diagrams, illustrations, etc. and an E-book collection is usually set up in an e-database, which supports full-text searching within and across titles, advanced search and bookmark functions. Users can view full text of e-books in HTML or PDF format online. E-books are usually read with the help of E-book readers or tablets using e-reader applications.

### **E-thesis:-**

An E-thesis is a thesis in digital form that is generally accessed via the internet. It is advanced medium for expressing ideas with less expensive, small space, easy handling and high longevity. Access and storage of, electronic theses is usually facilitated by open access repositories.To provide the wide access to the research in India University Grant Commission(UGC) make it mandatory to submit the research work of researcher in electronic form.UCC developed an e-thesis programme like Shodhganga to ensure that postgraduate research conducted in UCC is widely disseminated. At global level there are many electronic repository came into existence. E-thesis is stored in the UCC institutional on D-Space software.

### **E-journals:-**

E-journals are scholarly or intellectual transmission of information. With the advent of the internet, researchers and academics have recognized the capabilities of the information and communication technologies as efficient means to share results and to

get around barriers by full transfer of intellectual property rights from the author to the publisher; it is also a means of improving the slow turn-over of traditional publishing (Correia and Neto, 2006).

According to Rowley (2006) electronic journals take two different forms: journals that are published in print form, available in digital form and electronic journals which do not necessarily need a publisher, and which can be managed by an editor and the scholarly community. Both types may have a significant impact on scholarly communication and in the way knowledge is created and disseminated. Those are periodical publications which are published in electronic format, usually on the Internet. They are available online or offline containing research papers, review articles, scholarly communications etc. Electronic journals are popular information resources in the libraries because of their efficient access to information.

An Online databases is a database accessible from a local network or the Internet. They may be free or require payment, such as monthly, annually subscription.

The most effective way to provide access to electronic books/journals in University libraries is through subscription to online databases which can be accessed through the internet.

Online databases are a collection of electronic information sources (e-journals/e-books) by publishers from various fields and disciplines (Afolabi, 2007). Some of these databases are provided free of charge to libraries in developing countries by their publishers or vendors. Others require subscription fee such as Emerald database, <http://www.emeraldinsight.com> and Blackwelsynergy: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com>. Access to these databases provides researchers and students with thousands of scholarly articles in their fields of specialization or research (Fatoki, 2004).

#### **CD-ROM databases:-**

CD-ROM databases stores computer data in the form of graphics, text and audio. They are important tools for identifying the bibliographic details of documents and provide easy access to large volumes of literature for research. CD-ROM databases allow users access to relevant databases without robust Internet connectivity in libraries. It is therefore cost effective than online databases as information could be accessed off-line without paying for telecommunications fee (Afolabi, 2007).

#### **Electronic Mail (e-mail):-**

This is an instantaneous digital message sent from a sender to the recipient on the Network. That may contain text, files, images, or other attachments. It is the most used application on the internet. There are various email clients like Gmail, Yahoo, Outlook, Rediff, etc. through which email can be send or receive. The e-mail is relevant for communication old-wide between the research group, teachers and students, peers etc.

### **File Transfer Protocol (FTP):-**

File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is the commonly used protocol for exchanging files over the Internet. FTP uses the Internet's TCP/IP protocols to enable data transfer. File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is a standard internet protocol for transmitting files between computers on the internet. It allows a computer to rapidly retrieve complex files intact from a remote computer and view and save such files on your computer (UCB Library, 2004d).

### **Remote Login:-**

Remote Login permits a computer user to log on to another computer and use it. Remote login access to e-resources provides an opportunity for the best use of the e-resources and offers easy access to various resources of the library through its interface from anywhere. Through remote login, lecturers can access to their university's computer from any other computer connected to the internet anywhere in the world and networked library can access the E-resources. Files can be downloaded; even common computer operation like rebooting can be accomplished.

### **Gopher:-**

The gopher technology is based on a client-server structure. In this technology gopher client program is used to search gopher servers. These Gopher servers can store various' documents, articles, programs, and other information also. Veronica and Jug head are the two search engines through which Gopher-based databases, servers or websites can be accessed. This technology allows people to search and retrieve information using a text interface. It is one of the earliest resources on the internet. It is the only method for assessing internet documents. Some gopher texts may still be found linked on the web page, but they are more or less subsumed in the World Wide Web (Griffith, 2002; UCB Library, 2004d).

### **The World Wide Web (WWW):-**

World Wide Web allows the librarians to use the capacity of Internet using virtual desk to access vast amount of resources. IT is become the popular medium to access the digitized data. World Wide Web isa system of hyperlinked documents allowing graphical to the Internet, and contain a wide variety of pages access multimedia web. "According to Webopedia" The Web, or World Wide Web (W3), is a basically system of Internet servers that support specially formatted document. The documents are formatted in a Markup language called HTML (HyperText Markup language. The documents are formatted in a markup language called HTML (HyperText Markup Language) that supports links to other documents, as well as graphics, audio, and Videos".

### **3) Advantages of E-resources:**

Due to the various advantages of E-resources like usability, accessibility, readability, speed, functionality, mobility and accessibility E-resources are prefer by the libraries and information centers. The following are the advantages of e-resources over the print media.

**a) Multi-access:** e-resources provide multiple access points to multiples simultaneous users at 24/7 hours.

**b) Speed:** An electronic resource allows quicker access to browse, search, to analyze information, integrate that information into other

**c) Functionality:** E- resources will allow the user to analyze the content of publications by search mode.

**d) Content:** The e-resources can contain a large amount of information consist of mixed media i.e. images, video, audio animation which could not be replaced in print.

**e) Mobility:** Due to the virtue of mobility E-resources becomes popular in use.

**f) Savings physical Space:** as compared to the print media E-resources required less space as they are stored in CD-Rom databases, Online databases etc.

**g) Saving time& money:** they are less expensive as compared to Print media as well as easily searchable and save time of the users also.

#### **4. Constraints in the use of E-resources:**

There are many challenges occurs at every level of the selection, acquisition, preservation, maintenance and management of E-resources. At the same time, these resources have also come with many advantages also. The two system librarians identify the following as major problems; insufficient computers, financial constraints, non-availability of antivirus software, epileptic power supply, poor capacity building for librarians. This study collaborated with Jagboro (2004), UNIDO (2005), & Otokune for (2011), they identify funding for the purchase of electronic resources, poor technological infrastructures, little or no capacity building for librarians and users, irregular power supply, limited bandwidth, very low density of PCs and relatively little awareness of the value of e- resources as barriers to Nigerian university libraries.'

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To enhance the better use of e-resources need arises to overcome these constraints by selecting the better policy of procure and management of E-resources. While using E-resources the remote access must not be shared with unauthorized persons or non-users. Because there is possibility of modify or destroy any information or material available on the internet or on any network accessible through the Internet. Alter the source address of messages, or otherwise forging email messages.

#### **Arts, Commerce & Science College Arvi Library:**

In ACSC library there are total 33000 collection of books, journals, reports 'printed and non-print material and E-journals and E-books also. Library is a member of N-List consortium ss Library is also member of further students can access DOAJ journals, NISCAIR journals and many other free E-books and E-journals etc. Library is automated with LIBMAN consortium software and books are Barcoaded. CCTV cameras are also used for security. In order to bring awareness and promotion of the use of E-resources among students Information Literacy Programme is conducting in the ACSC library.

## **Role of Information Literacy**

Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information (ACRL, 2000). In the changing library environment Information Literacy is playing important role for acquire, manage and utilize the information for the use of users and society. In order to develop technology literacy among the students' efforts have been made for planning and executing various programs under Information Literacy Program. Brief descriptions of these programs are given as follows.

### **1) E-Resources Orientation for students**

In every year new students enrolled in the college so it is the duty of librarian to orient those students about the library facilities and E-resources and how those resources are used for their study. This user orientation programs are useful to develop the technological skills among the students. ACSC library is regularly conducting e-resources orientation for the students. It is being conducted through high quality interactive power point presentations including of textual, audio and visual information. The presentations includes the information about various sources and formats of information available, advantages of E-resources over printed resources, searching techniques, various search options, and coverage, features and search strategy of each database concerned with the subject so that students become capable of handling E-resources.

### **2) E-Resource Orientation for Faculty Members**

Like students E-resources orientation is also necessary for staff also so that faculty members can acquire the knowledge of their subject area. Their difficulties and other issues are solved simultaneously. Just like students ACSC library organizes Orientation for faculty members also. The presentation for teachers also include the updates of the electronic resources; method of extracting topics given to the students for various seminars, tutorials, project preparation and other assignments out of the information available in different databases etc. The knowledge about free E-resources which is helpful to teaching and learning process is also included in this orientation.

### **3) Workshop on E-Resource and Bibliographical Citation:**

Workshops are the medium by which students can train for technological competency. ACSC library arrange workshop for the students and faculty members about the E-resources and databases handling in every year.

### **4) Hands on Trainings:**

Training increases the confidence level of the users. Hands on training are also the part of Information Literacy. In this program the users are divided into different groups and training given to participants they are also explained the databases of their subjects and concerned areas on computer so that they can individually handle and access the information from E-resources. User training is essential for the better use of electronic resources in the library. For the purpose, depending upon the availability of computer terminals, the faculty members are divided into groups. Each group consists of faculty members from the same subject group. Students in each group attend the training

about the E-resources, accessing the E-resources, searching and locating the information. By actual use of Internet under the observation of faculty members the difficulties can be solved and students become competent in handling E-resources.

#### **5) Website:**

It is the channel of communication of different activities of the library. With the help of Website user get information about the various sources of information and library activities. Website must be updated regularly. There is no separate website of library but the ACSC website is highly accessed by the user communities. It provides the information about print and non-print reading material in the library and library activities. In the college prospectus and on the website there included sufficient information of resources and activities of the library.

**6) Instructions on Notice Board:**Necessary Instructions about library software, e-resources and step by step searching techniques are also displayed on the wall near the computer zone so that users easily search the -resources. Information about e-resources also displayed regularly on the Notice Board. The information included idea about the available E-resources, specific database, its subject coverage, searching techniques etc. so that students can know about available resources of their subject discipline. ACSC library always displayed the available list and instructions about the resources on the Notice board.

#### **7) Library User Manual:**

Library user manual is prepared by the ACSC library in which information about the Eresources, instructions about searching, subject wise link of free E-resources, videos etc. are provided to the users.

#### **8) Implications for libraries:**

With the help of feedback form feedback we know the actual difficulties of the users. Feedback form is provided to the students and on the basis of these feedback forms necessary action is taken to enrich the library collection and library activities and also improving the entire Information Literacy Program.

In this way with the help of Information literacy programme, ACSC library promotes the use of E-resources. Librarians have to play a significant role to promote information literacy. There exists a variety in the users' information needs. To satisfy the users' expectations the need arises to educate them by arranging various information literacy programs to acquire new skills and competencies. Users must be taught about techniques to access e-resources and be familiarized with the electronic environment.

#### **Conclusion:**

Now-a-days E-resources becomes important information resources in the libraries. Using of E-resources it is possible to save the time of the users. E-resources are useful for the libraries.as well as each and every users of the society. For the better use of E-resources it is duty of libraries to develop sufficient infrastructure like high speed network, Wi-Fi in the campus, LAN portals in the campus and also in the various departments In order to enhance the usage of e-resources, library user, library staff and

library management must work in coordination to provide better services to the users. Proper communication is required among the users and the staff members in order to serve users. Regular training programs for both staff and users are also necessary for better use of E-resources. E-mails and RSS alerts carry the information for the individual to become aware of the user.

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