A Comparative Study: The Usage of Electronic Resources by Library Users of Desh Bhagat University and Chitkara University (PB.)

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Abstract

The research areas of the study were Desh Bahgat University Mandi Gobindgarh and Chitkara University, Banaur, Rajpura on the title of "A Comparative study Usage of E-Resources by the Library Users of Desh Bhagat University and Chitkara University, (Pb.)". The knowledge was collected for the same thorough questionnaire and the sample size of the respondents was 200 only, from which, 25 were faculty members, 25 were research scholars and 50 students were selected from each University for the study and the response rates of respondents were 100%.

Keyword: E-resources, library users, comparative study, electronic resource

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INTRODUCTION

An "electronic resource" is defined as any work encoded and made available for access through the use of a computer. It includes electronic data available by remote access and direct access (fixed media) [1, 2]. In other words, remote access (electronic resources) refers to the use of electronic resources via computer networks (AACR2, 2002 edition; glossary), and direct access (electronic resources) refers to the use of electronic resources via carriers (e.g., discs/disks, cassettes, cartridges) designed to be inserted into a computerized device or its auxiliary equipment.

The following are the sources of electronic information:

1. CD-ROMs. 2. DVDs. 3. Electronic Journals. 4. Electronic Databases. 5. Electronic Books. 6. ETD's (Electronic Theses and Dissertations). 7. Digital Libraries. 8. Internet Resources. 9. Electronic mail Data. 10. OPAC. 11. Institutional Repository System. 12. E-Zine. 13. E-News Papers. 14. E-Reference books.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the search strategies used by the respondents searching e-resources of selected universities.

2. To know if the various e-resources' services and facilities are sufficient for respondents of the selected universities.
3. To check the awareness about e-resources among respondents of the selected universities.
4. To study the purpose and frequency of using the e-resources and services available in the selected universities.
5. To know the quality of information retrieved through e-resources.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Singh in his article, 'Usage of Electronic Resources by Faculty Members of Doaba College, Jalandhar: A Case Study', suggested that in the present era, libraries are more concerned with electronic resources as these provide accurate information with the latest data [1]. The faculty members consult the electronic resources for their teaching, research, and consultancy objectives. This article focuses on various aspects of electronic resources and their subscription and usage by the faculty and other users.

Chauhan in his article, 'UGC-Infonet digital library consortium: An evaluation' presented that the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium was launched in 2004 in which free access to scholarly literature from

international publishers has been subscribed and made accessible to Indian universities [2]. Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) is monitoring and executing this programme under the egis of University Grants Commission (UGC), India. The UGC has been spending millions of rupees in subscription of scholarly journals and providing free access to these scholarly resources to Indian universities. This paper is a preliminary evaluation of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium of India, in which an effort is made to evaluate UGC-Infonet Digital Library consortium with respect to usage of subscribed resources by the member universities, economy involved and research output of the member universities.

Dhawan in this article, 'Research in electronic publishing field: A scientometric assessment of publications output during 2005-14', the paper presents an analytical study of the research output in e-publishing field on a series of scientometric indicators [3]. As seen from Scopus database, the total world output was 7010 publications published in 10 years during 2005–2014. The study found that e-publishing is still a young subject field, growing at a slow pace, 3.41% CAGR growth and averaged 1.08 citations per paper. The body of research literature in this field is still in the early stage of its growth. To build top research centers in e-publishing field, it is important that funding agencies at national and international level should aggressively start providing planned funding support to research organizations.

Chaminda presented the article, 'Digital Libraries as A Tool to Confront the Digital Divide'. This paper discusses how digital divide has affected the access of quality information of the citizens and how digital libraries contribute to bridge the digital divide [4]. The article also aims to focus on several issues related to digital divide and digital libraries that pertain to the function of service provision of a traditional library.

Kumar presented the article 'Use Pattern of Electronic Resources by the Research Scholars: A Case Study of CCS Haryana Agriculture University, Hissar, India'. This paper aims to examine the use pattern of electronic resources among the research scholars of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agriculture University, as provided by the Nehru Central Library of the University by using the survey method [5]. The study found that all the research scholars are using library e-resources specifically for research work and e-journals (83%) are most used resources. However, majority of them use e-resources and printed material equally and need training regarding information retrieval and discipline specific search.

Kar presented the article 'Digital Library of India: An Initiative for the Preservation and Dissemination of the National Heritage and Rare Books and Manuscripts Collection' [6]. Digital Library of India (DLI) is an initiative taken by the Government of India to digitally preserve and disseminate all the significant literary, artistic, and scientific work of human available in India and thus, it has been made freely available, from every corner of the world, for education, study, appreciation, and for the future generations. The project started with the primary long-term objective of capturing all copyright free books and manuscripts, available in India, in digital format.

Jessy and Rao presented the article, 'Web Portal: An E-Content Knowledge Management Tool'. Transformed data presented in a meaningful way for users is information, whereas knowledge is the capability for actionable information [7]. Knowledge sharing is among the major goals of academic communities, and therefore, the emphasis on knowledge sharing and management is the central issue for the academic libraries.

Venkatesha and Ramasesh presented the article 'Use of Electronic Information Sources by the Visually Challenged Students in the State of Karnataka'. This paper presents the use pattern of various web information resources by the visually challenged students [8]. The category of students encompasses the students studying in the higher educational institutions in the state of Karnataka. The students who are pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate courses are covered here.

Deepa and Abdul presented the article 'Use of Web-Based Information Resources and Services by Research Scholars: A Case Study of the University of Calicut' [9]. The study investigates the use of web-based information services by research scholars of Calicut University. The study enquires into the web-based services of Calicut University library, reasons for effective use, as well as problems faced while using the web-based information services by the research scholars of the university. The study was conducted among 100 research scholars randomly selected from various departments in the university.

Sarojadevi *et al.* presented the article 'Digital Resource Management Strategies in an ICT Era with Reference to Selected Telecasts Media Libraries of Karnataka State (India)'. Forthcoming years are only digital platform to libraries, since more advantages of digital resources are over traditional collections [10]. On the other hand, there must be a systematic,

professional approach that should be essential to preserve, curate, establish, distribute, secure and deploy the digital resources in the digital library and is called digital resources management.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
For collection of data, well structured questionnaire was prepared and used during the study (Table 1-6). The questionnaire was designed in a way to extract maximum information regarding attitude of respondents for the use of electronic resources. Questionnaire covered all aspects of the use of electronic resources by respondents (Figure 1-6). The data was cross checked by the data obtained by personal interviews and direct observations. The statistical techniques are also implemented with suitability according to data.

DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1: If You are Faculty Please Indicate Your Designation.

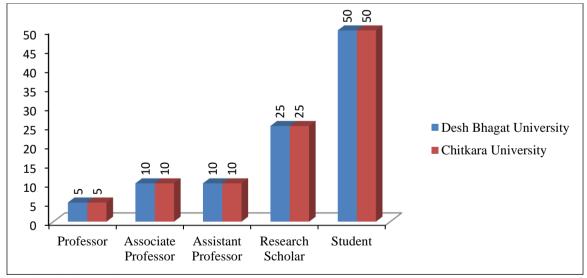| University	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Research Scholar	Student	Total
Desh Bhagat University	5	10	10	25	50	100
Chitkara University	5	10	10	25	50	100

Fig. 1: Shown that 5 percent Professor, 10 percent Associate Professor, 10 percent Assistant Professor, 25 percent Research Scholars and 50 percent Student t sample was collected from each both Desh Bhagat University and Chitkara University.

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Table 2: From Where You Seek Information?

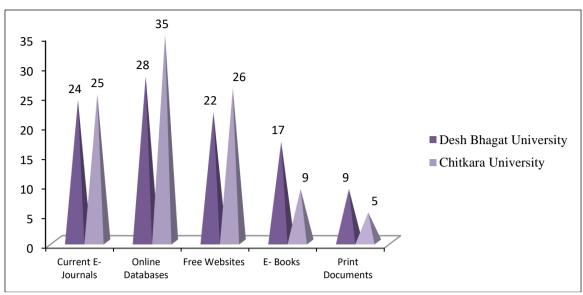| University	Current E-Journals	Online Databases	Free Websites	E-Books	Print Documents	Total
Desh Bhagat University	24	28	22	17	9	100
Chitkara University	25	35	26	9	5	100

Fig. 2: *The sample was collected from Desh Bhagat University i.e. Current E-Journals 24 percent, Online Databases 28, Free Websites 22 percent, E- Books 17 percent and Print Documents 9 percent and Chitkara University i.e. Current E-Journals 25 percent, Online Databases 32 percent, Free Websites 26 percent, E- Books 9 percent and Print Documents 5 percent.*

Table 3: *Experience of Using the E-Resource Section: How Long Have You Been Using the E-Resources Section?*

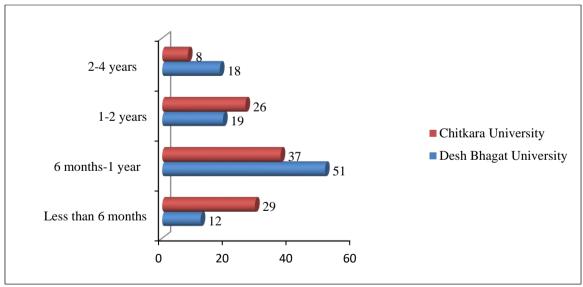| University	Less than 6 months	6 months–1 year	1–2 years	2–4 years	Total
Desh Bhagat University	12	51	19	18	100
Chitkara University	29	37	26	8	100

Fig. 3: *It is revealed that experience of using the e-resource section and the sample was collected from Desh Bhagat University i.e. Less than 6 months 12 percent, 6 months-1 year 51 percent, 1-2 years 19 percent, and 2-4 years 18 percent.*

Table 4: *Time Spent in the E-Resource Section: How Many Hours You Spend in a Week to Use E-Resources?*

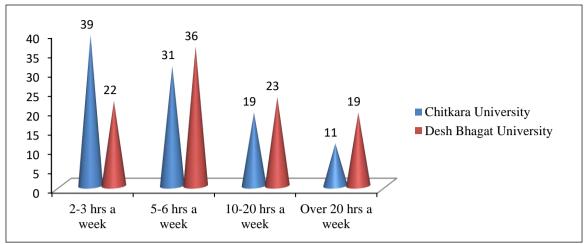| University	2–3 h/week	5–6 h/week	10–20 h/week	Over 20 h/week	Total
Desh Bhagat University	22	36	23	19	100
Chitkara University	39	31	19	11	100

Fig. 4: *It is found that Time spent in the e-Resource section and the sample was collected from Desh Bhagat University i.e. 2-3 hrs a week 22 percent, 5-6 hrs a week 36 percent, 10-20 hrs a week 23 percent, Over 20 hrs a week 19 percent and Chitkara University i.e. 2-3 hrs a week 39 percent, 5-6 hrs a week 31 percent, 10-20 hrs a week 19 percent, Over 20 hrs a week 11 percent.*

Table 5: *Problems Encountered While Using the E-Resources: What Troubles Face You Mostly to Use the E-Resources?*

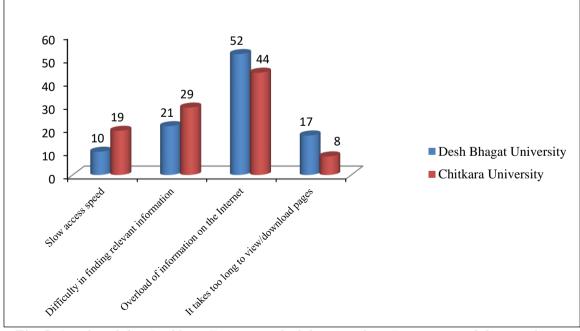| University	Slow Access Speed	Difficulty in Finding Relevant Information	Overload of Information on the Internet	It Takes Too Long to View/Download Page	Total
Desh Bhagat University	10	21	52	17	100
Chitkara University	19	29	44	8	100

Fig. 5: *It is found that Problems Encountered while using the e-Resources and the sample was collected from Desh Bhagat University i.e. Slow Access Speed 10 percent, Difficulty in finding relevant information 21 percent, Overload of information on the Internet 52 percent and It takes too long to view/download page 17 percent and Chitkara University i.e. Slow Access Speed 19 percent, Difficulty in finding relevant information 29 percent, Overload of information on the Internet 44 percent and It takes too long to view/download page 8 percent.*

Table 6: *Please Specify Your Satisfaction Level from Your Library E-Resources?*

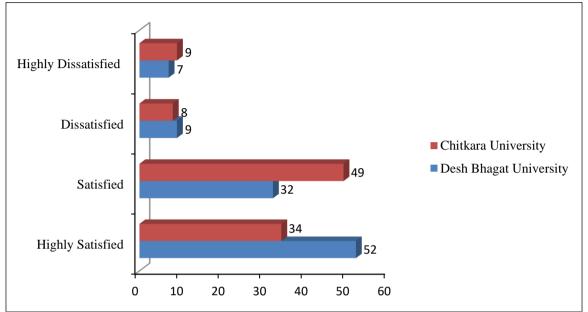| University	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Highly Dissatisfied	Total
Desh Bhagat University	52	32	9	7	100
Chitkara University	34	49	8	9	100

Fig. 6: *It is found that Please specify your satisfaction level from your Library E- Resources and the sample was collected from Desh Bhagat University i.e. Highly Satisfied 52 percent Satisfied 32 percent, Dissatisfied 9 percent and Highly Dissatisfied 7 percent and Chitkara University i.e. Highly Satisfied 34 percent Satisfied 49 percent, Dissatisfied 8 percent and Highly Dissatisfied 9 percent.*

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on overall data collected from both universities of the study of use of e-resources initiatives taken by the library, majority of users are satisfied with library services, resources provided and their library staffs are competent enough to execute library facilities. Some of these users face little problems to find out information due to unfamiliarity with e-resources available. More organized training orientation programmes are must/needed to familiarize with the e-learning, in the present scenario of e-learning which is widely used all over world.

Findings

The observations made by the researcher "A Comparative study Usage of E-Resources by the Library Users of Desh Bhagat University and Chitkara University, Punjab.)": Based on findings, the focus of the study has been laid on usage of e-resources pattern among the all library users in India.

Following suggestions/recommendation are derived out of the study conducted by the researcher:

1. It was found that majority of the respondents from all categories are aware of e-learning. On the other hand very less numbers of users are unaware of e-learning sources.
2. The factors for not using the e-resources are, lack of need of e-resources, lack of time and some of these users do not know how to use e-resources.
3. In context with the usage of e-resources, majority of users use e-resource every day. The frequency of use of e-resource is also found weekly. Whereas least number of some users using e-resources monthly.
4. Majority of the users use e-resources for the purpose of research and education and some users use e-recourses for any other purpose.
5. Study shows that most of the users think that they need resource specific training from another resource. Whereas most of

the users think they need information retrieval training and some user think they do not need any training. Most of research scholars also need information retrieval training.

6. Most of the users think that e-resources are highly required for career development.

Suggestions

The following are the suggestions/recommendations for improvement in existing scenario of e-learning at both universities' library systems:

1. The libraries should subscribe more and more e-resources through Indian and foreign consortia rather than those available through UGC-Infonet consortia, INDEST consortia and many more along with reputed publishers based e-resources which are easily available.

2. The e-resources subscribed by the libraries should be periodically evaluated on the basis of their usability and decision to be taken either to continue or to discontinue the subscription through conducting user's survey time to time.

3. Libraries should conduct user awareness programme frequently for the users to educate them about what e-resources available in the library and how to make maximum use of these e-resources for academic purposes.

4. Necessary training facilities may be provided to library users to make use of the e-resources available through database.

5. Proper internet facilities should be maintained among intra and inter departments of universities. Accuracy of internet speed should be maintained to have fast access.

6. Libraries should conduct user's survey to know the use of e-resources and the future needs of users.

7. Libraries must increase their working hours of e-resources section so that user can use maximum facilities provided by universities.

8. Library must provide printout facility services of downloaded matter of e-resources on nominal cost to users to increase the search habit of e-resources.

9. Most of users give importance to printed material in the comparison of e-resources,

so that changing era of e-learning needs to encourage the users about e-learning which is used anywhere, anytime time at minimum cost.

10. To make e-learning more effective, there is a need to improve software and highly configured computer hardware which will be provided to the users.

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