



### A STUDY ON AWARENESS AND EASE OF USING E-RESOURCES AMONGST FACULTY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COMMERCE COLLEGES IN MUMBAI

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#### **Abstract:**

Information is a nervous system for the teacher and researcher, without the information they cannot teach and generate new information in an academic institute. The information and communication technology tools have changed the mode of communication and availability of information in a digital environment. The main purpose of the study is to investigate the awareness and use of electronic resources among the commerce faculty of University of Mumbai.

**Keywords:** *E-Resources, Information*

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#### **Introduction:**

Advances in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have made drastic changes in the teaching learning methods. It has led to changes in the traditional methods of teaching. Today's modern technology are providing various services to their users from their digital or virtual library space, it also helps the users to access required information from their fingertips wherever they are. In this era of information explosion E-Resources have become essential to the users.

#### **Concept of E-Resources:**

The electronic resources are systems in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and computer networks. These resources include OPAC, CD-ROMs, Online- Databases, E-

journals E-books, Internet resources etc. Multiple accesses speed, richer in content, reuse, timeliness, anywhere access is some of the features of e-resources. IEEE Explore, Elsevier Science Direct, ASCE Journals, ASME Journals, EBSCO, Springer, etc. are the example of some famous e-resources available in India and overseas. These resources are paid resources and only accessible after payment. These resources are only limited access. These are available in so many different packages in different price ranges. In India, these resources are available through INDEST-AICTE consortium and UGC-INFONET consortium on some discounted prices. Electronic resources provide access to information that might be restricted to the user



because of geographical location or finances. Electronic resources also provide access to current information as these are often updated frequently. Through their various search techniques electronic resources provide extensive links to explore additional resources or related content. In addition, electronic resources are considered as important resources of teaching, research and training. Thus, most of libraries as well as the universities of the present day provide electronic resources for higher education and research.

### Need of E-Resources:

The evolution of Internet has facilitated the approach of retrieving and dissemination of information among the users. E-Resources, especially e-journals, e-databases and e-books are important sources of information. E-Resources are systems in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and computer networks. These resources include e-journals, e-books, e-magazines, e-databases, OPAC, CD-ROMs and Internet. Majority of academic libraries of the present day provide e-resources for higher education and research.

Technology has transferred the world and instrumental as an important tool for retrieving information. Now a day, library collections are not exhaustive post to printed documents alone but they are good E-resources and they have become the inseparable part of human life in contemporary Era.

### Importance of E-resources in teaching and research work of the Institute

The primary sources of information such as journals, proceedings, standards, patents, etc., are very important for the academic library. They

disseminate current and nascent information to the end user. Due to changes in the publication sector now these resources are available in electronic or digital version. Nowadays e-resources are considered as mines of information in the academic library. A large number of sources of information can be retrieved simultaneously and instantly in the library. These e-resources are allowing library as well as patron access around the clock, speedily and save the time and money of user. The University grant commission (UGC) body Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) is connecting university and other academic libraries with a strong network for scholarly communication among academicians and researchers in the country. The e-Shodhsindhu is providing access to core and peer reviewed online databases with negotiated rates to the university library to promote research in the academic institutions

### Importance of the study:

The purpose of the present paper is to know the state of awareness and utilization of available E-Resources by the Commerce College Faculty members associated with University of Mumbai. This would help the colleges to identify the difficulties faced by faculty members while accessing to the e-resources and try to put into practice the suggestions to promote E Resources

### Literature Review:

Sharma (2018) conducted a survey on the use of electronic resources by the faculty members and students of Swami Shraddhanand College (SSC), New Delhi. The study found that the majority of users are aware of the availability of electronic resources. The results revealed that 47.78 % of respondents need to access only electronic resources



whereas 32.78% users are interested to read the printed resources but 19.44% respondents want to use both electronic and printed resources. A majority of the faculties (76.66%) use e-resources for their teaching and research activities. The analysis reveals that 73.88 % of the respondents chose the Delhi University Library System followed by 50.55% who accessed the college library for electronic

resources further followed by 37.77% who accessed the computer lab and 25% who approached other places where they got the facility to access electronic resources.

Jogan, (2015) conducted a study on the Access, Awareness and Use of Electronic Resources by Postgraduate Students in Gulbarga University. This study inspected the postgraduate students' views on the awareness, access and usage in facilitating their research and their satisfaction with the sources and services currently provided by the libraries. The findings of this study shows that 90.1% of respondents acknowledged the important role of libraries in facilitating research, and 72.5% of the respondents were satisfied with the current role being played by the libraries.

Sharad Kumar (2014) conducted a survey on the Use of E-Resources by Postgraduate Students and Research Scholars of the Banaras Hindu University. The study found that the majority of the users are frequently using e-resources for teaching and research purposes. The study reveals that 93.84% of users are aware about the electronic resources and most of them are aware through the internet. The study also highlighted that 57% of the users spend less than one hour accessing e-resources.

### Objectives of the Study:

The main Objectives of the present study are:

1. To find out the awareness and ease of use the E-Resources
2. To analyze the hurdles faced by Faculty in use of E – Resources
3. To give suitable suggestions to improve facilities and services related to the use of E-Resources.

### Research Methodology:

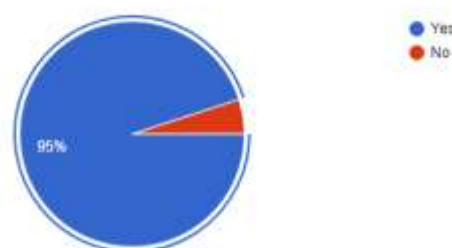
Simple Random Sampling was used to select the sample. Sample size was 60 respondents.

Sampling unit is Commerce college Faculty of UG Courses of University of Mumbai.

A structured questionnaire was used to collect the primary data. Various web resources, Journals and magazines were used to collect secondary data.

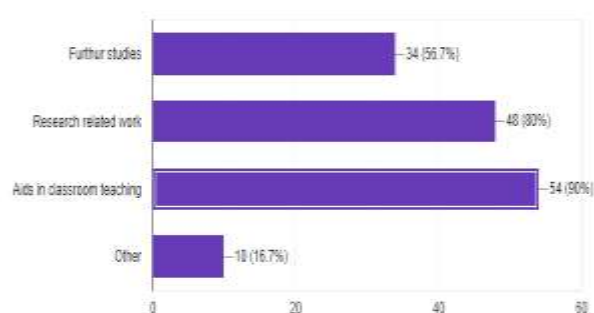
### Data Analysis:

#### 1) Awareness of E Resources



95% of the faculty were aware about the E-Resources and 5% were not aware

#### 2) Purpose of using E - Resources



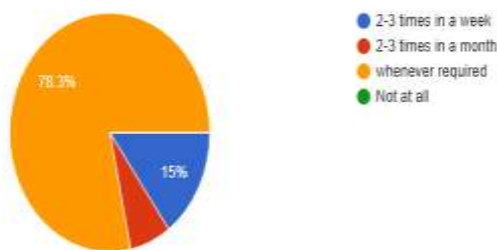


Multiple responses were collected. 56.7% of respondents used E-Resources for further studies. 80% of respondents used E-Resources for Research related work.

90% of the respondents used E-Resources for classroom teaching

16.7% of the respondents used it for other academic purposes.

### 3) Frequency of Usage of E - Resources

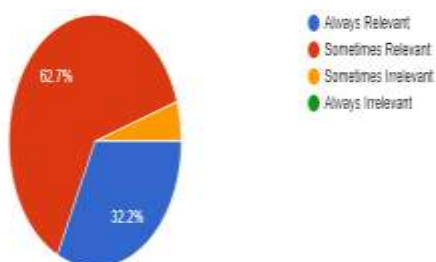


78.3% of respondents use E –Resources whenever required

15% of respondents use E- Resources 2-3 times in week

6.7% of respondents use E-Resources 2-3 times in a month

### 4) Relevance of Information found on E-Resources

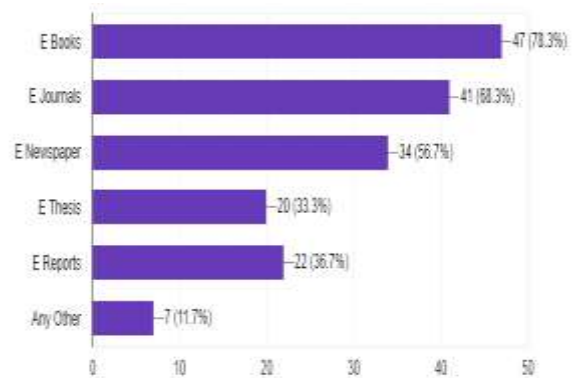


62.7% of respondents found information from E – Resources sometimes Relevant

32.2% of respondents found information from E – Resources Always Relevant

5.1% of respondents found information from E – Resources sometimes Irrelevant

### 5) Type of E-Resources used



Multiple responses were collected. 78.3% of faculty used E Books

68.3% of faculty used E Journals

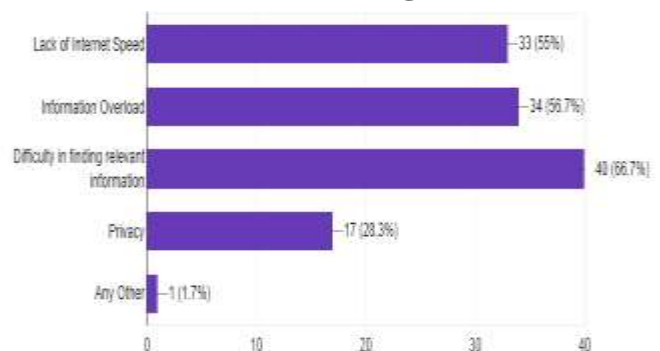
56.7% of faculty used E Newspapers

33.3% of faculty used E Thesis

36.7% of faculty used E Reports

11.7% of faculty used for any other work

### 6) Problems faced while using E Resources



Multiple responses were collected. 55% of respondents reported lack of Internet speed.

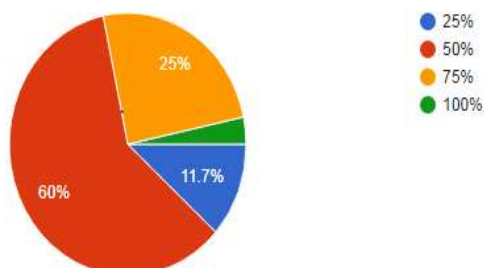
56.7% of respondents said Information overload,

66.7% of respondents faced difficulty in finding relevant information,

28.3% of respondents found privacy as a concern,

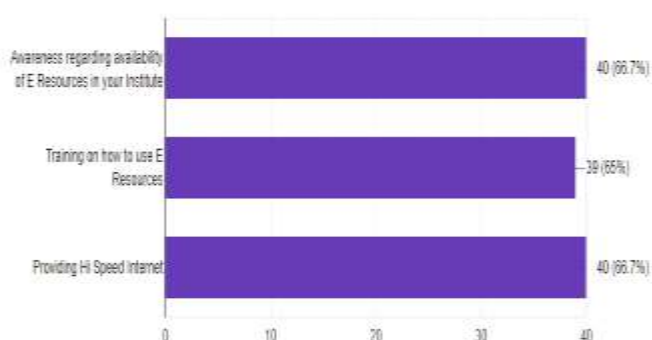
1.7% of respondents faced other problems while using E-Resources

### 7) Satisfaction with the E Resource facilities provided by the Institution



60% of the respondents were 50% satisfied with the E-Resource facilities provided by the institution, 25 % of the respondents were 75% satisfied with the E-Resource facilities provided by the institution, 11.7% of the respondents were 25% satisfied with the E-Resource facilities provided by the institution, 4.3% of the respondents were 100% satisfied with the E-Resource facilities provided by the institution.

### 8) Suggestions for ease of using E Resources



Multiple responses were collected.

66.7% of respondents suggested Awareness regarding availability of E –Resources by the Institute

65% of respondents suggested Training on how to use E-Resources

66.7% of respondents suggested Hi Speed Internet.

### Major Findings:

- 1) Majority of the respondents are aware of the E-Resources provided by their institution.
- 2) Resources provided by their institution.
- 3) E-Resources are used by the users as per their need and requirement.

- 4) Only few respondents found information available on E - Resources to be totally relevant.
- 5) E Books, E Journals and E newspapers were frequently used by most of the respondents.
- 6) Major problems faced by most of the respondents were lack of Internet speed, Information overload and finding relevant information,
- 7) More than 50% of users were satisfied with the E-Resource facilities provided by their institution

### Suggestions:

- 1) Effective promotion should be done regarding availability of E –Resources in the Institute
- 2) Training programmes should be conducted by institution on how to use E-Resources
- 3) Availability and accessibility to Hi Speed Internet is crucial
- 4) Provide infrastructure facilities for accessing electronic resources by the users within the library premises.
- 5) According to the current situation libraries need to subscribe to more e-books and e-journals or e-databases.
- 6) The speed of the Internet needs to be increased for access to the available e-resources.
- 7) A periodical survey should be conducted about the e-resources subscribed by the institutions and if any problems occur while using it.

**Conclusion:** Libraries play a vital role in academic institutions as they acquire process, preserve and disseminate various kinds of resources. In this technological era many of the library services are moving from traditional services to electronic services. Nowadays library users largely depend on e-resources based on their information needs. The use of e-resources has also improved their academic





performance in many cases. So, libraries also need to update with the current trend and fulfill the needs of the users.

### Limitations of the Study:

- 1) The Study is strictly limited to the faculty members of University of Mumbai
- 2) Biasness of the respondents may affect the result of the study.
- 3) Due to time and resource constraints, the sample size is limited to 60 respondents only

**Scope for further Research/Research Gap:** The study is restricted to the faculty members of commerce Colleges of University of Mumbai only. The study can be extended to arts and Science faculty also. Further research can be conducted on the role of library in promoting E-Resources. Various universities can also be included in further research.

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University Grant Commission:

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