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Use of E-Resources in Medical College Libraries: A Study Based on Gujarat State

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Abstract - In Gujarat, medical colleges' libraries are shifting towards automation and e-resources services. This is more prominent in the case of medical college libraries. Generally medical college libraries are positive towards automation and the application of IT in library operation and e-resources services. Application of IT helps to provide more advanced effective and efficient services in medical college libraries. Medical college libraries are using advanced e-resources for accessing and retrieving information.

This research paper has been impact of e-resources services of medical college libraries user in Gujarat. The use of faculty, researchers and students has electronic resources in medical college library starting in the opening years of the 21st century. Most of the Medical college libraries are purchasing e-resources for their users. There are so many e-resources are available on Internet like e-journal, e-book, e-database, e-blog, e-portal etc. but to some limitation here two e-resources, e-journal and e-book are mentioned here.

Keywords: *E-Resources. Library services, Medical College Library Users.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The increasing use of electronic resources in changing scenario of Library and information centres, it is essential to connect the library services through the Internet and to access information services from other sources has reduced the capacity to characterize and categories users. The electronic resources have become a very widely used format of choice for academic library patrons. The use of faculty, researchers and students has electronic resources in medical college library starting in the opening years of the 21st century. Most of the Medical college libraries are purchasing e-resources for their users. Libraries are facing the new challenges due to the introduction of Information & communication Technologies, It is essential to change the mode of electronic collection along with old traditional print collection.

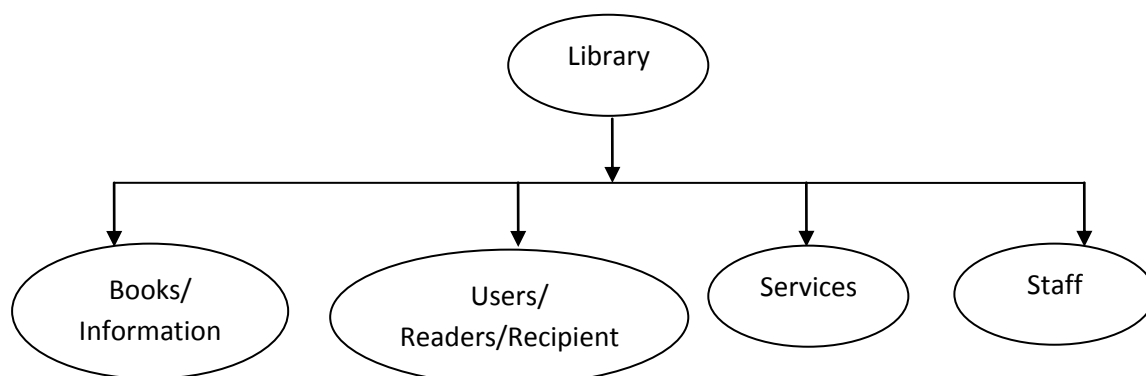
E-Resources are today by far the most indispensable materials for acquiring knowledge and the best way to do this is through internet. There are many vendors who provide access to e- resources with attractive packages and over this access like jstor (www.jstor.org), Taylor and Francis (www. tandfonline.com) etc., then there are some who provide e-resources both for fees and for free like Google Scholar (www.scholar.google.co.in) , Science Direct (www.sciencedirect.com) , Springer, MEDLINE, Thomson Reuters, Proquest, Merck Index, Embase, CHBD, CAS, EBSCO, Pubmed, Pubchem and then there are sites which provide their resources for free like INFLIBNET (www.inflibnet.ac.in) , DELNET (www.delnet.nic.in), HELNET. In addition to this there are many health and medical science related forums and blogs which aims at providing appropriate and free medical issues, some popular forum are: www.who.int, www.humanhealthproject.rog, www.ehealthforum.com. Also there are many health and medicine related articles that are published by some very reputed organizations some of which are- www.en.unesco.org, www.worldbank.org, www.imf.org, www.aiims.edu, etc.

E-resource medical science libraries are use of open source software is software for which the source code is freely available for anyone to see and manipulate without any restriction. It is generally distributed with a license that governs its use and distribution. In the phrase open source, source refers to source code, the human readable computer code which is the origin or source, of the computer application. Open refers to the terms of access to that computer source code.

II. E-RESOURCES OF THE LIBRARY SYSTEM

Library system fundamentals were constructed by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan. Without disturbing the basic fundamentals of library, we should reconstruct the library. Library is basically made up of users.

1. Books/Information (2) Readers/Users/Recipient (3) Services (4) Staff



III. WHAT ARE E-RESOURCES?

The growth and development of technology has changed the face of education. The World Wide Web has rapidly become the most useful information resource. Library and information centres provide access to database and electronic journals though online catalogue and the web to end users.

According to **Tiwari**, “Material consisting of data and/or computer programs enclosed for reading and manipulation by a computer, by the use of peripheral device directly connected to the co-puter, such as a CD-ROM drive, or remotely via such as the Internet”.

The term electronic resources used as a general nomenclature for any cohesive publication in digital form that is being marketed to librarian. However, even this definition needs questioning. It is now the case, for example, that e-journals are being marketed to the end user, who often holds the budget in a developed structure, as opposed to the central library.

IV. DEFINITION OF E-RESOURCES

Electronic resources are rapidly replacing print resources as the largest consumer of library and information centre. It is necessary to evaluate the usage of electronic resources and incorporate the results into their decision making regarding resource. Some definition of e-resources is as under:

According to Deshpande and Padmavathi defined “E-resources can be simple defined as a resource which is available to the user in electronic format and its contents can be read using computer program”

According to Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science (ODLIS) Electronic resources can be defined as “The material consisting of data and / or computer program encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer by the use of a peripheral device directly connected to the computer such as CD-ROM device or via a network, such as Internet. The category includes software applications, electronic texts, bibliographic databases etc.” is considered as e-resources.

V. NEED OF E-RESOURCES

1. Electronic documents need to supports parallel supports and electronic methods of knowledge disseminating.
2. Application of medical education activities such as syllabus, Teaching and learning.
3. Increasing the cost of publication.
4. Easy to access.
5. Speedily accessed.
6. Some publication only published electronic forms.
7. It can be read anywhere in the world.
8. No, necessity of space, shelving cost.
9. Increasing tendency to use e-information sources in medical college libraries.

VI. TYPES OF E-RESOURCES

The medical college libraries acquire e-resources in the forms of E-Databases, E-Journals, E-Magazines, E-Books, E-Learning, World Wide Web, E-newspaper and other e-contents.

All Gujarat State Medical college libraries were excluded on the ground that almost all of these have been established during the years and their libraries were still at infancy level. As survey method is most appropriate to get feedback from the users of a system a sample survey was conducted for the purpose of study. Three different questionnaires were designed to collect information from library staff students and teachers respectively. The stratified sampling was used to select sample from the universe of study comprising Librarian and faculty and researchers and Students of medical college libraries under study. From each stratum sample was chosen randomly. Keeping in view the importance of observation method personal visits were made to 18 medical college libraries under study.

E-Resources is a broader term which includes online search services, compact disc search services (online and offline), Internet sites, Electronic database, multimedia and other sources of information that users may directly access in an electronic format. This study will cover following electronic resources:

1. Subscribed databases and Electronic Journals.
2. E- Resources in Public domain.
3. Electronic Reference Sources
4. UGC-Infonet / WHO/Medline Resources etc.

The 18 librarians participants (including Librarian, Assistant Librarian and Library Assistant, working in different medical libraries) of 18 medical colleges of Gujarat responded to the survey. Participants were asked to honestly assess their computer skills. Four claimed to be excellent in using computers, eleven rated their skills as good; three rated them satisfactory; while rest were not computer literate at all. They were asked when they had last attended computer training; entire respondent had never attended any training since joining the library system.

As explained in the previous article research study have total of 14 Librarian are respondents (77.77%) 85 Faculty are respondents (47.22%) and 105 Student and Researcher are respondents (58.33%) gave their feedback for the questionnaire. Of this 53.96 (%) were Librarian, Faculty, Students and Researcher were respondents are fillip the questionnaire.

VII. SERVICES RENDERED BY THE LIBRARY

Use of information technology in medical college library results is easy to access and cost-effective information services. The following are some the important information services.

1. Computerization of Library Services
2. Fax, E-mail, Internet Services
3. Use of multimedia VCD, ACDS for higher study and research.

4. Creation of databases of books, serials, Ph. D. theses and regional local databases etc.
5. Networking of library through computer network Via Fax, E-mail, Inter Library Loan, Document delivery services, Bulletin board services etc.
6. Bibliographic Information Services: Automation of acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control, Administration of library etc.
7. Online access to union database developed at INFLIBNET websites.
8. Reference Services
9. Current Awareness Services (CAS)
10. Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)
11. Document delivery Services

VIII. SUGGESTIONS

1. The librarian should be directly responsible to the head of the institution for all the matters relating to the library. Furthermore, he should have been given more authority and freedom regarding the development and development policy in indigenous databases.
2. The college librarian should be a part of any decisions that are taken for the benefit of the library users. The library should teach the student 'how to search information on internet' and also the different integrated features of the browsers.
3. The library should be encouraging students to learn the latest information search skills, as well as promote the library services and resources more and more.
4. Periodic orientation and refresher training programmes should be arranged for library users so as to make them aware of the existing library services and also to ensure proper utilization.
5. To improve internet speed and to attach more printer with the computer.
6. The library should be maintaining the hardware and software requirements of computer time to time.
7. Time slot should be increased; print out facility should be made available to the users of Medical Colleges in Gujarat State.
8. Library staff must be skilled to navigate various internet resources i.e., e-journals publisher websites etc.
9. Internet facilities should be improved and upgraded Pc may be installed. CD-ROM, CD writers must be installed for data collections.
10. The library professionals should be trained to help the students with the internet.

11. The library sector may need to consider the provision of easy access to its sources and its services through the development of user-friendly system.

12. Further, the library needs to add value to readers' services in terms of ease of access, quality of services, and speed of searching.

IX. CONCLUSION

It is perceived that patrons will be in favour of electronic resources management and demand for a simplest most direct path to information irrespective of the methods that are being adopted. Portability, sharing and convenience are increasing important for end users. Libraries need to manage electronic resources effectively to the optimum utilization by overcoming the issues and challenges. Growth of electronic resources even through slower than what is expected will force the libraries to switch over to more and more electronic resources in future. However, with the innovative approaches to solve these issues and with a high degree of emphasis on standardization, the task of managing electronic resources will become less complex in the future.

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