

CeRA (Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture) AND CAB ABSTRACTS USAGE BY THE STUDENTS OF SRI VENKATESWARA VETERINARY UNIVERSITY, TIRUPATI: A STUDY

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JETIR
ABSTRACT

This paper presents Use of CeRA (Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture) and CAB Abstracts .Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University taken up for the study. The questionnaire was designed and analysis of data was done with simple calculations. The findings of the study revealed that 100% students are using the CeRA and CAB Abstracts for their study purpose and they agreed that there is an impact of CeRA and CAB Abstracts on their study.

Keywords: CeRA, CAB Abstracts ,Search Strategy Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati

INTRODUCTION

The enormity of knowledge in all the fields of education has made it imperative for the academic libraries to develop a more accessible approach to share resources. As Allen and Hirshon indicate ‘Perhaps the most important development for academic libraries during the current decade has been the move from organizational self-sufficiency to a collaborative survival mode as personified by the growth of library consortia’.

DEFINITION

“An association of independent libraries and/or library systems established by formal agreement, usually for the purpose of resource sharing.

About CeRA and CAB Abstracts

India is basically an agrarian country, and the agricultural research, the backbone of agricultural growth in the country, insists apt dissemination of knowledge being generated and updated across the globe from time to time. The National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) has funded for establishing Consortium for e-resources in Agriculture (CeRA) at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in November 2007 to facilitate accessibility of Scientific Journals to all researchers/teachers in the National Agricultural Research system by providing access to information specially access to journals online which is crucial for having excellence research. One of the objectives of CeRA is to subscribe e-journals and create e-access culture among Scientists/Teachers/Researchers in ICAR institutes/Agricultural Universities. To accomplish this objective CeRA was developed a web-based application for facilitating the open access. The URL is WWW.Cera.jcc.in. All Consortium members are provided the accessibility through respective IP addresses. Based on negotiations and discussions, subscriptions to about 2000 journals, from Annual Reviews, Springer Verlag, CSIRO, Elsevier, Ataylor and Francis, Nature, Indian Journals etc were made accessible online on 24x7 basis to researchers in 126 institutions in NARS through CeRA platform.

The most comprehensive database of its kind, *CAB Abstracts* gives researchers instant access to over **7.1 million records** from 1973 onwards, with over 350,000 abstracts added each year. Its coverage includes agriculture, environment, veterinary sciences, applied economics, food science and nutrition.

OBJECTIVES

- To identify the use and impact of CeRA and CAB abstracts on students
- To know the purpose of using CeRA and CAB abstracts
- To know the satisfaction of users while using CeRA and CAB abstracts
- To know the problems faced by the students in accessing CeRA e-journals and CAB abstracts
- To suggest the ways and means for effective use of CeRA and CAB abstracts

METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire method is followed to collect the data from the students. For this, a questionnaire was prepared and distributed to 182 students. Out of 182 users, 178 users have responded. Total response from the users is 97.08%. The collected data is presented in the form of tables and analysed by using a simple method of calculation.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study focuses on the Use of CeRA (Consortium for e-resources in Agriculture) and CAB abstracts by students in S.V. Veterinary College, Tirupati.

Table: 1 Frequency of visits to the University Library

Frequency of visits to the University Library	No of Respondents	Percentages (%)
Daily	84	47.19%
Once in a week	42	23.59
Once in a fortnight	21	11.79%
Once in a month	31	17.41
Total	178	100

It is evident from table 1 that 84(47.19%) respondents visit library on a daily basis. About 42 (23.59%) respondents visit library once in a week and about 21 (11.79%) respondents visiting once in a fortnight. This is followed by 31(17.41%) respondents visiting library once in a month.

Table 2: Awareness on CeRA and CAB Abstracts

Awareness on CeRA and CAB Abstracts		
Yes	178	100
No	-	-

Table 2 depicts that 178 (100%) users are aware of CeRA and CAB Abstracts

Table 3: Sources through which CeRA and CAB Abstracts known

Sources through which CeRA and CAB Abstracts known		
Library Staff	93	52.24%
Teachers	29	16.29%
Friends	43	24.15%
Self-taught	13	7.3%
Total	178	100

It is evident from table 3 that 93(52.24%) respondents are known CeRA and CAB Abstracts from library staff. About 43 (24.15%) respondents are known from friends; whereas 29 (16.29%) respondents are known from teachers and about 13(7.3%) respondents are known from self-taught.

Table 4: Place of accessing CeRA and CAB abstracts

Place of accessing CeRA and CAB abstracts		
Library	72	40.44%
Department	54	30.33%
Home/Hostel	52	29.21%
Total	178	100

Table 4 shows that about 72 (40.44%) respondents access CeRA and CAB Abstract in the library, about 54 (30.33%) respondents are accessing in the department and 52(29.21%) respondents are accessing from the hostel/home.

Table 5: Purpose of using CeRA and CAB abstracts

Purpose		
Study/Research	94	52.82%
Publishing articles	52	29.21%
Keep up to date in the subject are	32	17.97%
Total	178	100

It is evident from table 5 that 94 (52.82%) respondents use CeRA and CAB Abstracts for study/Research. About 52 (29.21%) use to publish articles and about 32 (17.97%) respondents use to keep up to date in their subject area

Table 6: Features of electronic journals that users feel important Need to start

Features of electronic journals which users feel important		
Can access at any time (on a 24/7 basis) from any place by multiple users	54	30.33%
Can access not just recent issues but to archive dating back several years.	43	24.15%
Provide electronic search capabilities relevant to specific research needs	32	17.9%
Provide hyperlink to cited references	12	6.74%
Articles are displayed clearly in an easy-to-read format	25	14.04%
A user-friendly interface	12	6.74%

Table 6 shows that 54(30.33%) respondents felt that the they can access at any time from any place by multiple users, 43 (24.15%) felt that they can access archives also. Less number of respondents felt that the e- journals have a user friendly interface

Table 7: Search Method used by respondents

Search Method		
Author	38	21.34%
Title	52	29.21%
Subject	15	8.42%
Keyword	73	41.01%
Total	178	100%

Table 7 depicts that 73 (41.01%) respondents use keyword search method to access CeRA and CAB Abstracts. About 52 (29.21%) respondents use title to access and about 38 (21.34%) respondents' access through the author whereas 15(8.42%) respondents use subject as search method to access CeRA and CAB Abstracts.

Table 8: Opinions about Information content in e-journals when compared to print version

Opinions about Information content in e-journals when compared to print versions		
Better than print versions	86	48.31%
Same as that of print versions	31	17.41%
Not better than print versions	12	6.74%
Not sure	49	27.52%
Total	178	100%

Table 8 shows that 86 (48.31%) respondents indicated that the information content in e-journals is better than print versions. About 49 (27.52%) respondents indicated that they were not sure about information content in e-journals and databases when compared to printed versions, and about 31 (17.41%) respondents felt that it was same as that of print versions and about 12 (6.74%) respondents replied that it was not better than print version.

Table 9: Impact of CeRA and CAB Abstracts on Study/Research

Impact of CeRA and CAB Abstracts on Study/Research		
Yes	178	100
No	-	-

Table 9 depicts that about 178 (100%) respondents agreed that CeRA and CAB Abstracts have impact on their study/Research.

Table 10 Satisfaction with existing Internet facility

Satisfaction with existing Internet facility		
Yes	145	81.46%
No	33	18.53%
Total	178	100%

It is evident from table 10 that 145 (81.46%) respondents replied positively and they are satisfied with the existing Internet facility, whereas 33 (18.53%) respondents are not satisfied with the Internet facility.

Table 11: Problems faced by respondents while accessing e-journals

Problems faced by respondents while accessing e-journals		
Lack of availability of personal computers and bandwidth	28	15.73%
Unfamiliarity with the search methods	21	11.79%
Information is not relevant to the subject	17	9.55%
Lack of support from the library staff	02	1.12%
No Problems	110	61.79%
Total	178	100%

Table 11 shows that 110(61.79%) respondents stated that they didn't face any problem while accessing e-journals and least number of respondents stated that they faced problems like lack of support from the library staff, information is not relevant to the subject, unfamiliarity with the search methods and lack of availability of personal computers and bandwidth

Table 12: Need for Orientation programme

Need for orientation/ Training programme		
Yes	21	11.79%
No	157	88.20%
Total	178	100%

Table 12 depicts that about 157 (88.20%) respondents stated that the training programme is not required. Remaining 21(11.79%) respondents stated that the training programme is required.

Table 13: Opinion about CeRA and CAB abstracts

Opinion about CeRA and CAB abstracts		
Excellent	122	68.53%
Good	32	17.97%
Satisfactory	22	12.35%
Unsatisfactory	02	1.12%
Total	178	100%

It is evident from table 13 that 122(68.53%) respondents expressed their opinion that CeRA and CAB abstracts are excellent.

FINDINGS

- It is evident from table 1 that 84(47.19%) respondents visit library on a daily basis. About 42 (23.59%) respondents visit library once in a week and about 21 (11.79%) respondents visiting once in a fortnight. This is followed by 31(17.41%) respondents visiting library once in a month
- 178 (100%) users are aware of CeRA and CAB Abstracts
- 93(52.24%) respondents are known CeRA and CAB Abstracts from library staff. About 43 (24.15%) respondents are known from friends; whereas 29 (16.29%) respondents are known from teachers and about 13(7.3%) respondents are known from self-taught.
- About 72 (40.44%) respondents access CeRA and CAB Abstract in the library, about 54 (30.33%) respondents are accessing in the department and 52(29.21%) respondents are accessing from the hostel/home.
- 94 (52.82%) respondents use CeRA and CAB Abstracts for study/Research. About 52 (29.21%) use to publish articles and about 32 (17.97%) respondents use to keep up to date in their subject area
- 54(30.33%) respondents felt that they can access at any time from any place by multiple users, 43 (24.15%) felt that they can access archives also. Less number of respondents felt that the e-journals have a user-friendly interface
- 73 (41.01%) respondents use keyword search method to access CeRA and CAB Abstracts. About 52 (29.21%) respondents use title to access and about 38 (21.34%) respondents' access through the author whereas 15(8.42%) respondents use subject as search method to access CeRA and CAB Abstracts.
- 86 (48.31%) respondents indicated that the information content in e-journals is better than print versions. About 49 (27.52%) respondents indicated that they were not sure about information content in e-journals and databases when compared to printed versions, and about 31 (17.41%) respondents felt that it was same as that of print versions and about 12 (about 178 (100%) respondents agreed that CeRA and CAB Abstracts have impact on their study/Research.
- About 178 (100%) respondents agreed that CeRA and CAB Abstracts have impact on their study/Research
- 145(81.46%) respondents replied positively and they are satisfied with the existing Internet facility, whereas 33 (18.53%) respondents are not satisfied with the Internet facility.

- 110(61.79%) respondents stated that they didn't face any problem while accessing e-journals and least number of respondents stated that they faced problems like lack of support from the library staff, information is not relevant to the subject, unfamiliarity with the search methods and lack of availability of personal computers and bandwidth
- 157 (88.20%) respondents stated that the training programme is not required. Remaining 21(11.79%) respondents stated that the training programme is required
- 122(68.53%) respondents expressed their opinion that CeRA and CAB abstracts are excellent.

SUGGESTIONS

- 21(11.79%) respondents stated that the training programme is required. Workshops need to be conducted by the library to impart training to students.

CONCLUSION

Recognizing the significance of consortia in the networked society, many academic institutions and libraries in India have setup consortia for E-resource sharing. CeRA facilitating 24x7 online accesses to select agricultural journals to all researchers. The present study reveals that CeRA and CAB Abstracts have a positive impact on users' study/research.

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