

# Usage of E-Resources in Engineering College Libraries

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**Abstract:** *The concept of storage of information and dissemination of information has been changed with the application of IT in Engineering College Libraries. The usages of e-resources in libraries of all academic institutions are increased day by day. To meet the demands of the user community in academic institutions and Research libraries, e-resource sharing plays a key role. The present paper discusses an overview of electronic resources, their types, and usage in academic institution libraries.*

**Key Words:** *E-resources- Academic Libraries, Information Services-e-resources.*

## Introduction

The Information Technology has changed the concept of the library from traditional to digital. In today's Internet Age, information is generated in print as well as electronic forms, Hence these resources are also part of the modern library collection. The electronic resources empower and enrich the academic system. The increase in information generation has made the task of collection, organization, and retrieval of information very difficult. Alternatively, the academic libraries often prefer electronic resources to substitute print collections for optimum use. Many reasons including physical space, escalation in journals' prices, digital literacy, discovery system, and skilled manpower force the academic libraries to opt for electronic resources in meeting needs of the large community of users.

The electronic resources provide them quick and up-to-date information. With Internet facility, the user can access these e-resources. The significance of e-resources is recognized in all libraries of academic and Research Centers to meet their users' demands for their academic pursuit. For that, the UGC is also encouraging Colleges and Universities to promote electronic usage by supporting them financially.

## Definition

According to AACR2, 2005 Update, an electronic resource is a "material (data and/or program) encoded for manipulation by a computerized device (e.g. CD-ROM drive) or a connection to a computer network (e.g., the internet)."

E-resource is an electronic information resource that can be accessed on the web, on or off the campus. Electronic information sources offer vast opportunities for readers. The information needed can be delivered from the most appropriate sources instantly and the user can satisfy his needs dynamically.

Online tools that index, abstract and provide electronic access to articles, books, dissertation and other types of content are called electronic resources. E-Books, e-journals, electronic databases, CD-ROM, E-News, E-Images, E-Music and sound collections, are different types of E-resources.

## 1. Types of E-Resources

### 1.1 Research Guides by Subject

Subject guides are web resources which provide an overview of resources in a subject area. They include staff contacts, print collections, electronic resources, as well as links to other relevant Web sites. Subject guides are a good place to start when one can begin research on a specific topic and one can locate subject guides from one's own Database Finder page or go to the Website and select Research Guides by Subject.

### 1.2 Indexes

An index is a reference source which provides bibliographic information about journal articles, as well as other types of materials. While indexes have long existed in print, online indexes have expanded the type of work done by researchers with more options than looking for materials by subject, author or title. Online indexes allow looking beyond the subject, author, or title. They allow looking for keywords or phrases throughout the bibliographic information--including the abstract.

Sometimes people refer to indexes as "Article Databases," since they are mainly used to search for articles in journals. Many also include the full-text of an actual article online. However, it is important to realize that many indexes cover other research materials such as conference papers, book chapters, dissertations, research studies, etc

### 1.3 E-Books

An e-book is an electronic form of a book usually parallel publication of a print copy, but occasionally 'born digital'. A Book, available fully electrically via the website on the internet is called E-Book. According to Don Hawkins there are four types of E-Books – (1) Downloaded E-Books, i.e., Glass books and Guttenberg (2) Dedicated E-Book readers like Gemstar's, REBs and Franklins E-Bookman (3) Print-on-demand books like Columbia University online book project (4) Web-accessible E-Books as provided on websites and accessed on payment like Springer E-Book collection.

The publishers like Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, McGraw Hill and others have standard publishing of e-books. Many libraries and Information Centers provide links to the collection of full-text books

### 1.4 E-Journals

Any journal that is available over the Internet can be called an 'electronic journal'. Electronic journals are simply the electronic form of a journal. These are also called virtual journals or online journals. Some of them are in CD-ROM and can be acquired stored and retrieved like a book. But it requires the necessary hardware and software to use it. E-Journals have helped publishers and scholars to disseminate information much more quickly. Some of the well-known publishers of E-Journals are JSTORE, Project Muse, and Science Direct.

## 2. Electronic Databases

Electronic databases are the most important and highly used electronic media among the LIS professionals for information retrieval purpose. Electronic Database consists of organized pieces of information into records. Within an electronic database, a computer programme assists the user in selecting the desired piece of data. The databases include products such as periodical indexes and abstracts, directories, encyclopedias, dictionaries other reference works.

### 2.1 Types of Electronic Databases

They are broadly two types: Offline systems and Online systems. In off-line systems, the information is stored in mainly CD-ROMs whereas in online systems the information is stored in the mainframe to be distributed and made available at the local computers through networks like the Internet.

### 2.3 Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)

It is a bibliographical database which regularly alerts scholars for their current research activities worldwide. It is for online searching through telecommunication links, for retrospective searching. These services could be provided in batch or online mode.

### 2.4 E-News

Almost all the popular newspapers are available online, i.e., in electronic form.

### 2.5 E-mail

It is very useful as well as an essential for library and information services. It is better to say that perhaps no other recent innovation. It is better to say that perhaps no other recent innovation has such a great impact on the library profession as Internet and specifically E-mail services. E-mail services offer new, fast and economic modes of information to its users. It connects the global information generators with each other to share their knowledge. E-mail services benefit academicians, ordinary information-seekers or miscellaneous groups by providing the right information at the right time. It has changed total scenario of information passing through.

### 2.6 E-Images

Internet search tools provide electronic image facility. These images are very useful in the subjects like history, geography, medical sciences, etc.

### 2.7 E-Music and Sound Recordings

E-Music and sound collections are important resources in multimedia libraries.

### 2.8 CD-ROM

CD-ROM is nonvolatile optical data storage medium using the same physical format as audio compact discs, readable by a computer with a CD-ROM drive. Many books and journals are available in CD-ROM. It occupies less space and information can be retrieved quickly. Single CD can store more than a hundred books.

### 2.9 DVD

DVD is an acronym that stands for Digital Versatile Disk. It has changed the entire environment of electronic information products and services with huge storage capacity and quality picture. Rewritable products DVD-RAM and DVD+RW are emerging.

## 3. Academic Commons

The intellectual output of a particular organization is also an important primary resource for a research scholar. Online access to the Ph.D. dissertation of different universities, working papers, proceedings, the annual report of the company, etc., is useful for academic scholars. But access to these resources can be restricted to the organizational users only.

### 3.1 Advantages of E-Resources

E-Resources have many advantages over print resources. Multiple and remote access makes it available at one's desk. Electronic devices need less space. E-Resources provide information any time throughout the day. The user can re-specify his or her needs dynamically. They are huge information reservoirs and provide up to date and quick information. The text size can be enlarged for those who have reading problems. Many a time E-Resources are in the multimedia format and are interactive. Direct feedback can be given to the authors by the readers and thus the quality of work can be improved. They have a multidisciplinary approach and provide various search options. Self-publication in electronic form is possible.

### 3.2 Disadvantages of E-Resources

The user has to depend on a computer or an electronic device for the usage of E-resources. It requires the regular supply of electric power. In rural areas where the power supply is not regular, information cannot be accessed at any time. Long exposure to computer screen may create a health problem. The print content can be accessed anywhere and anytime. One can cuddle up with the book and read anytime. There are limited numbers of publishers for E-Books, In case of hardware problem like damage of memory device; the entire book may be lost forever. Hence backup devices are required.

The major challenges faced in the acquisition and collection development of electronic resources are budget, collection development policies, E-Book standard, and technology, digital rights management software and cataloging.

### 3.3 Use of E-Resources in Academic Libraries:

In academic libraries especially Universities and Research institutes where PG and doctoral courses offering are optimally used electronic resources by the readers. Undergraduate students also use information available on the internet for their assignments and project works. The younger generation is more technology and can manage the information available in an electronic form more easily and accurately. Almost all the academic libraries are providing internet access to their readers.

## Conclusion

The academic institution libraries in India have many challenges to make the best use of electronic media in order to meet the needs and requirements of clientele. E-resources are an indispensable part and process of e-learning. Electronic resources stand to offer significant benefits to librarians. Many fragile or rare items kept in special collections or rare book areas of libraries-often available to users only by appointment are placed on the web as electronic texts or digital images, making them known to a wider public. Electronic resources may be a good way to deal with limited physical space in libraries. These resources are also a convenient way to provide materials to distance education students. Libraries have to plan collection development policy and train the staff for management of e-resources

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