

RESEARCHER PERCEPTION ON E-RESOURCES AT BABASAHEB BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY (A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY), LUCKNOW: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the perception research scholars on e-resources at BBAU, Lucknow including preferred information sources and methods of electronic information access. The study describes in brief, the e-resources and their types, etc. The objectives, scope, research methodology of the study are clearly expanded. The data analysis and interpretation are given on total number of responses, purposes of seeking information utilizing on e-resources, way to use of e-resources etc. by science research scholars.

Keywords: Researcher Perception User study, e- resources, Lucknow.

INTRODUCTION:

Information is very important key resource for every type of organization. The exponential growth in information and increase in the number of documents being published in various fields, affects the growth in number of user, need of user and their information seeking behaviour. Girja Kumar has emphasized that “information seeking behaviour is mainly concerned with who needs what kind of information and for what reasons; how information is found, evaluated and used, and how their needs can be identified and satisfied.

This study examines how the BBGU, Lucknow researchers perceives the electronic resources. The finding of the present researcher will help in a more efficient management of this information services in a academic library setting. Since this is a case study, entails some limitations. Another factor in this limitation is the use of convenience sampling in the present study. The applications of user perception methods also present some concern. Electronic resources is a general term for electronic information stored both offline or online. In the opinion Dadzie (2001), “an electronic resource refers to a manifestation of an encoded for manipulation by computer. The manifestation resides in a carrier accessed either directly or remotely.

Electronic resources are invaluable research tools which complement print based resources in any library. It provides access to information irrespective of geographical location. In addition these are convenient to use since the users are able to access without any restriction of place and time.

E-RESOURCE:

The document that are in electronic form are said to be electronic resources. The term electronic resources came into usage in late 1980's when first electronic journals came into being. The electronic resources are not single entities. It includes various types of resources such as e-books, e-journals, e-databases, digital/knowledge archives and internet resources. Thus, those resources are available in the electronic form and access through intranet/internet/standalone computer known as e-resources.

TYPE OF E-RESOURCES:

The e-resources can be categorized as following:

1. E-journals
2. E-books
3. E-databases
4. Digital/institutional repository
5. Internet/web resources

BABASAHEB BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY:

Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow is a Central University in the country. This residential University is located at the Raebareli road about 10 kms south of railway station, (Charbagh) Lucknow. The main objective of the University is to promote advancement of knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in key areas of science, Technology and other allied disciplines. At present, there are six functioning Schools for information Science and Technology, Bioscience and Biotechnology, Legal Studies, Ambedkar Studies, Environmental Science and Home Science which comprising of 15 Departments i.e., Department of Library & Information Science, Computer Science, Information Technology, Mass Communication and Journalism, Applied Animal Science, Applied Plant Science, Biotechnology, Law, Human Rights, History, Economics, Sociology, Political Science, Environmental Science, Home Science. All courses offered by the University are Post Graduate, innovative and nontraditional. The University has committed to develop as a centre of excellence in higher education.

The uniqueness of the University is evident from its basic philosophy, policies and programmes, which are spelt out and enshrined in the University Act and status. The objectives of the University are: The university shall Endeavour to promote advanced knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in Science and frontiers areas of Technology and other allied disciplines and it offer appropriate courses relevant for the development of socially and educationally depressed section of the people, including agriculture technology and rural crafts, to promote the study of the principles for which Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar worked during his lifetime, namely, national integration, social justice, democratic way of life, and to promote inter-disciplinary studies and research while paying special attention for the promotion of educational, economic interests and welfare for the people in general and SC/ST in particular. . (Information from the University's website, <http://www.bbgu.ac.in>)

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

The literature of information seeking behaviour of users available is greatly broad ranging. An attempt has been made to cover number of works that go beyond discussions of the information seeking behavior itself and its direct applications to closely related topics such as information seeking.

Challener (1999) investigated artists and art historians teaching in five liberal arts colleges and three universities. Results found that they need information for teaching. The participants almost all subscribe to art journals, and many read newspapers. They visit libraries frequently, usually more than one library, and unlike previous reports, the majority are willing to ask the librarian for help. A large percentage of both art historians and artists are using computers for teaching. All 27 participants use slides extensively in the classroom, supplemented in most cases by textbooks.

Shokeen and Kushik (2002) studied about information seeking behaviour of social scientists working in the universities located in Haryana. They reported most of the social scientists visit the library daily. The first preferred method of searching the required information by the social scientists followed by searching through indexing and abstracting periodicals, and citations in articles respectively. The social scientists use current journals followed by books.

Suriya, Sangeetha and Nambi (2004) carried out a research work on "Information seeking behaviour of Faculty Members from Government Arts Colleges in Cuddalore District." The purpose of their study was to investigate, how Faculty members seek information from the library. It mentions that most of the respondents 61 (38.12 percent) visited the library several times a week to meet their information needs. Regarding the type of search made by the respondents the majority of the respondents 91 (56.87 percent) made their search by subject.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To investigate the awareness influences the use of e-resources among research scholars at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow;
2. To examine the purpose of getting information utilizing of e-resources by research scholars;
3. To know the different types of e-resources commonly used by researchers;
4. To examine the searching methods used by the respondents in accessing e-resources;
5. To identify the kind of problems faced by researchers in using e-resources.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The present study is intended to cover only research scholars of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow as a case study to examine the user's perception of e-resources.

METHODOLOGY:

To fulfill the objectives of the study, a structured questionnaire covering the relevant aspect of the study were distributed among all researchers at B.B.A.U. Lucknow, U.P. during the session of 20010-2011 batches. Further random sampling techniques were used for distribution of questionnaire and interpret the data and arrive at findings and conclusion.

DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION:

A total of no. 142 structured questionnaires were distributed among researchers of BBAU Lucknow. Total 118 questionnaires were received. All received sample questionnaires were analyzed statistically. The open-ended questions were analyzed using content analysis. The number of respondents (Research Scholars) who responded the duly filled questionnaire were 118 i.e. 83% (See table 1)

Table 1: Response from Research Scholars

Name of the Department	Details regarding the No. of Respondents		
	Distributed Questionnaires	Received Questionnaires	%
Department of Economics	9	7	77
Department of History	3	3	100
Department of Political Science	2	2	100
Department of Sociology	4	4	100
Department of Applied Animal Science	18	15	61

Department of Applied Plant Science (Horticulture)	16	14	75
Department of Biotechnology	14	11	78
Department of Environmental Science	28	21	60
Deppt. of Human Development & Family Studies	3	3	100
Department of Computer Science	7	6	85
Department of Information Technology	4	3	75
Department of Library & Information Science	11	9	81
Department of Mass Communication & Journalism	5	4	80
Department of Human Rights	17	15	64
Department of Law	1	1	100
Total	142	118	83

The analysis of data in table 1 depicts that out of 118 respondents, maximum number of respondents i.e. 21 representing 60% of total respondents are research scholars of department of Environmental Science. It is followed by other departments.

AWARENESS OF E-RESOURCES:

Table 2: Awareness of E-resources among Science Research Scholars

Name of the Department	Awareness among Research Scholars	
	No. of Respondents	%
Department of Economics	7	100
Department of History	2	66
Department of Political Science	2	100
Department of Sociology	4	100
Department of Applied Animal Science	13	86
Department of Applied Plant Science (Horticulture)	12	85
Department of Biotechnology	11	100
Department of Environmental Science	21	100
Deppt. of Human Development & Family Studies	3	100
Department of Computer Science	6	100
Department of Information Technology	3	100
Department of Library & Information Science	7	100
Department of Mass Communication & Journalism	4	100
Department of Human Rights	15	100
Department of Law	1	100
Total	111	94

Aforesaid table shows that approximately all research scholars are aware and acquainted with electronic resources.

PURPOSE OF SEEKING INFORMATION UTILIZING E-RESOURCES:

The utilization of e-resources for seeking information is for various purposes such as for study research publication, self improvement etc. which differ from department to department.

Table 3: Purpose of seeking information utilizing e-resources by researchers

Purpose of E-resources	No. of Respondents	%
Study	94	76
Research Work	107	90
Publication	98	83
Self Improvement	73	61
Others purpose	61	51

Table 3 depicts that maximum research scholars of all department mostly uses e-resources for their research work i.e. 90%, followed by for publication 83%, for study 76%, for self improvement 61% and for other purpose 51%.

TYPES OF E-RESOURCES:

Table 4: Types of e-resources used by research scholars

Types of e-resources	No. of Respondents	%
E-journals	107	90
E-books	83	70
CD-ROM Bibliographic databases	62	52
CD-ROM Full text databases	57	48
Online Bibliographic databases	101	85
Online Full text database	61	51
Digital Repository	59	50
Educational web resources	51	43

As shown in table 4 that majority of the respondents i.e. 90% of researchers prefer to use e-journals as e-resources followed by 85% preference of online bibliographical database. E-journals are the most popular e-resource while educational web resources are the least one.

USE OF SEARCHING METHODS BY RESPONDENTS:

The seeking of information in the form of e-resources can be searched in different ways, such as through websites of online database/journals/publishers, search engines, subject gateways etc.

Table 5: Use of searching methods of e-resources by respondents

Method of searching	No. of Respondents	%
Search Engine	115	97
Websites	107	90
Key words	103	87
Library Portals	51	43
Any other	71	60

Table 5 reveals the common method of searching of e- resources by researchers are retrieve the electronic information through search engine as revealed from the response rate i.e. 97%. The other methods of searching by researchers are directly through the websites of online 90%, followed by key words 87%, and any others 60%.

PROBLEMS FACED BY RESEARCH SCHOLARS:

There are various problems associated with the access of e-resources while gettoing information by research scholars.

Table 6: Problems faced by Research Scholars

Types of Problems	No. of Respondents	%
Inadequate infrastructure	101	85
Very short time	76	64
Power Failure	53	44
Low speed of Internet	81	68
Poor personal assistance	21	17

The research scholars were asked to mention their problems faced while getting information utilizing e-resources. Table 6 reveals that the majority of respondents i.e. 85% faced the major problems i.e. infrastructure facility of library, followed by very short time 64%, low speed of internet 68%, and power failure 44%.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

The major findings of the study are:

1. It is observed that maximum respondents have good awareness and acquaintance with electronic resources, which is a healthy sign towards seeking of information utilizing e-resources.
2. The study depicts that purpose of using e-resources by 90% of science research scholars are mostly for their research work.

3. The study represents e-journals are more popular type of e-resources for getting information among 90% of researchers.
4. It is observed that search engines are the more popular method to retrieve e-resources among 97% of respondents.
5. The study explores that majority of researchers 85% faced common problem i.e. infrastructure of facility in library.

CONCLUSION:

The Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow is the highly established institute which is well known for quality research and academic activities. The study sought to get the overview of researcher perception on e-resources by taking sample from various departments. The choice of collection should meet the need and requirements of the end user consequently, librarians must be aware of how the researchers seek information utilizing e-resources. In their regards Satpathy and Rout (2010, pp16) observed that the role of libraries in the age of e-resources will increase tremendously, particularly in providing training and guidance to use authentic and relevant information. The libraries are and will develop necessary tools to provide such services to their users satisfactorily." It is recommended that library staff or reference librarians focus on assisting users to develop a better image for the library. Reference librarians should help researchers improve their electronic based information and find the types of information they need.

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