



Awareness and Use of Electronic Resources by Female Students of Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani: A Study

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Abstract:

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the awareness and utilization of electronic resources and related issues among Under graduate female students of Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada University. A questionnaire-based survey method has been used in this research. A total of 150 questionnaires distributed but 120 were returned duly filled in as a sample. The findings show that Majority of the students are aware about e-resources. E-resources (General), e-books, e-journals were used once in a month for accessing information by respondents. They require tainting programme regarding use of CeRA consortia.

Key words: Electronic resources, Awareness, CeRA,

Introduction:

Libraries are the lighthouses of information dissemination, an important part of any educational institution and hub of learning activities where students, researchers and teachers can explore the huge amount of information resources. The application of computers in information processing has brought several products and services to the scene. The internet and web are constantly influencing the development of new modes of scholarly communication. They can be simply defined as resources that include documents in electronic or e-format that can be accessed via Internet. They are available in various forms like e-books, digital libraries, online journal, magazine, e-learning tutors, on line test e-journals, e-discussions, e-news, data archives and e-mail on line chatting and deliver a collection of data, be it text, image collection, other multimedia products like numerical, graphical mode. Emerald, Ebsco, Scopus are some of the examples of

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online databases. E-resources are the source of information (Thanuskodi, 2012). All updated information is published in these e-resources. The familiarity and use of electronic information resources in the libraries for rapid development is necessary and important. According Narayana and Goudar (2005) Libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis in recent years both in their collection development and in their service structure. Over the last several years, a significant transformation has been noticed in collection development policies and practices. Print medium is increasingly giving way to the electronic form of material.

Objectives: The objectives of this study are as under:-

- To investigate the female students awareness of electronic information resources.
- To assess the frequency in the use of the different types of electronic resources
- To find the purpose and utilization of the electronic resources and services by female students
- To identify the difficulties encountered by the students while accessing e-resources.

Scope of the Study

This study is focused on UG female students of Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani.

Review of Literature:

A number of relevant studies have been carried out on the use of e-resources by teachers, students and research scholars of universities and research organizations. Sharad Kumar (2014) conducted a study on Use of Electronic Resources by Post Graduate Students and Research Scholars of the Banaras Hindu University: A Study. The study found that the majority of users (37.47%) are frequently using e-resources for teaching and research purpose. The study reveals that 93.84 % of users are aware about the e-resources and most of them aware through Internet. The study also highlighted that (57.14%) of the users spend time less than one hour to access e-resources.

Edem & Ofre¹⁴ in their study on reading and internet use activities of UG students of the University of Calabar, Nigeria, adopted a descriptive survey design and the random sampling technique was used to administer 200 copies of a designed questionnaire to the UG students of the university who used the university library during April 2009. 133 questionnaire were returned (response rate 65 %). The study revealed that 57.1 %



students responded that they use the internet occasionally; followed by weekly (21.1 %) and bi-weekly (12 %) responses as against reading of printed materials which 63.2 % of the respondent admitted that they do on a daily basis. The implication is that the respondents read printed information resources more often and also for longer time than they used the Internet and other EIRs.

Ojo and Akande (2005) in a survey of 350 respondents examined students' access, usage and awareness of electronic information resources at the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, Nigeria. The study revealed that the level of usage of the electronic information resources is not high.

Bashorun (2011) revealed by research that frequency of use of electronic resources by academic staff of the University of Ilorin was low. Reasons were lack of time. Because of the time required to focus on teaching; lack of awareness to electronic resources provided by the library; power outage, ineffective communication channels, slow network and inadequate searching skills.

Methodology:

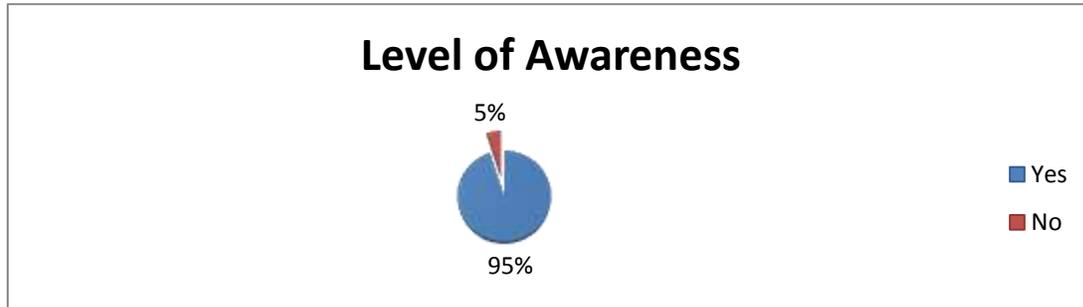
This study of the research questionnaire-based survey method was used in order to achieve the above objectives. For this purpose a well structured questionnaire was designed to collect the data from the UG female students of Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani. 150 questionnaires were distributed in Undergraduate female students out of which 120 duly filled in questionnaires were received back. The collected data were classified, analyzed and tabulated by using statistical methods. This study covers Under Graduate students in various departments of Agriculture University. The study was limited to Under Graduate of Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Agriculture University main campus.

Study population: The study population consist female Students of Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani. Students from UG level are chosen as survey population. The total strength of the female students is 120.

Data Analysis and Interpretations:

Table 1: Level of awareness of electronic information resources

Sr. No.	Level of Awareness	Frequency	Percentage
01	Yes	114	95
02	No	06	05

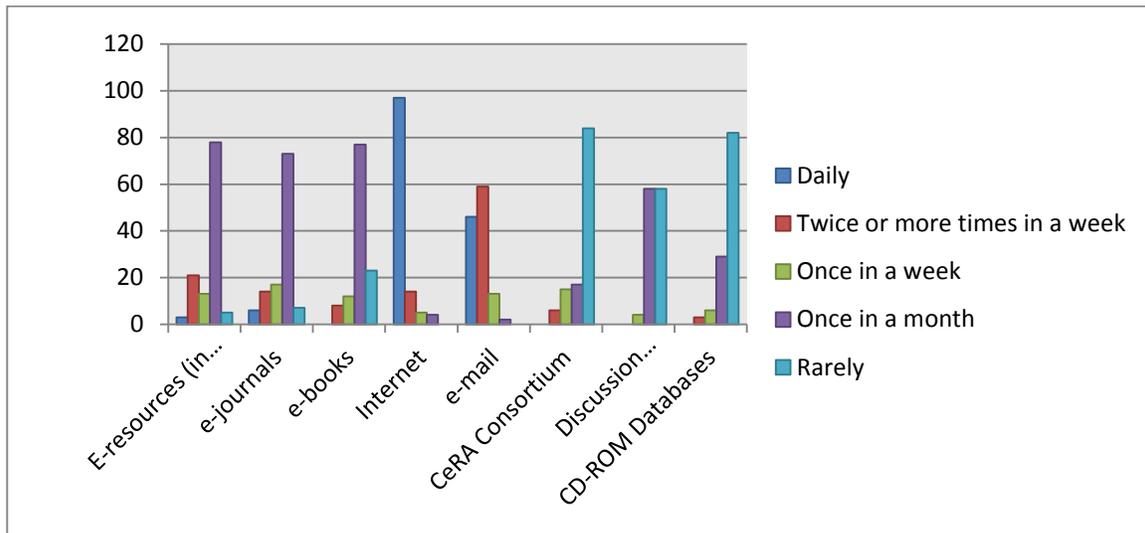


The result in Table 1 showed that majority of respondents 114 (95%) were aware of the availability of electronic information resources at their University library, while 06 (5%) claimed that they were not aware. This result implied that there was high level of awareness of the availability of electronic information resources.

Table 2: Frequency of using electronic resources

Sr.No	Resources	Daily	Twice or more times in a week	Once in a week	Once in a month	Rarely
01	E-resources (in General)	03 (2.5)	21(17.5)	13(10.83)	78(65)	05(4.16)
02	e-journals	06 (5)	14(11.66)	17(14.16)	73(60.83)	07(5.83)
03	e-books	00(0)	08(6.66)	12(10)	77(64.16)	23(19.16)
04	Internet	97 (80.83)	14(11.66)	05(4.16)	04(3.33)	00(00)
05	e-mail	46(38.33)	59(49.16)	13(10.83)	02(1.66)	00(00)
06	CeRA Consortium	00 (00)	06(5)	15(12.5)	17(14.16)	84 (70)
07	Discussion Forum/Mailing list	00(00)	00(00)	04(3.33)	58(48.33)	58(48.33)
08	CD-ROM Databases	00(00)	03(2.5)	06(5)	29(24.16)	82(68.33)

(Figures in parenthesis denote percentage)



The frequency of use of e-resources has been tabulated against (i) everyday (ii) twice or more time in a week (iii) once in a week (iv) once in a month (v) rarely. The frequency has been calculated for each type of e-resources like e-journals, e-books, CeRA consortium, CD-ROM databases etc. Majority of the female students access Electronic resources are used by once in a month. e-resources (General), e-books, e-journals, Discussion Forum/Mailing list, CD-ROM databases, CeRA Consortium, are used by once in a month by 65%, 64.16%, 60.83%, 48.33%, 24.16% & 14.16% respectively, Internet is used by everyday by 80.83%; E-mail is used by Twice or more times in a week by 49.16%. CeRA consortium & CD-ROM Databases were used by female students 'rarely' (i.e. 70% & 68.33% respectively)

Table 3: The Purpose of Using E-Resources

Sr.No	Purpose	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	To gain current information	19	15.83
2	To support research work/project	38	31.66
3	For study	54	45
4	To update knowledge	09	7.5

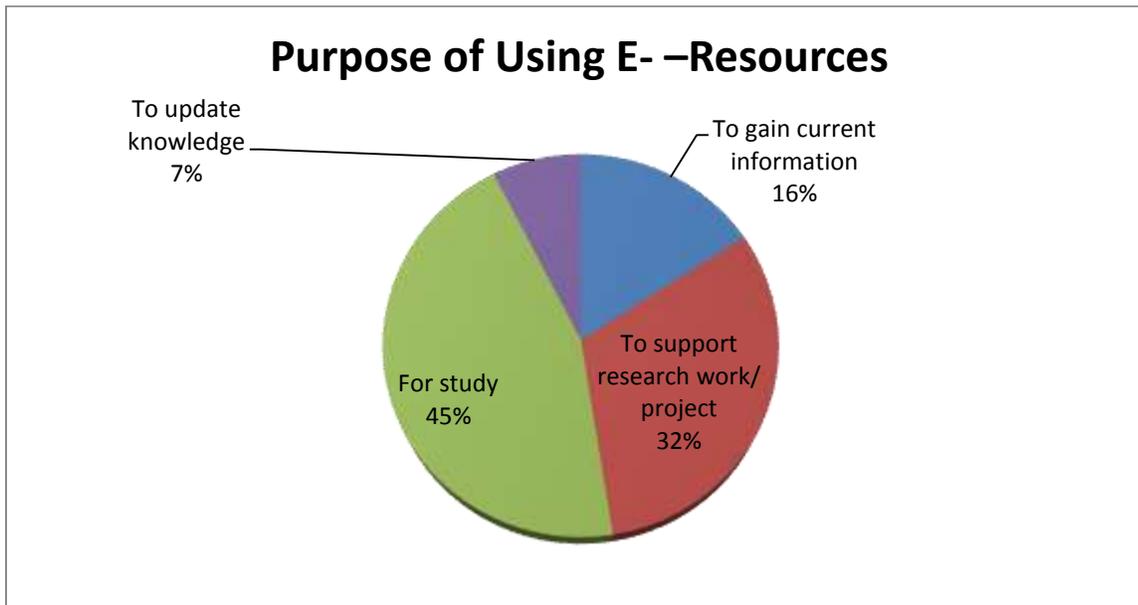


Table. 3 revealed that 54(45%) of respondents using e-resources for the study purpose, whereas 38(31.66%) to support research work/ Projects, 19(15.83%) of respondents to gain current information and 09(7.5%) of respondents using e-resources for purpose to update knowledge.

It interpreted from the table that, majority of female students use e-resources for the purpose to support research work/ project.

Table 4: Problems encountered while Accessing E-Resources

Sr. No.	Problems	No. of Respondents N=120	Percentage
1	Lack of internet access speed	86	71.66
2	Few computers with internet facilities	82	68.33
3	Overload of information on the Internet	65	54.16
4	Lack of computer skills	29	24.16
5	Difficult in finding relevant information	53	44.16

A question was asked to female students to know the problems encountered during access e-resources, the type of responses were multiple choices. From the table it can be concluded that, Majority of female students faced problems while accessing e-resources



due to 'Lack of Internet speed' (i.e. 71.66%), 68.33% respondents have faced the problem due to less number of computers with internet facility in their department, whereas 44.16% respondents reported difficult in finding relevant information & less no. of respondents (24.16%) faced problems due to the Lack of the computer skills.

Findings:

- Out of the 120 respondents 95 percent of the respondents were aware about e-resources. It means the awareness level of female student is high.
- Majority of the female students access Electronic resources are used by once in a month. e-resources (General), e-books, e-journals
- CeRA consortium & CD-ROM Databases were used by female students 'rarely'
- Majority of female students use e-resources for the purpose of to support research work/ project.
- Lack of the Internet speed and availability of less no. of computer with internet facility are the major hindrance encountered by female students during accessing electronic resources.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

These days massive growth of information and communication technology has appeared as most significant medium for storage and retrieval of information. E-Resources are currently increasing as essential source of information for all current and emerging considerations and thoughts imminent into survival in the area of teaching, learning and research. Based on the findings of the study the following suggestions are made the University library as well as should facilitate more number of computers with internet connection speed for instant and bulky data at a time. It is suggested that the University library should arrange user awareness programme and training programs to educate the learners how to use the CeRA consortium to achieve their educational goals and should organize training programme to increase in use of electronic resources.

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