Changing Learning Environment and Electronic Resources

Pranjal Deka

Abstract: Today’s world totally runs with Information. All societies run with the association of modern ICT tools. Due to changing context, learning and teaching environment is also drastically changing. Electronic resources (e-resources) have become very popular among the scholarly community of the world and libraries are no exception. Today, the academic libraries are procuring more and more e-resources for the satisfaction of their users. All libraries try to provide quick and effective service for their users at a low cost in the least time. In changing context E-resources play a vital role in the quality enhancement of higher education. In this paper, it is tried to reflect various dimensions of E-resources used by the student of Social Science and Humanities disciplines of Dibrugarh University.

Key Words: E-resources, Learning Environment, Time Saving, Multi-Users.

I. INTRODUCTION:

E-Resources are major leaning components of the modern scholarly community. An E-resource is defined as a resource which requires any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full-text databases, electronic journals, image gallery, other multimedia products, and numerical and graphical or time-based product. The Pranjal Deka, Teaching Associate, Department of Library and Information Science, Assam Women’s University, Jorhat, Assam, India resource on magnetic and optical media has a vast impact on the collections of all libraries. There are different forms of E-resources which are available on the World Wide Web, some of the popular ones that attain pulverized are the e-journals, e-standards, e-technical specifications, e-reports, e-patents, e-full-text articles, e-trade reports, and hosts of other document sources. Also, the printed editions of scholarly journals are available on the web. The maximum publishers of the journals are themselves providing services like e-contents, e-abstracts of articles, e-full text before the actual printed edition is put on the stands. Major E-resource providers such as Elsevier, Academic Press, Springer, Oxford University Press, Taylor, and Francis Blackwell Science, etc. play a vital role in promoting e-learning environment. E-resources cover the all scholarly community and it is developed very quickly. Using all ICT tools, all teaching groups should try to make maximum utilization of E-Resources.

II. OBJECTIVES AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the studies are to find out the use of e-resources by the students of Dibrugarh University, in the discipline of Social Science and Humanities. The objectives of the study are:
- To examine the types of e-resources used by the student.
- To identify the frequency of use of e-resources among student;
- To examine the purpose of using the e-resources;
- To find out what types of e-resources used by the student;
- To analyze the difficulties faced by the students while accessing e-resources;
- To examine the student’s satisfaction level of e-resources.

Limitations of the Study

This study was limited among postgraduate student of Dibrugarh University, in the Discipline of Social Science and Humanities.

III. METHODOLOGY

Research Design:

In this study, the descriptive survey method was used because it seeks to investigate the use of e-resources by the students with special reference to the Social Science and Humanities discipline of Dibrugarh University. The necessary data were collected from the students of Dibrugarh University.

Data Collection Tool:

The Structured questionnaire titled “Changing Learning Environment and Electronic Resources” prepared on Google from the format and its dispatch among student via Whatsapp and Email.

IV. MAJOR ADVANTAGE OF E-RESOURCES:

E-Resources can drastically change the learning environment of the world. E-Resources have great potential and a bright future for satisfying all users around the globe. It integrated all the benefits of multimedia, digital coding, and the World Wide Web. It enables the user to carry everywhere and can be read on all types of computers including the handled device. Major advantages of E-Resources are listed below

- Multi-Users: The best advantage of E-Resource is that many users can operate the resource simultaneously at the same time.
- No need physical location: In all the information format, it requires some definite physical places. But in e-resources, all data are stored in a virtual format.
- Low cost: It can reduce the cost of printing and binding.
- **Any time- anywhere**: E-resources can be operated at any time irrespective of places.
- No overhead charge (such as shipping, postal, etc.): It requires zero charges for shipping or posting.
- **Multimedia format**: Traditional data services contain text only. But e-resources are available in an audio-video format making it useful for differently-abled users. It is also attractive for the child as it contains graphics.
- **No binding, repairing, etc.**: Binding, repairing is totally absent for e-resources.
- **Customizable**: The size can be modified according to the user's needs.
- **Easy for sharing**: The data can be shared very easily all over the world.
- **No chance for damage**: The data remains safe irrespective of physical, chemical and biological factors. The data can't be damaged like physical data such as books.
- **Easy to search from a huge amount of collection**: It contains certain operations through which the user can explore the required data from a cloud of data.

**V. VARIOUS TYPES OF E-RESOURCES:**

There are various types of e-resources available for satisfying various user groups. The major E-resources are as follows-
- E-books;
- E-Journal
- E-Thesis and Dissertation (ETD)
- E-Magazine
- E- Database
- E-Photographs
- Multimedia product
- E-Clipping
- E-Patent
- E-Indexing and Abstracting
- E-Conference proceeding etc.

**VI. IMPORTANCE OF E-RESOURCES AMONG STUDENT OF DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY:**

a. **The population of the Study**

The estimated population for this study is 150 respondents drawn from the students of Social Science and Humanities discipline, Dibrugarh University. Out of these 150 questionnaires in Google form, 128 were returned, giving a response rate of (85.33%). The student population is as shown in table 1 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total No of Questionnaire distributed</th>
<th>150</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response of Questionnaire</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Response</td>
<td>85.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. **Frequency of Use of E-Resources**

The frequency of e-resources use varies among students. Table 2 shows that the largest group of students daily use e-resources. Daily used by 94.53%, weekly used by 3.90%, monthly used by 1.56%, the lowest no of students 0.7% use e-resource rarely.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Total No (n= 128)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>94.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**c. Types of E-Resources used by the Student**

The predictions stated by the users on various types of e-resources are as follows, most of the respondents used e-journals 97(76.56%), followed by e-books 55(42.96%), e-thesis 20 (0.15%), e-magazines 18(14.06%), e-Database 7(5.76%), e-Photographs 19(14.84), Multimedia product 71(55.46%), E-Clipping 0(0%), E-Patent 3(2.34%), E-newspaper 45 (35.15%). It reveals from the study that a large number of respondents used the e-journals, e-books.

**Table -3: Types of E-Resources used by the Student**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of E-Resources</th>
<th>Total No of Users</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-books;</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>42.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Journal</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>76.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Thesis and Dissertation (ETD)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Magazine</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Database</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Photographs.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multimedia product</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>55.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Clipping.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Patent.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Newspaper</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>35.15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

d. **Purpose of E-Resource Use**

Purpose of E-Resources Use Table 4 indicates that, most of the respondents Stated that purpose of using e-resources for study 88(68.75%) followed by assignment 74 (57.81%), Competitive Exam 104 (81.25%) Subject Updating 67(52.34%), Refreshment 56 (43.75%), when need of use 45 % (35.15).

**Table -4: Purpose of E- Resource Use**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Total No</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>68.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>57.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitive Exam</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>81.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Updating</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>52.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshment</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>43.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When Need</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>35.15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

e. **Satisfaction Level**

Table 5 indicates the Satisfaction level of respondent users Highly Satisfied 55 (42.98%), Satisfied 67(52.34%), Average 4 (3.12%), and Not Satisfied 2 (1.56%)
The maximum student uses e-resource rarely, the maximum student uses e-book for their studying purpose, 76.56%.
The maximum student uses e-resources for preparation for competitive examination 81.25%.
52.34% student satisfied from E-Resources.
A maximum student 35.15% student faced problems as a high cost of surving time.
Maximum Students dealing with regional languages such as Assamese and Bodo face the problem as the least number of e-resources.

VIII. NECESSARY ACTIVITY FOR MAXIMUM USE OF E-RESOURCES:
i. User Awareness:
the basic aim for maximum utilization of any service is to create awareness among the users. To maximize the use of e-resource in the learning environment, we have to create awareness among the people about e-resource. It helps to create a user-friendly learning environment.

ii. Improve Information Literacy skill:
To make maximum use of e-resource, we have to make sure that all aspects regarding the reliable exploration and use of e-resource at its exact position. Exploration and application of e-resource at its true sense will make sure proper utilization of it.

iii. ICT skill:
All the information providers like librarians, teachers and other resource persons should develop their skills in order to make the best use of e-resource.

IX. CONCLUSION:
With the due passage of time, the society is changing; so is the need of the society. Teaching and learning process has also no exception. To fulfill the need for information, it is the demand of the present time to use e-resource in day to day life. Developments in ICT have changed the field of information. It has accelerated the process of knowledge and skills developing. So good infrastructure is needed and also the development of skilled persons are required. The society is dependent on the production of various information. Therefore all people should be informative. It is the duty of the experienced people to create awareness about the e-resource which can make a country digital database. All scholarly community should be aware of e-resource and should make a paperless digital society.

REFERENCES:
2. Ergatt, R.J. “An explanation of the importance of electronic resources in undergraduate research.” Felicitier, 48 (4), 181-185. 2002

AUTHOR PROFILE

Pranjal Deka. Currently Working as a Teaching Associate, Department of Library and Information Science, Assam Women’s University Jorhat, Assam. He had completed his Bachelor of Library and Information Science (B.Lib.I.Sc.) degree from Centre for Library and Information Science Studies, Dibrugarh University with first-class first position. And he also completed the Masters of Library and Information Science (M.Lib.I.Sc.) degree with first-class first position from the same institution. He cleared UGC –NET in June 2019. He presented two research papers on International Seminar and present seven research papers on National Seminar. Along with the LIS profession, he also engaged with creative writing. He receives various prizes on the state-level literary competition.