



Role of Electronic Information Resources on Academic Performance

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Abstract

The main objective of the study is to find out the role of electronic information resources on academic performance. In this study, the main objective is to determine the aspects of academic performance influenced by the use of electronic resources. Firstly, to measure the usage of electronic resources. Secondly, to determine whether electronic information resource is a useful tool for academic performance and to determine if it affects academic performance, i.e., performance. Thirdly, to identify the aspects that influence academic performance in terms of use of information resources. Finally, to analyze the factors influencing academic performance by using electronic resource resources.

Keywords: E-Resources, E-Books, E-Databases, Online Resources, Digital Content

1. Introduction

Electronic Resources are the resources that include documents in electronic or e-format that can be accessed via internet. Electronic resources are available in in the forms of e-books, digital contents, online journal, magazine, e-news, data archives and e-mail, online chatting and deliver a collection of data. Electronic resources are available in the form of text, image and other multimedia products like numerical and graphical mode.

Most importantly, ICT significantly changes the way learning is conducted with the increase of an information and communication technologies for instructional design, delivery and technology supported learning Barclay (2001). Electronic Information Resources provides many advantages over traditional print- based resources (Tyner 2014; Ji, Michaels & Waterman 2014). Blandy (2012) also opines that in order to utilize the growing range of electronic information resources users must acquire and practice the skills necessary to exploit them. It is well believed that attitude towards a particular phenomenon can enhance or mar human approach to such 7 phenomenon. Positive attitude is widely recognized as a necessary condition for effective use and integration of information technology in teaching and learning.

According to Yousef (2011), academic performance is the extent to which a student, teacher, or institution, has achieved their short or long-term educational goals. In the author's further view, academic performance can be commonly measured or ascertained through examinations or continuous assessments, hence cumulative grade point

average (GPA) and completion of educational degrees such as high school and bachelor's degrees represent academic achievements. The author concludes that there is no general agreement on how best to evaluate academic performance or which aspects are more important.

2. E-Resources:

Electronic resources (or e-resources) are materials in digital format accessible electronically. Examples of e-resources are electronic journals (e-journal), electronic books (e-book) online databases in varied digital formats, Adobe Acrobat documents (.pdf), Web Pages (.htm, .html, .asp etc) and more. E-resources can also include articles from newspapers, dictionaries or encyclopedias as well as images, and many other items. "The term E-Resources used to describe all of the information products that a library provides through a computer network. This includes electronic books, Journals, bibliographic database and library websites pages."

3. Types of E-Resources:

E-resources are broadly categorized in to;

3.1 Online e-resources: Online resources that may be accessed via the Internet are referred to as online e-resources. These resources are accessible to users on a variety of electronic devices, including tablets, smartphones, and PCs. Online databases, periodicals, newspapers, e-books, and e-journals are a few types of e-resources available online. Users can search, view, and download. These content through websites, digital libraries, and online platforms.

3.1.1 E-journal (Full text & bibliographic): A publication that is accessible online in an electronic format is known as an e-journal, sometimes known as an electronic or online journal. E-journals can be viewed on a computer, tablet, or smartphone from any location with an internet connection.

3.1.2 E-books: A digital copy of a printed book that can be read on computers, tablets, smartphones, e-readers, and other portable devices is known as an e-book or electronic book. Popular e-book formats, including PDF, EPUB, MOBI, and AZW, can be downloaded from a variety of online stores, digital libraries, and other sources.

3.1.3 Online academic databases: Scholarly research resources can be found digitally in online academic databases, which are accessible to academics, scholars, and students. Books, dissertations, conference proceedings, peer-reviewed academic journals, and other scholarly items are frequently included in these databases. Academic libraries and online services can provide access to subscription-based online academic databases.

3.1.4 Online Magazine: Online magazines are published only online or in digital format. They are often referred to as web magazines or digital magazines. Publishers that are exclusive to the internet, conventional print publishers, or individual authors may release them. Online magazines can cover a wide range of subjects, such as news, entertainment, fashion, and lifestyle.

3.1.5 Online Newspaper: An online newspaper is a digitally accessible and readable version of a printed newspaper, sometimes referred to as an e-newspaper or digital newspaper. Newspapers covering a variety of subjects, such as local and international news, business, sports, entertainment, and more, can be published online by traditional print publishers or by publishers who operate only online.

3.1.6 Web sites: A website is an assortment of web pages that are stored on a web server and are viewable using a web browser on the internet. A website can be made for many different things, such as a personal blog, an online store, a news website, or the website of an organization or business.

3.2 Other electronic resources: Digital resources that are not available online are referred to as "other electronic resources." Users with the proper devices can access these resources, which are kept on electronic media like CDs, DVDs, USB drives, and hard disks. Digital photographs, digital maps, digital archives, and multimedia assets are a few more types of electronic resources. Since these materials are typically kept in digital formats, searching, viewing, and copying them is simple.

3.2.1 CD.DVD ROM: CDs and DVD-ROMs are optical storage devices that read data from the disk using laser technology. It is a read-only medium, which means that data can only be read from the disc and not written to, and is used for the distribution of software, music, and movies. It is frequently utilized for data delivery in physical form.

3.2.2 Diskettes: A diskette, also known as a floppy disk, is a type of magnetic storage media used in the past for storing and transferring data between computers. It consists of a plastic disk coated with a magnetic material. It is now largely obsolete due to newer storage technologies offering larger capacity, faster transfer rates, and more excellent reliability.

3.2.3 Other portable computer databases.

4. Role of e-resources and services in the dissemination of knowledge

E-resources revolutionize knowledge dissemination by providing a vast array of materials like scholarly articles, e-books, online journals, databases, and research repositories. They overcome physical barriers and traditional publishing models, enabling efficient and widespread knowledge sharing across geographical boundaries. E-resources also facilitate rapid dissemination of new research findings.

5. Impact of E-resources on academic performance

5.1 Access to a Vast Repository of Knowledge: Educational professionals as well as learners can now quickly access a vast array of study materials, e-books, journals, and scholarly papers from a variety of fields. E-resources have completely changed how people can obtain information. Unrestricted access to information has made education more democratic by enabling students and educational professionals to study a wide range of subjects and undertake extensive study, regardless of where they reside or what school they attend.

5.2 Enhanced Learning Experience: E-resources have enhanced learning by enriching instructional content with interactive and multimedia elements. Online materials, simulations, and interactive modules foster critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and active learning. Students and academicians are able to personalize their learning route based on their interests and learning style, which helps them retain the information and understand it better.

5.3 Flexibility and Convenience: Higher education is now more convenient and flexible thanks to e-resources. Using a variety of devices, including laptops, tablets, and smartphones, students can access course materials, readings, and assignments at any time and from any location. This flexibility meets the needs of working professionals, hectic schedules, and distance learners alike, while also accommodating a variety of learning methods.

5.4 Global Connectivity and Collaboration: Geographical obstacles have been eliminated by e-resources, allowing students and educators to collaborate globally. Students can interact with peers and professionals from around the globe through virtual classrooms, online discussion boards, and collaborative platforms, which promotes knowledge exchange, cross-cultural understanding, and the development of varied viewpoints.

5.5 Cost Savings and Sustainability: Geographical obstacles have been eliminated by e-resources, allowing students and educators to collaborate globally. Students can interact with peers and professionals from around the globe through virtual classrooms, online discussion boards, and collaborative platforms, which promotes knowledge exchange, cross-cultural understanding, and the development of varied viewpoints.

5.6 Continuous Updates and Timely Research: Real-time updates are made possible by e-resources, guaranteeing that scholars and pupils are aware of the most recent advancements and discoveries in their domains. Because digital content is constantly changing, instructional resources remain current and in step with the latest developments across a range of subjects.

5.7 Data-Driven Insights: Institutions can gain data-driven insights on the performance, progress, and learning behaviors of their students by utilizing e-resources. By tracking student progress, identifying learning gaps, and customizing interventions, instructors can create individualized learning journeys for students through the use of learning management systems (LMS) and online assessment tools.

5.8 Lifelong Learning Opportunities: The availability of e-resources has increased opportunities for lifelong learning, enabling people to learn new things at their own speed throughout their lives. The availability of educational resources fosters a culture of lifelong learning by encouraging people to stay current in their disciplines and promoting continuing professional development.

6. Advantages of E-Resources

The way information is accessed, shared, and used has changed significantly as a result of the many benefits that e-resources provide. Among the main benefits of using electronic resources are:

6.1 Exceptional Availability: The days of needing to physically visit a library in order to obtain information are long gone. Time and distance are no longer constraints thanks to e-resources, which provide unmatched accessibility. E-resources allow you to access information from the convenience of your home, workplace, or anyplace with an internet connection, whether you're a student, researcher, or simply inquisitive. The availability of knowledge around-the-clock has created countless opportunities for study and inquiry.

6.2 The Volume of Information: The e-resources' depth and diversity are just outstanding. There is an almost infinite variety of things accessible, which includes databases and multimedia content to e-books and scientific periodicals. Libraries don't need to have the physical area restrictions that come with traditional libraries in order to curate large collections. Because there is so much content available, client's needs and interests are catered to with resources from a wide range of fields and subjects.

6.3 Current Information: One major benefit of using e-resources is their freshness. In contrast to print media that frequently have a distribution delay, digital resources provide instant access to the most recent data and insights. For professionals, researchers, and students who need current information, this function is especially helpful. You may stay on the cutting edge of your area and keep up with the ever changing body of knowledge by using e-resources.

6.4 Improved Search Engine Friendliness and User Experience: E-resources make it amazing easy to find important information. Strong search capabilities, sophisticated filtering choices, and user-friendly interfaces enable users to rapidly find specific material within large collections. Furthermore, retrieval is streamlined by metadata, indexing systems, and keyword searches, which saves significant time and effort. E-resources' user-friendly design guarantees a smooth and effective experience for both inexperienced and seasoned users.

6.5 Expense-effectiveness: E-resources provide a more affordable option than traditional print products. Libraries can save a lot of money on the costs of purchasing, keeping, and maintaining physical resources. Moreover, since e-resources do not require actual library visits or the purchase of individual copies, users can save on travel expenses and subscription fees. Because of its affordability, libraries are able to manage their funds more effectively and provide a wider audience with access to knowledge.

6.6 Sustainability and Preservation: A big benefit of e-resources is digital preservation. Digital resources can be copied, stored, and repurposed without losing quality, in contrast to physical items that could deteriorate with time. By ensuring the lifespan of important information, this preservation effort helps to ensure that knowledge will endure for future generations. E-resources are essential to preserving our society's intellectual legacy.

6.7 Engaging Interactive Education: E-resources include multimedia and interactive features in addition to text-based content. Learning is brought to life through simulations, audio files, videos, and interactive modules, which encourage participation and deeper comprehension. The dynamic, immersive, and pleasurable quality of learning is increased by the interactive character of e-resources.

6.8 Worldwide Perception and Cooperation: Geographical barriers are no longer an obstacle for users of e-resources, which connect people worldwide. People may easily collaborate, exchange thoughts, and trade knowledge by using digital resources and online platforms. This global reach promotes variety of viewpoints, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovation across a range of industries.

The benefits of electronic resources have completely changed how we get and apply knowledge. The conventional library landscape has changed as a result of their ease, extensive content, real-time information, and improved user experiences. E-resources enable us to stay informed, carry out research, and interact with knowledge in ways we never could have imagined as we fully embrace the digital age. E-resources are being used by libraries and individuals to create more of an inclusive, accessible, and networked learning environment. Let's take use of these benefits and set off on an exciting exploration of the world of electronic resources.

7. Disadvantages of E-Resources

Even if using e-resources has many benefits, there are some disadvantages that should be taken into account. The following are a few disadvantages of online resources:

7.1 Accessibility and the Digital Divide: Equal access to information is still hampered by a sizable digital divide, notwithstanding the increased accessibility of e-resources. To properly exploit e-resources, not everyone has access to the required technological infrastructure, such as dependable internet connectivity or electronic gadgets. This digital divide exacerbates already-existing disparities in information access by disproportionately affecting underprivileged groups and individuals

7.2 Dependency on Technology: Technology, such as internet access, electronic gadgets, and digital platforms, is a major component of e-resources. Users' access to information may be hampered by any disruptions, including hardware malfunctions, network outages, and power outages. Furthermore, people who are not as proficient with digital tools or who lack the requisite digital literacy skills may encounter technological obstacles, which could lead to a learning curve and possibly frustration.

7.3 Overloading with information: The excess of electronic resources may result in an overload of data. It is getting more and harder to sort through the massive amount of data that is readily available to us and discern between trustworthy and untrustworthy sources. Confusion and maybe inaccurate research or decision-making may result from users' inability to efficiently filter and assess the quality and relevance of the content.

7.4 Limitations on Copyright and Licensing: E-resources frequently include license and copyright limitations. These restrictions can range from prohibitions on printing, downloading, or copying content to limitations on the quantity of people that can use the system at once. When sharing or distributing electronic resource items, users could run into difficulties, especially in collaborative or instructional contexts. Sometimes the complicated laws around copyright and license agreements obstruct the free exchange of ideas.

7.5 Challenges of Digital Preservation: While the ease of preservation and storage that e-resources provide is a benefit, long-term digital preservation presents some difficulties. Evolving file formats and quickening technology breakthroughs might make older digital content outdated or unusable. With time, important information and content may disappear if appropriate preservation techniques are not used. Ensuring the durability and availability of electronic resources necessitates continuous endeavors and dedication.

8. Conclusion

Electronic resources are plays very important role in the academic performance of the educational professions as well as students. In the era of computer and mobile technology every individual are able to access the e-resources on fingertips. With many advantages and disadvantages e-resources are very essential and becoming part of day to day life.

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