

Familiarity and Use of Digital Resources by the Library Users in Agriculture Universities of Himachal Pradesh: A Study

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Abstract - With the application of ICT, library services have totally been changed. Library collection changed from traditional hard copy to digital or electronic form. Today users use the digital/e-resources like e-journals, databases, e-thesis, e-books etc. according to their needs and demands. So, libraries of agricultural university of Himachal Pradesh are also providing these services to their users according to their demands. Internet plays a vital role in providing digital resources to the users. It is essential that every user who wants to take the benefits of digital/e-resources should be familiar with the internet. Internet is a linker between the library and its users, which connects the users with the library resources. The present study is an attempt to analyses the user's familiarity with the digital resources, its use by them and also examines the problems faced by them in using these resources in agricultural universities of Himachal Pradesh.

Keywords: Digital Resources, Agriculture Universities of Himachal Pradesh, E-Resources, E-books, E-journals, E-Databases.

I. INTRODUCTION

Libraries are the heart of any institution without libraries the users can't get proper information about their subjects. Due to the dependency of users on the libraries, libraries are changing according to the users' demands and requirement. In the last few decades with the application of ICT (Information and Communication Technology), libraries has totally changed. ICT has changed the form of libraries now libraries are become digital, virtual or hybrid, where all the collection is in the form of o digital/electronic like E-books, e-journals, w-newspapers, e-databases, e-manuscripts etc. These new form of libraries provide the flexibility to the users to get information at any time,

any where or in any form with very low cost. As the time is going on the dependency of libraries as well as users is increasing on e-resources. In 1960s libraries have started to use electronic databases after that in 1980s it has started to use CD-ROM databases. Now libraries are providing full access of e-resources to their users in a variety of ways.

A. About the Universities Libraries

In Himachal Pradesh there are only two Agriculture Universities one is Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur (HP) and other is Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan (HP). The detail of their libraries and its collection and services are as follow:

B. Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur (HP)

The University Library, CSK HPKV, Palampur owes its origin to the establishment of the third campus of the Punjab Agricultural University at Palampur as part of the Hill College of Agriculture and the university library shifted to its present building on January 8, 1987. University has one Central Library at Palampur and other libraries at Dhaula Kuan, Bajaura, Kukumseri, besides workable collections at Research Stations and KVKs in the CSK HP Krishi Vishvavidyalaya. The central Library at Palampur caters to the needs of the students, teachers, extension specialists and the staff of the four constituent colleges of the university as well as the scientific staff, stationed at the Research Stations, Sub-stations and KVKs. Apart from its own readers and local readers; the library also caters to the neighboring state universities and institute readers including PAU, Ludhiana, SKUAST Jammu and Srinagar,

etc. This Library is designated as FAO Depository Library and therefore all the FAO publications are received in this Library, free of cost. The Library has also been designated as one of the Regional Library under NARS (ICAR). The Library is fully automated, using the Bar coding facility for Issue/Return of the Books. The Library services and the Web OPAC can be accessed at <http://hillagric.ernet.in>. The library has a total collection of 84,314 documents and staff strength of 19. Library has acquired all important databases such as CAB, AGRIS FSTA Agricola (BAI) Biosis, MEDILINE and OCLC. It has a good collection of E-Books 4000, E-Journals 4000, and E-thesis. Library has its own publications like Annual Reports and Proceedings. It is a member of Inflibnet also.

C. Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan (HP)

Satyanand Stokes Library (SNS) of Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, It is a well established modern library catering to the information needs of the academic community of the University. The library initiated the computerization operation in April 1989. The whole collection of the library is computerized and OPAC is electronically accessible. University was brought on Global Network through V-SAT. Faster ISDN connectivity was introduced on March 27, 2003. Later on May 10, 2005, the connectivity was taken from Computer & Instrumentation Centre, through 1 Gbps leased line from BSNL. The use of this facility is encouraging. By availing this facility, the participation of scientists in national and international conferences was reported to have increased and publication of papers similarly expedited. Ours is the first SAU library in the country which has been converted in to Wi-Fi Library in 2003-2004 besides introducing SOUL (Software for University Libraries) to facilitate its automation functions. In 2005 bar-coding of books was completed. In the year 2007, Multimedia Centre with a total cost of Rs. 60 Lakhs funded by ICAR was established. All the Ph.D theses w.e.f. 2000 onwards was digitized under ICAR Krishi-Prabha Project. For linking the Regional Research Stations of the university with the library, the connectivity facilities have been established at the Regional Stations of the University, so that the scientists / Staff working there can access the latest information and be in a position to communicate fast through E-Mail. In 2012, the library installed Web Centric

LIBSYS7 Library Management software and its Online Public Access Catalogue can be accessed on the web. Further the scientists/ staff of the Regional Stations/ KVKs of the University are now in a position to access the WEB OPAC to meet their information needs. Recently the library has installed 3M Tattle Tape Electromagnetic System for protecting books, CDs, DVDs and many other items from being stolen. The library is housed in a beautiful and modular building which offers excellent environment for study. It has plinth area of 3975 sq. mts. and reading space of 665.60 sq. mts. It has a seating capacity for 326 users' in common reading area and in cubicles for another 13. Library has total 18 staff members. This is an open access library. The library has a collection of about 65,000 documents and subscribes over 110 periodicals. The facilities of Book Bank, Inter library loan, document lamination and reprographic services are also available. Library has acquired all important databases on CD-ROM such as CAB-CD, HORT-CD, TREE-CD and many other databases relating to horticulture, forestry and allied disciplines.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study is based on the primary data collected by the interviews with the librarians and other library staff and library users, personal observation, and two structures questionnaires were designed to obtain the data from the libraries and library users. Two questionnaires were filled from the librarians of both the universities. For this purpose 250 questionnaires send to the users and 207 responses got from the library users of both the universities.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know about the availability of digital resources in the libraries;
2. To know about the purpose of users to use the digital resources;
3. To know about the users' satisfaction of library services and facilities;
4. To know about the problems faced by the users in using digital resources;
5. To suggest the measures for improving access to digital resources in libraries.

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Okorie et al. (2012) Availability and use of Electronic Resources in Agriculture Universities Libraries and find out the advantages of E-resources as a means of easily and rapidly access of books, journals, magazines, thesis and images of various types are now widely recognized that are related to the particular topic or subject. Srivastava et al (2012) Evaluation of E-resources in UP State Libraries and revealed that most of the users are not satisfied with the use of e-resources because there is a less opening time of E-Resources section. Reproduction facilities of downloading any matter. Insufficient e-resources and lack of expertise staff to handle the e-resources section in the library. Saratha and Mahesh (2011) Use of Electronic resources and the problems faced in accessing the e-resources by the faculty members and scholars of affiliated Colleges of Bharathiar University, Combatore. And the found out that most of the users are aware about the e-resources and use it for communication and self learning purpose. A very few users had the difficulty in using the e-resources due to lack of IT knowledge. Ansari, Munira Nasreen (2010) Study the Use of Electronic Resources among the academics of the university of Kashmire and analyzed that academicians are unable to use the electronic resources available in the libraries because of the problem of networking and lack of training to the users to use the e-resources. Suresh, Sivaram and Sevukam (2010): use and user perception of Electronic resources in Annamalai University. And find out that even there is lot of e-resources available in the library but users are unable to use it due to lack of awareness, shortage of time and low speed of internet for downloading of resources. Kindilchie and Samarraie (2008) Electronic Information Resources use by Qatar University Faculty. Found out that majority of faculty members have good knowledge of computer systems and they use the e-resources for their personal use. Use of e-resources for the purpose of teaching and research is very limited. Razaand and Upadhyay (2006) find out in their study that all the users were aware about e-journals in AMU. Many users use e-journals from their departmental labs and computer centers. The problems faced by the users are lack of training and slow speed of internet. Doraswamy (2005): familiarity and use of the available electronic Information resources by the students in U.R. Siddhertha Engineering College Library, Vijay Wada.: concluded that

some of the students use CD-ROM and most of the students use electronic information resources for the communication purpose. The main problem faced by the students in using the e-resources is that lack of training and time.

V. ANALYSIS PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

After gathering the data, it is analyzed and interpreted with the help of statistical methods. The data is purely collected with the help of above mentioned methodologies,

The respondents included Students Research Scholars and Faculty from both the universities. Total 250 questionnaires were distributed and 207 (83%) responses were taken. The data collected from 108 from Satyanand Stokes Library of Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan (HP) and 99 from library of Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur (HP) the distribution of respondents of the study is shown in the Table I.

TABLE I USER WISE BREAK UP

| Types of Respondents | CSK HPKV, Palampur | SNS Solan | Total |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| Students | 45 (45%) | 50 (46%) | 95 (46%) |
| Research Scholars | 30 (30%) | 38 (35%) | 68 (33%) |
| Faculty | 24 (24%) | 20 (19%) | 44 (21%) |
| Total | 99 | 108 | 207 |

It is seen from the table that in CSK total 99 users surveyed 45 (45%) Students 30 (30%) Research Scholars and 24 (24%) and Faculty members. In the case of SNS Solan library 50 (46%) students, 38 (35%) Research Scholars and 20 (19%) Faculty Members.

TABLE II FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USE

| Frequency of Use | CSK HPKV, Palampur | SNS Solan | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| More than once in a day | 13 (13%) | 15 (14%) | 28 (14%) |
| Daily | 58 (59%) | 69 (64%) | 127 (61%) |
| Monthly | 16 (16%) | 21 (19%) | 37 (18%) |
| Weekly | 3 (3%) | 0 (0%) | 3 (1%) |
| Rarely | 9 (9%) | 3 (3%) | 12 (6%) |
| Total | 99 | 108 | 207 |

It is concluded from the above table that 61% users of both the universities use the computer in their daily life. 37% use it monthly and 28% use it more than once a day. And there is only 1% who use it weekly. And 12% says that they use it rarely.

TABLE III AWARENESS ABOUT DIGITAL RECOURCES

| Responses | CSK HPKV, Palampur | SNS Solan | Total |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Yes | 96 (97%) | 102 (94%) | 198 (96%) |
| No | 3 (3%) | 6 (6%) | 9 (4%) |
| | 99 | 108 | 207 |

From the table III it is found that 96% users of the library have the knowledge of digital resources and only

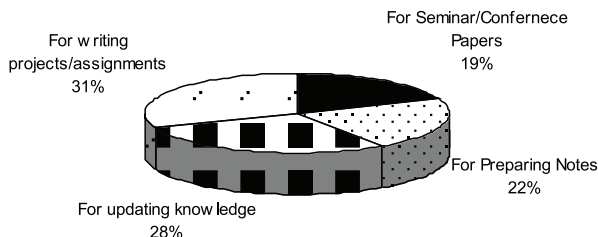


Fig.1 Purpose of Using Digital Resources

TABLE IV COMPARISON OF DIGITAL/E-RESOURCES WITH PRINT RESOURCES

| Impact | CSK HPKV, Palampur Agree | | Agreed Percentage | SNS Solan | | Agreed Percentage | Overall Agreed Percentage |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| | Agree | Disagree | | Agree | Disagree | | |
| Easy to Use | 78 | 21 | 79 % | 99 | 9 | 92% | 86% |
| Expensive | 39 | 45 | 39 % | 60 | 48 | 56% | 48% |
| Time Saving | 90 | 9 | 91 % | 96 | 12 | 89% | 90% |
| Useful | 63 | 18 | 63 % | 9 | 99 | 8% | 78% |
| More Integrative | 81 | 3 | 82 % | 72 | 36 | 67% | 74% |
| More Informative | 82 | 17 | 83 % | 93 | 15 | 86% | 85% |
| More Preferred | 75 | 12 | 76 % | 72 | 36 | 67% | 71% |
| Easy to Search | 69 | 30 | 70 % | 93 | 15 | 86% | 78% |
| Speed of Publication | 19 | 80 | 19 % | 75 | 33 | 69% | 45% |
| Choice of Format | 12 | 77 | 12 % | 30 | 78 | 28% | 20% |

Comparison of digital or print resources show:

- 90% users say that e-resources are time saving.
- 86% users agreed that digital/e-resources are easy to use.
- 85% say that e-resources are more informative in comparison to print one.
- 78% users say that e-resources are useful as well as easy to search.
- 74% users say that e-resources are more interactive than print resources.
- 71% users say that E-resources are more preferred by them in comparison to print one.

There is a mix response about their cost 48% users say that digital/E-resources are expensive than print resources that means 52% says that e-resources are cheaper than print one.

45% users say that publication of E-resources is faster and 55% say that speed of publication is slow in the case of e-resources.

4 % users don't know about it. Above table shows that Palampur University library users are more aware about the digital resources of the library in comparison to the Solan University library.

Above figure1 shows us that the maximum users i.e. 31% in both the libraries use the digital resources for writing projects/assignments. 28% users use only for updating their knowledge. 22% users use for preparing notes and 19 % use for preparing papers for seminars and conferences.

Below table shows the agreed response in favors of Digital/E-resources and disagreed response in favors of Print resources:

Only 20% users are agreed that there is a choice of format in the case of e-resources.

At first we ask the users that there is any difficult to them in using the digital/e-resources. 57 (58%) users of CSK HPKV, Palampur and 42 (39%) of SNS Solan and overall 99 (48%) say that they don't have any difficulty in using the digital resources of the library. 52% say that they have difficulties in using the digital resources. The difficulties which are facing by them are as follow:

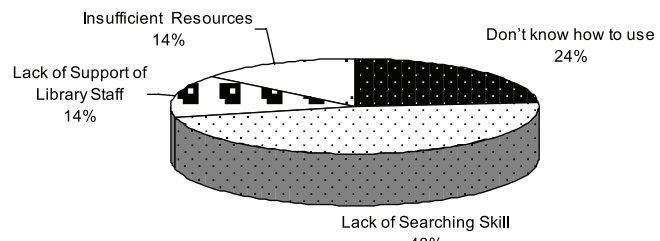


Fig.2 Difficulties in using of digital resources

Figure 2 shows that most of the users (48%) face the difficulty in searching of proper information from the available sources of information because of lack of searching skill with them. 24% users don't have the knowledge that how should they use available resources of information. And 14 % users don't get the support of library staff as well as they feel that there are not proper resources of information that are needed by them.

VI. FINDING AND SUGGESTIONS

1. It is found that 61% users use the internet in their daily life and there are only 7% users who use the internet weekly or rarely. So it is assumed that all the users in the present era of IT (Information and Technology) are familiar with the internet.
2. It is found that 96% users have the knowledge about the available digital/e-resources in the library.
3. Most of the users use all types of e-resources like e-books, e-journals, e-thesis etc. but there are limited users who use the e-databases in the library.
4. 31% users use the library e-resources for completion of projects and assignments and 28 %, 22%, 19% use for updating their knowledge, preparing notes and writing seminar/ conference papers. This % is very low in both the libraries. It should be increased by arranging user awareness programmers about e-resources.
5. In the comparison of e-resources with the print one most of the responses are with the e-resources. All the users known the benefits of e-resources. But even then there is not proper use by the users. It is due to not proper awareness of e-resources to the users. They don't know how to use. So to overcome this problem library should conduct the orientation programmers, seminars, workshops, short training programmers for the library users.
6. Library users feel the difficulties in many ways in using the library e-resources like 48% users have the problem of searching skills and other 24% have the problem, they don't know that how to use the e-resources. The above said problems can be eliminated through the above said solutions like orientation, seminars, workshops and the

main thing that come into notice that there is lack of staff support to the users. This problem can be solved by recruiting well expert staff and sending the library staff to the short term training programs related to e-resources. There should be proper provision regarding the staff training in the campus also. It comes into notice that in both the libraries there is shortage of professionals.

7. Only 20% overall and 12% of CSK HPKV, Palampur and 28% of SNS Solan think that there is choice of format for getting information from digital/e-resources. Awareness about different formats of e-resources can be given to the users by providing e-resources in different ways according to the choice of the users. e.g. by e-mail, soft copy in pen drive or in DVD, print outs of the same or by sharing on the web through library 2.0 services.
8. Most of the users have the view that print resources can't be replaced by e-recourses in the future.

VII. CONCLUSION

In the new age of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) there is information explosion in every field. With the impact of it libraries are also shifting from traditional to e-libraries. So the libraries' collection is also changing from hard copy books, periodical, newspaper, thesis etc. into e-books, e-newspaper, e-thesis, e-databases etc. To fulfilling the needs of their users, libraries are changing day by day. So agriculture libraries have increased its collection in the same form. The users are also aware about these collections and using it in their daily life. In the case of Agriculture University libraries of Himachal Pradesh, these libraries are also competing to the new technologies and providing good services to their users. There are some problems in providing their services which can be solved by the libraries with little efforts. There is a shortage of e-resource professionals, who can provide proper assistance to the users of e-resources. So libraries should appoint trained persons in the field of e-resources and also provide time to time proper training. Library should also arrange seminars and workshops and orientation programs for the users as well as for the staff. So, users may know about the new e-resources and their uses. Libraries should also send the staff to outside campus seminars, workshops etc.

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