COLLECTION OF e-RESOURCES IN CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NORTH INDIA: A Study

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Abstract

Libraries, regarded as a realistic value and a hub of learning, have given services in teaching, learning, and research from their inception. The use of ICT in libraries caused a shift in knowledge collection, organisation, dissemination, representation, and preservation. Furthermore, the use of technology resulted in a plethora of novel learning methodologies. All improvements in libraries are focused on delivering services to users. The study emphasises important concerns about how consumers use library resources and the services supplied by North India's central institutions.

Keywords: Collection Management, E-resources, Digital Resources Access Management, Collection Development, E-resources, Electronic Resources, Print Resources.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries are embracing digitalisation in the contemporary context. A number of central university libraries have digitised their collections in an effort to promote research and development. Examining the current status of digital resource management at Central University Libraries is the aim of this study. It examines DRM rules as well as the organisation, preservation, and management of digital materials. To ascertain the digital resource management activities occurring at the selected Central University Libraries, a structured questionnaire was developed to collect data from the librarians. The study's findings demonstrated that careful planning, the use of innovative techniques for obtaining digital resources, and specialised training are required for the digitisation, monitoring, and authentication of digital items in order to enhance library services. The percentage of library subscriptions that consist of electronic resources has been increasing over time. Academic institutions spend a significant amount of money on electronic resources, including databases, eBooks, and e-journals, all over the world. The management of electronic resources is quite complex, and the workflows involved are different from those for print resources, according to research done globally. Despite being around for more than two decades, librarians are still trying to figure out how to handle electronic resources most effectively. The research claims that a significant

number of standalone, incompatible systems are used to handle electronic resources. Library services platforms (LSPs) and library management systems (LMS) cannot handle the workflow of electronic resources. The workflow for electronic resources can be managed with Electronic Resource Management Systems (ERMS). The price, however, is a significant deterrent to employing commercial ERMS. This study looks at how the Central Library at IIT Delhi uses the open-source ERMS. It discusses the procedures throughout the stages of implementation as well as the issues that come up during system implementation. The qualities of CORAL are also covered. Additionally, this study shows that when ERMS CORAL was put into place, electronic resource management improved. Institutions seeking to apply CORAL will find this report useful.

E-RESOURCES: E-resources are computer-mediated materials that may be accessed and utilised. There are both online and offline materials available, including CD-ROMs, which are considered electronic resources. E-resources are products available through a library's computer network. Electronic resources, often known as online information resources, include bibliographic databases, electronic reference books, full-text search engines, and digital data collections. They include both "born digital" and online-produced content. Examples of digital resources include e-journals, databases, and scanned print materials. Libraries do not "own" electronic resources, such as e-journals and online databases, like they do print materials. Electronic resources are owned by their respective providers. Electronic resources may be offered for free or at a price via the Internet. Examples of electronic resources include magazines, encyclopaedias, newspapers, journals, and published articles. These can be accessible using Internet-connected devices, including computers, tablets, and smartphones.

ADVANTAGES OF E-RESOURCES

1. E-resources have various advantages, some of which include:

2. E-resources can be accessible over the Internet. Users do not need to physically visit the library.

3. This is very important for users living in rural places.

4. Users can download and store articles on their PCs.

5. Multiple users may access the same resource, such as an article or journal, simultaneously.

6. E-resources can be accessed whenever and wherever it is convenient for the user.

7. Users can easily search several resources using a single interface.

8. E-resources give utilisation statistics to assist library staff in determining product usage.

6. Issues with the Development of E-Resource Collection

PROBLEMS: To make sure that e-resources are compatible with the technology and software already in place at libraries, a number of technical considerations must be made. The library's ability to offer and efficiently sustain access to resources on a continuous and economical basis is another crucial technical feature. Libraries typically have significant challenges when developing their collections of electronic resources for a number of reasons, chief among them being a lack of funding for subscribing to and maintaining these resources.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY: The current study's key aims are as follows.

1. The study aims to assess library resources.

2. Determine user usage of e-resources in central university libraries in North India.

3.   Identify awareness and access points for consortium-based e-resources.

4.   Understand user awareness of e-resources.

5.   The goal is to assess user satisfaction with library services.

6.   Predict potential issues when using e-resources.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY: A sound collection of e-resources and sharing them equally among the central university libraries in North Indian states significantly adds research input for the scholars pursuing their works in interdisciplinary areas in the respective universities; as a result, developing an integrated library network/library consortium among the central university libraries of North Indian states has become imminent in view of their strategic locations.

This study's scope also includes

- i. Library Networking,
- Internet,
- Networking and Technologies,
- Collection and Management of e-resources,
- Developing policies for building digital collections,
- Requirements of electronic infrastructures for digitisation, and so on.

All six libraries under examination have a realistic model of library networks and consortia in the North Indian region. The current study, however, does not include any additional central organisation libraries or agricultural universities that exist in North India. The study's scope is

Name of the University	Abbreviation used	University Library	Abbreviation Used
Jamia Millia Islamia	JMI	Dr Zakir Husain Library (ZHL)	JMI Library
Jawaharlal Nehru University	JNU	Dr B R Ambedkar Central Library (BRACL)	JNU Library
University of Delhi	DU	Central Library (CL)	DU Library

University of Allahabad	AU	Central Library	AU Library
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	BHU	Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Library	BHU Library
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh	AMU	MaulanaAzad Library	AMU Library

Table 1

confined to a suggestion for effective resource utilisation among library members at each of the universities included by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium

REVIEW OF LITERATURE: A review of literature on developing and managing e-resource collections in economics libraries is provided below.

• Adzobu, P., Okyere, S., & Banji, G. T. (2020) examined how innovation affects postgraduate students at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana's use of cellphones to access electronic resources in the library. The diffusion of innovation theory served as the theoretical framework for this investigation. The study's conclusions demonstrate that the gender and faculty of postgraduate students at the University of Cape Coast had an impact on their use of cellphones to access e-resources. Nonetheless, the students' ages had no discernible impact on the uptake of smartphones. The state of the collection development and administration of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) libraries,

• Gulnaz and Nishat (2019) Other aspects of collection development, such as collection development policy, resource procurement, resource selection, and budget allocation, are included in this study. Accessibility, stock verification, shelf organisation, weeding out, and library security are all part of the collection administration at the IIT Guwahati and IIT Patna Central Libraries.

• Nazir and Shabir (2018) attempted to investigate the change or changes in the collection creation process throughout northern Indian agricultural libraries brought about by the introduction of electronic information resources.

• Patra (2017) examined the state and variations in the various e-resource management components of Indian business and management school libraries. It also examined the factors responsible for the criteria/methods used in the life cycle of e-resources and the e-resource management (ERM) system. The study observed that all libraries are not following all the steps of different components of ERM, such as selection, evaluation, acquisition, licence agreement and renewal/cancellation of e-resources, which are essential for the better management of e-resources. In the framework of collection development (CD).

• Axel Schmetzke (2015) conducted a thorough examination of e-resource accessibility for all individuals, including those with disabilities, using a mix of research approaches, including policy analysis, content analysis, and telephone surveys. According to the survey, CD rules that mandate adherence to accessibility standards are uncommon nationwide, and librarians rarely consider the requirements of individuals with disabilities when they convene to decide which e-resources to use.

• Kaur and Walia (2016) looked at how management libraries in India are currently developing their e-

resource collections. The librarians of the nine management libraries that were the subject of the study were given a well-designed questionnaire. The management libraries actively contribute to the development of e-resource collections, according to the findings. The budget allocation for the purchase of e-resources has increased progressively over the years in the majority of the libraries.

• Mangrum and Pozzebon (2012) emphasised that as publishers and vendors continue to expand their electronic offerings, library resources change on a regular basis.Policies for collection development have long been used to inform stakeholders and direct decision-making, but as our collections continue to migrate online, how are these policies benefiting libraries and their patrons? The purpose of this fourth study is to examine the function of collection development policies, both historical and contemporary, as well as the difficulty of collections transitioning to electronic format.

• Tedd (2003) examined how research libraries spend more money on print resources than on electronic resources, based on data from the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) for 1999–2000. According to her, this will soon change as research libraries switch from print to electronic journal subscriptions. The project's overarching goal is to "create a suite of web-based tools and supporting services that will connect the higher education community with high-quality information as directly as possible."

• According to Gary and Crawford (1997), electronic resources are becoming more and more crucial for libraries of all shapes and sizes. To help librarians choose electronic reference materials, their study revealed the necessity of creating a policy for the development of electronic information resources collections.

Instead of focusing on how well a given item fits into or supports the collection, the policy gives general guidance on the selection of electronic resources.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH: The study is based on research being conducted for a PhD, and the necessary data is gathered from the three key universities through questionnaires, interviews, and observation.

FINDINGS: The electronic documents are the dominant forms of present-day library procurement in India, with the print struggling to retain its readership. The study revealed the prospects and problems faced by the libraries in view of access management of e-resources. It was found that inadequate funds and negotiation with publishers are the two most important problems libraries are facing while accessing the electronic resources.

CONCLUSION: The administration of electronic resources is a complex process, and the institutes under study did not conduct numerous processes under different workflow stages. The study's findings are consistent with other research conducted by different scholars. The institutions utilise diverse systems for electronic resource workflows. Non-adherence to standard

workflow steps of the electronic resource life cycle and the use of many systems lead to various issues like scattered communication. Several incompatible solutions were utilised to handle electronic resource workflow. Electronic Resource Management Systems are needed for better ERM, but due to the high cost of commercial ERMS, they are not being used. Most of the institutions under study want to use the open-source ERMS.

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