

USE OF E-RESOURCES BY RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the paper is to determine the extent to which research scholars of Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (India) are aware and make use of e-resources, to highlight the problems faced by them in accessing e-resources, their views on usefulness of e-resources compared to that of print resources and the place from where they prefer to access information. A well structured questionnaire was administered among research scholars of Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University to collect the necessary data, keeping in view the objective of the study. Research scholars prefer e-resources against print resources because of its various good features, for their research progress and are looking in future to have more e-resources access within university campus with better internet connectivity. The present paper consists of e-resources users' population limited to Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University. Similar studies can be done at various universities, organizations to know the changing information seeking behavior of scholars and accordingly needful changes can be done to have right information at right time to right person. There are number of attempts to find out the use of e-resources but this is first of its kind and hence paving way for further research in India and abroad.

Keywords- E-resources, BHU IT, Research scholar.

1. INTRODUCTION.

We have seen how much the world has changed, once the speed of information dissemination was like the speed of tortoise but now due to invent of Information and communication technology the desired information can be accessed within a single blink of eye. The information which we can access so speedily is actually electronic resource on the internet. The entire developed and developing nations are using e-resources and similarly Indians too.

Banaras Hindu University (BHU) established by the parliamentary legislation BHU act 1915 is one of the oldest and Internationally reputed universities, it ranks among the first few in the India in the field of academic and research output. This university has two campuses, 3 institutes, 16 faculties, 140 departments, 4 advanced centers and 4 interdisciplinary schools. The University is making its mark at the national and international levels in a number of frontier areas of Science, Social Science, Technology, Medicine and Agriculture etc. Institute of technology(IT) consists of several departments including, Ceramic, Chemical, Civil, Computer science,Electrical,Electronic,Mechanical,Metallurgical,Mining,Pharmaceuticals,Applied Chemistry, Applied Mathematics, Applied Physics, School of biochemical, School of biomedical and School of material and technology. The present paper deals with the use of e-resources by the research scholars of the BHU IT.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

There is no dearth of literature related to use of e-resources, various scholars had tried to study different institutes as; Madhusudhan while studying Use of electronic resources by Research scholars of Kurukshetra University concluded that electronic resources had become an integral part of the information needs of research scholars there. Further, he found that e-resources can be good substitutes for conventional resources, if the access is fast, and more computer terminals are installed to provide fast access to e-resources. (M, Madhusudhan, 2010). The status of use of electronic resources among the students of business schools in Orissa is still at its infancy. The student community has yet to explore the potential benefits of various forms of e-resources that could suitably help their scholastic needs (Dillip K. Swain, 2009). In the study named "Use of electronic information resources and facilities by humanities scholars" Tahir found that the availability of electronic resources like electronic databases (online and CD-ROM), electronic journals, digital books, internet and e-mail has a great impact on the information-seeking behavior of the humanists, (Tahir, Muhammad,2008).In a study regarding the use of e-sources and internet by engineering, medical and management students and faculty members in India Kumar found that the students and faculty who participated in this survey were aware of electronic information sources and also the internet. Most of them used these sources in support of their study and teaching and they are adept at using these sources, (Kumar, B.T. Sampath, 2008). It has been found that usage of e-journals is increasing; this is due to awareness among the users about the library e-resources and services. Owing to an easy access available at various places in the institute, users are accessing these resources at hostels and departments more as compared to the library. The users coming to library have decreased, (Verma, Rama, 2008). One survey reveals that most of the research scholars are aware of the availability of e-journals and largely use them for reference purposes in their research work. They fully agree that with the usage of e-journal the quality of research work improves with enrichment of appurtenant contents and materials leading to high-quality manuscript. It is however found that lack of training is the obstacle in proper and full utilization of e-journals, (Khan, Abdul Manan, 2008). Naushad's findings clearly reveal that more than 60 per cent of users in the Central Science Library are using e-journals weekly for the purpose of research. Printed journals are

consulted by the majority of users compared with e-journals. Keyword is the most popular search method for searching, e-journals among research scholars, whereas the date of publication carries the least percentage among all the options. However, it is found that slow downloading of PDF files is the major problem that would discourage users while using e journals, (Ali, P.M.Naushad, 2010).

3. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY:

Following were the objective of the study;

- To find out the frequency of use of e-resources by research scholars of BHU IT;
- The purpose of use of e-resources;
- To find out the basic search strategy for accessing e-resources;
- Find out Infrastructural problem in using e-resources;
- Identify the place from where research scholars of BHU IT access e-resources.

The survey was conducted by means of a structured questionnaire circulated among sixty research scholars from different departments of Institute of Technology Banaras Hindu University. The response rate was 83.33 per cent. A stratified accidental random sample method was used for the selection of respondents and interaction with those who were available in the departments during the survey period (Jan 29-feb24, 2011).

The collected data were analyzed, classified, and tabulated by employing statistical methods.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

The data collected are here analyzed and presented in form of tables and figures

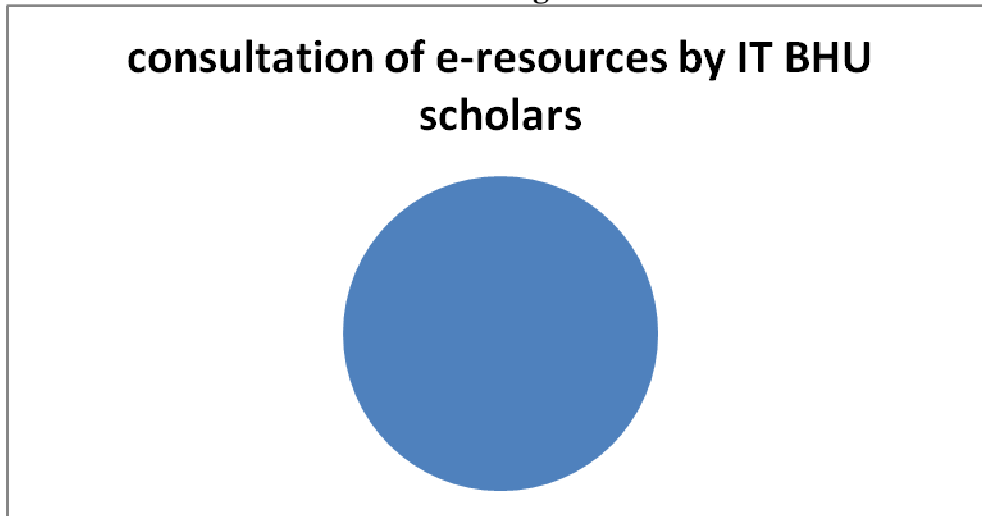
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT E-RESOURCES:

The question was asked to research scholars whether they consult e-resource or not with respect to question hundred percent respondents answered affirmatively. This is good sign of awareness and use of electronic resources.

Table 1

PARTICULARS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Consultation of e-journal	50	100
Not consulting	0	0

Figure 1



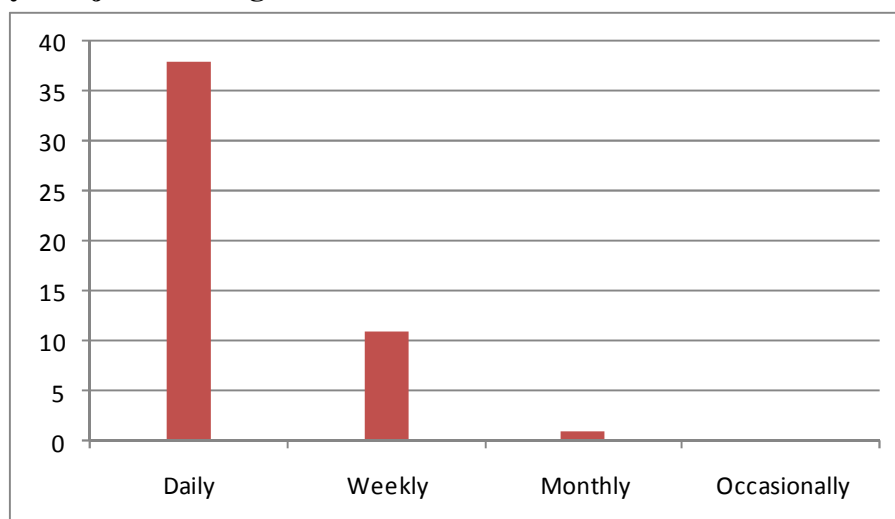
FREQUENCY OF E-RESOURCES USAGE:

Seventy six percent of the research scholars use e-resources daily, while twenty two percent use it weekly and only two percent use it monthly.

Table 2 Frequency of e-resources usage

FREQUENCY	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (n=50)
Daily	38	76
Weekly	11	22
Monthly	01	02
Occasionally	00	00

Figure 2 Frequency of e-journal usage



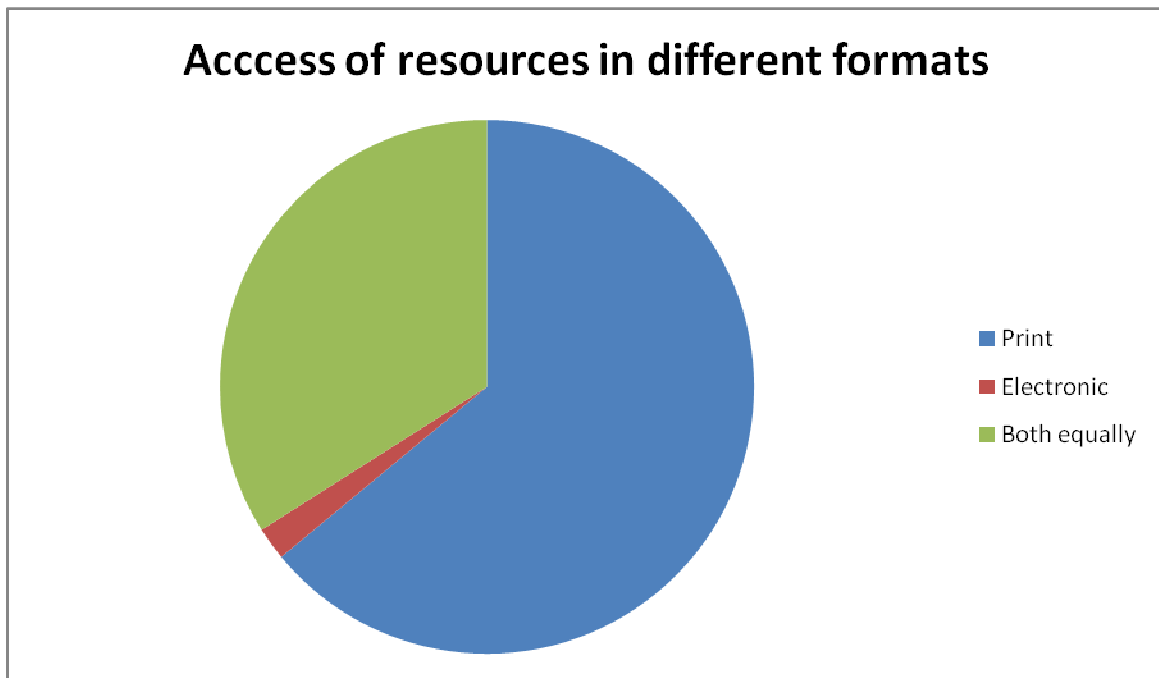
PREFERENCE OF ELETRONIC RESOURCES OVER PRINTED RESOURCES:

While answering the query regarding the preference between formats of resources 64% prefer electronic, 34% both equally and only 2% to print one.

Table 3 Preference of electronic resources over print resources

Resource type	Number of respondents (n=50)	Percentage
Electronic	32	64
Print	01	02
Both equally	17	34

Figure 3 Preference of electronic resources over print resources



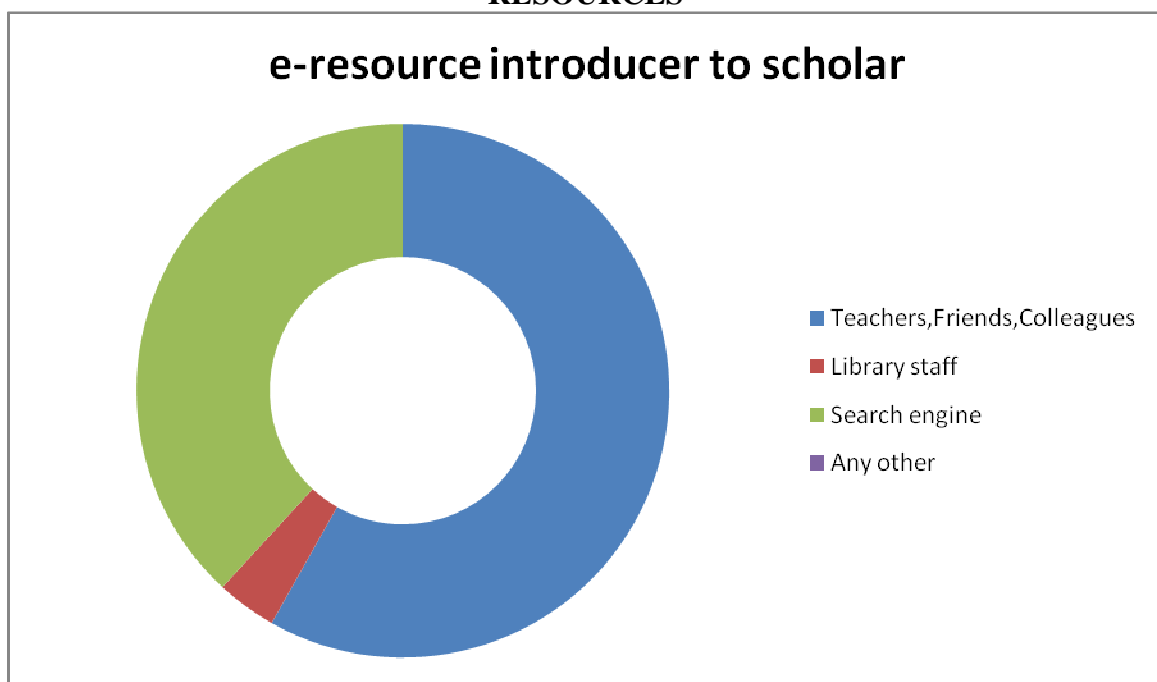
SOURCE FROM WHOM COME TO KNOW ABOUT E-RESOURCES:

The teacher, friends, and colleagues seems to be in majority of cases as introducer of e-resources to scholars i.e. 64% while 42% of scholars come to know about e-resources by search engine and only 4% by library staff.

Table 4 SOURCES FROM WHOM COME TO KNOW ABOUT E-RESOURCES

Source introducing e-journal	Number of respondents (n=50)	Percentage
Teachers, Friends, Colleagues	32	64
Library staff	02	4
Search engine	21	42
Other	00	0

Figure 4 SOURCES FROM WHOM COME TO KNOW ABOUT E-RESOURCES



PURPOSE OF USE OF E-RESOURCE:

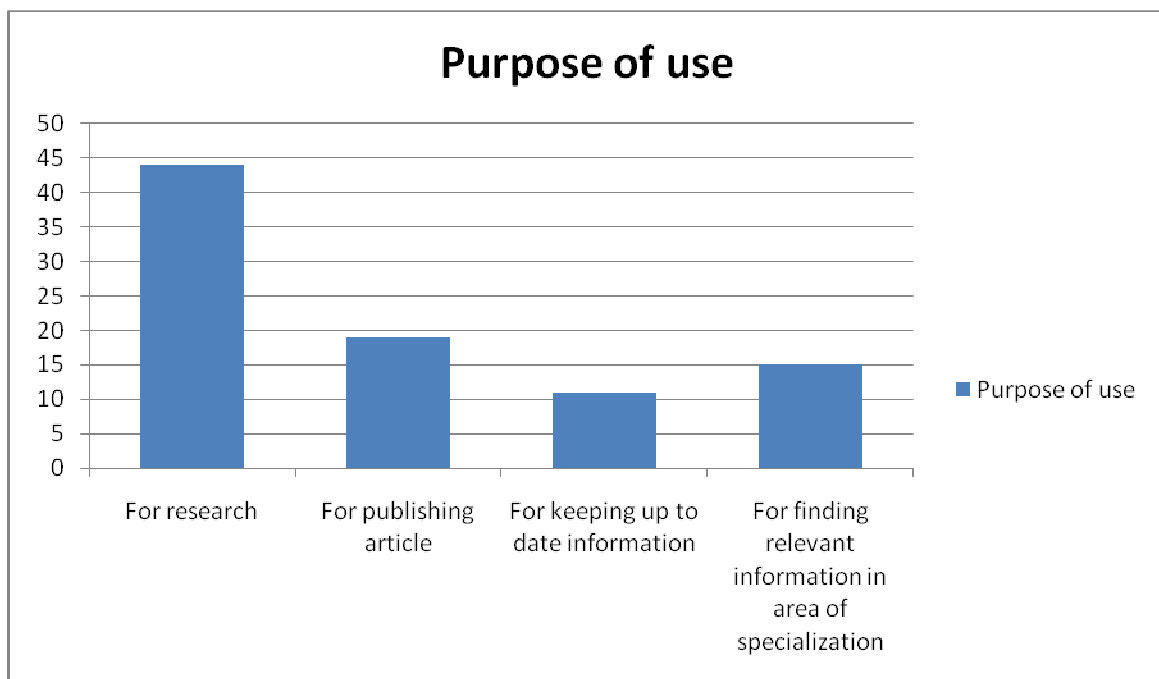
The respondent were given multiple choice for the question, 88% of research scholar responded to the questionnaire that they use e-resource for their research work, 38% for publishing article, 22% to keep up to date their knowledge and 30% for finding relevant information in their area of specialization.

Table 5 Purpose of use of e-resource

Purpose	Number of respondents (n=50)	Percentage
For Research	44	88
For publishing articles	19	38
For keeping up to date information	11	22
For finding relevant information in the area of specialization	15	30

Note: Multiple answers were permitted

Figure 5 Purpose of use of e-journal



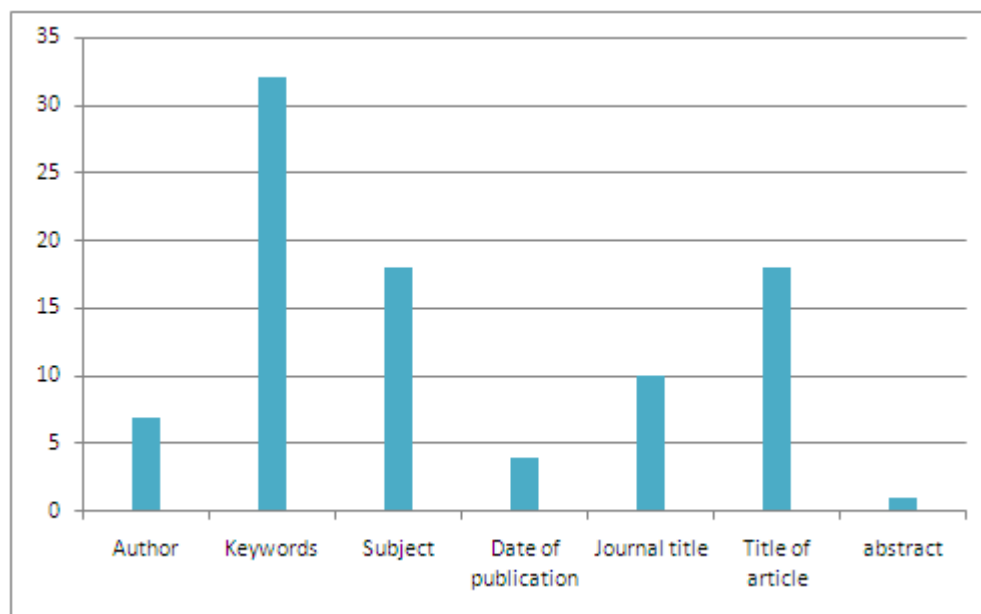
BASIC SEARCH STRATEGY FOR ACCESSING E-RESOURCE:

In the majority of cases research scholars do the searching by keywords as we can clearly see from table 7 and figure 7 that 64 percent of scholar prefer keyword as their search strategy, 36 percent to subject, 14 percent to author, 08 percent to date of publication 20 percent to journal title, 36 percent to title of article and only 2 percent by abstracts

Table 7 Search Strategy

Search methods	Number of respondents n=50	Percentage
Author	07	14
Keywords	32	64
Subject	18	36
Date of publication	04	08
Journal title	10	20
Title of article	18	36
Abstracts	01	02

Figure7 SEARCH STRATEGY



INFRASTRUCTURAL PROBLEMS IN ACCESSING E-RESOURCE:

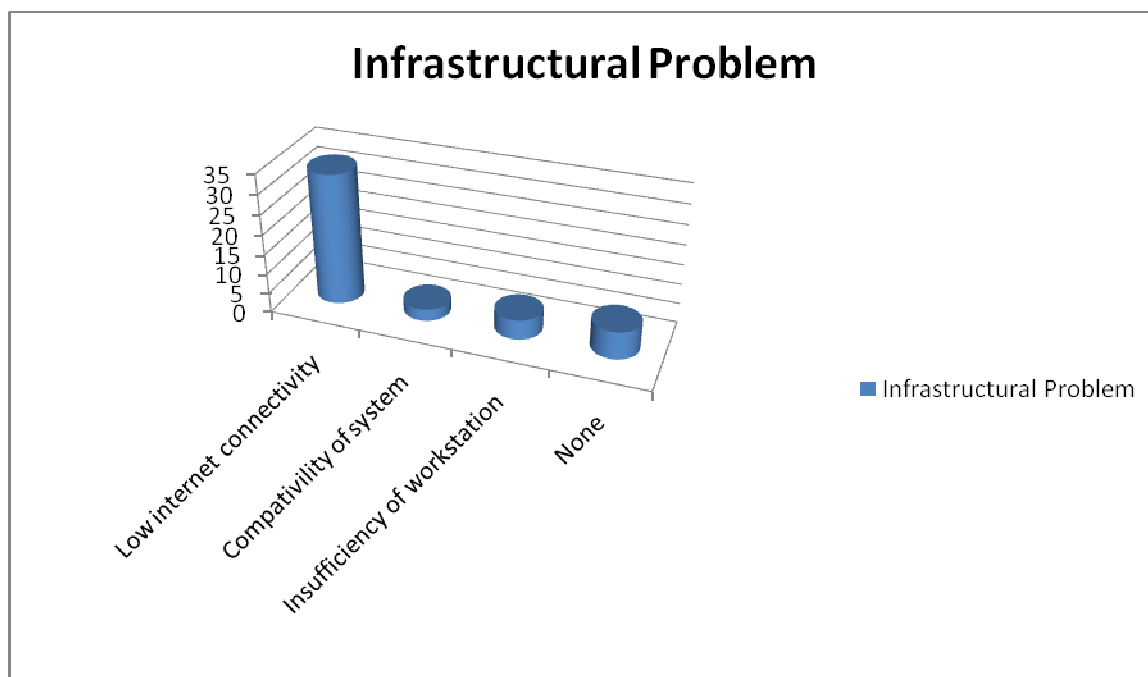
Majority of research scholar of institute of technology treat the problem of low internet connectivity as the major infrastructural problem in accessing e-resource i.e.66%, whereas 14% of them responded as they are not facing infrastructural problem similarly 14% treat insufficiency of work station and 6% to compatibility of systems as infrastructural problem in accessing e-resources.

Table 8 INFRASTRUCTURAL PROBLEMS IN ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

Problems	Number of respondents (n=50)	Percentage
Low internet connectivity	33	66
Compatibility of systems	3	6
Insufficiency of work stations	7	14
Any other	0	00
None	7	14

Note: multiple choice for answer

Figure 8 : Infrastructural Problems

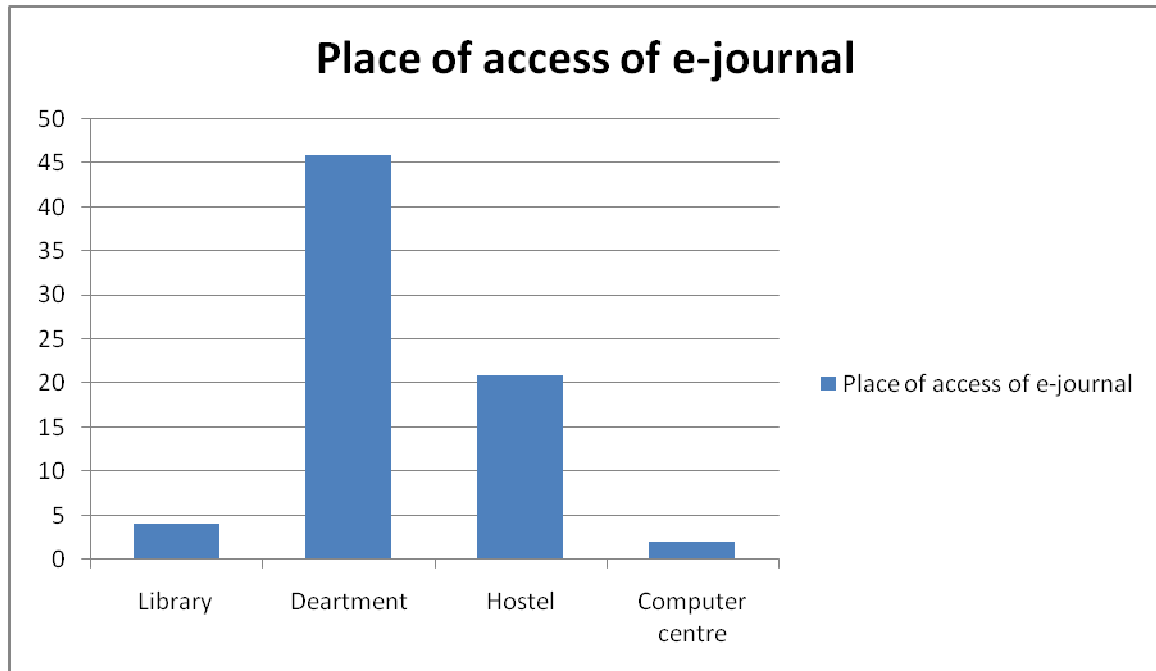


PLACE FROM WHERE THEY ACCEESS E-RESOURCES

Table 9

Place	Number of respondents (n=50)	Percentage
Library	4	8
Department	46	92
Hostel	21	42
Computer centre	2	4

Figure 9 : Place of access of e-journals



As the table 9 and the figure above shows that 92% respondent access e-resources from there department, 42% from hostel, 8% in library and 4% from computer centre. Maximum research scholars prefer to access e-resource from department as the related facilities are available in their department and hence they need not bother to go to library or computer centre and those who are in hostel can also access it any time they need.

5. FINDING OF THE STUDY:

The finding of the study can be summarized as below

- All the research scholars of BHU IT are aware of e-resource and they all use it.
- 76% of them use it daily.
- 64% prefer electronic format while 34% both print and electronic.
- In majority of cases it was teachers, friends or colleagues who introduced e-resource to scholars.
- In 88% cases scholars use e-resource for their research work.
- Low internet connectivity is the major obstacle while accessing e-resource.
- Majority of them prefer department for accessing e-resources.

6. CONCLUSION:

The use of e-resources are being done by the research scholars for their research benefits, they are feeling great as they have resources in their fingertip they can have right information at right time with less effort but they feel sometime uncomfortable regarding slow speed of internet, so the concerned should think seriously to uplift the researchers from the trouble of slow internet, as they can perform their research work smoothly.

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