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UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES: LITERATURE REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

This study is indented to know the awareness of the students and use of library information resources and services in Libraries. The study mainly focused on the utilization of various resources, location of access, learn to access, experience of using e-resources and need for improving various skills in the usage of library resources and services. It was noted from the study that e- resources and services are preferred by more users. Utilization of library resources simply means using of library resources.

KEYWORDS:Library Resources and Services, E-resources, University Libraries, UGC-Infonet, e-Database.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Library is one of those resources which are essential to support and strengthen the educational quality. Over the centuries, libraries are the source of keeping and distributing the information through books, journals, maps and other resources that are used by students in their learning process. The major purpose of the library is to provide information. In addition to the traditional function of collecting, organizing and providing access to information in print,

modern libraries include many other databases. Information resources exist in electronic formats like online databases, journals [periodicals], books, etc. The role of well equipped libraries in order to meet the needs of the users cannot be over emphasized. Though an institution may have the best stocked libraries, the utilization of the libraries by the students need not simply depend on the number of books and journals in the library. Many factors like personal preferences, the general environment in the library, the inconveniences of the working hours, distance from the place of residence etc. may influence

the use of the library.

Information is the basic resource for carrying out an extensive research leading to better standards for living and prosperous development of the country. Hence, the academic library and the electronic based information facilities available in the parent institution will play a significant role in disseminating the information to the users at the right time and at the right place. Rathinasa bapathy (2005) posited that library is an important intellectual resource to the academic community, and helps them to fulfill the curriculum requirements and to promote studies and research. The library, however, includes the totality of human and organized material resources available in both book and non-book



format for providing and obtaining needed information (Ahuauzu, 2002).

1.2 LIBRARY SOURCES AND SERVICES

The information plays a vital role in this digital environment. This has become possible because of the technological advancements and changing information needs of the users. Technology has dominated all spheres of human activity and the libraries are not an exceptional one. The new storage media have appeared after the invention of storage devices like microforms, magnetic tapes, compact discs, etc. have found their places in modern libraries and are playing vital role in storage and dissemination of information. Since the mid eighties, developments in computer technology have established a new platform for the use of information technologies for libraries and information centers. These developments include spreading of high performance and cost effective computers, local area networks, high bandwidth of the internet, digitization of printed information, and high-density storage and distribution media such as CD-ROMs/DVDs. Due to developments in technological advancements, sources like electronic journals, e-Books, e- Databases, pre-prints, numerical and graphical data, library catalogue, educational materials, patents, standards, and so on are available on the Web. Apart from providing lot of information, the web also provides lots of information services like table of content page, electronic document delivery, reference service over the web, database access, indexing and abstracting, referral service, bibliographic search, and so on. The availability of information in the electronic media has created an opportunity for global access to information.

1.3 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Numerous studies have been undertaken to explore the utilization of library resources and services by users belonging to an academic system. Some of them are discussed here for our study purpose.

Indian Context

Mulla and Chandrashekara (2006) conducted a study on Internet users of Mysore University. The study was conducted using faculty, students and researchers in different science subjects. The study revealed that a majority of users used the Internet and were satisfied with the information available.

Sharma and Pant (2004) revealed that 10% respondents were using library for referring the journal articles and 40.9% get library instruction. Lack of reading material and deficiency of their knowledge unable them to use library services and access information. The Internet was found most popular among the respondents.

Kumar (2009) found that most users visit the library to borrow books, study, search for information, or reading. The purpose of their visits depends on time available and needs. Most users depend on publisher catalogues, bibliographies, indexes, abstracts, or book reviews to keep current in their area of study. Internet, e-journals, or CD-ROMs are used less often due to the lack of availability of these resources as well as personal skill to use them.

Kumbar et al (2006) maintained that the electronic resources were highly useful for research and academic community. They recommended that the library must conduct user awareness programmes to train the research and academic community so as to increase the utilization of electronic resources.

Mukerjee and Kumar (2010) stated that there was a demand for more e-journal titles, although a substantial number of users were satisfied with exiting model of UGC-Infonet Consortium. They recommended a comprehensive training on e- resources.

Ranganathan and Babu (2012) studied the awareness and use of library resources and services at Osmania University, Hyderabad. They studied the adequacy of library resources, opinion on e-resources or print sources, reasons for using e-resources and satisfaction in sources of information provision.

Sohail et al. (2012) studied the use of library resources by the students of University of Kalyani. Authors found that guidance in the use of library resources and services was necessary to help students to meet their information needs. They also found that journals, text book and lecture notes were the most popular sources of information for the students. They suggested that the latest edition of text book and reference materials should be added to the library collection and users should be guided to use the resources of the library.

International Perspective

Haji Aghajani and others (2009) carried out a survey on Library resources and Services use for study by students of medical Sciences in Semnan University of Medical Sciences and Health Services, 2006-07. This study is an attempt to evaluate student use of information resources and library services in Semnan University of Medical Sciences and Health Services.

Zainab (2001) has carried out a study on Library Resources and Services and Publication Productivity. Present the results of a study that compares the perceived adequacy of library resources for research, the formal channels found to be useful in providing information needed for research, the methods used to keep abreast with current research literature, the problems faced when obtaining information required for research with publication productivity of 83 academic engineers and 239 academic scientists from the University of Malaya and National University of Malaysia.

Olofinsawe and Oyeniyi (2010) affirmed that academic libraries have to build strong collection of information resources in physical and digital format to cater for knowledge requirements of their users. It is therefore necessary to take the needs of the post-graduate students into consideration in policy planning in any university library. This study therefore aims to provide an insight in this area.

Akande (2003) therefore noted that the use of library resources is uppermost in the minds of the university libraries as this will enable the management know how best they can serve their users.

Asemi's (2005) study showed that the majority of respondents searched for scientific information in various databases and online journals provided by the university library.

According to Ezeala and Yusuff (2011) it is natural for human beings to evaluate things, events and other people around them. Libraries are also included in this practice. They have the need to periodically measure the resources and services of their libraries as a way of ensuring that they are meeting the set objectives of the library". Regarding the accessibility and utilization of library resources, authors highlighted that libraries must ensure about the required and relevant resources, adequate storage for the collection, and strategies for accessibility of these resources through classification, cataloguing and other arrangements. Efficient and effective provision of library resources can have positive impact on academic achievement (Williams, Wavell and Coles, 2001).

Adeoye and Popoola (2011) highlighted the effectiveness, availability, accessibility and use of library and information resources in their study. They explained that, for an effective learning process, learners must have access to necessary information materials and resources. These resources might be tangible (i.e., printed resources) and intangible (i.e., electronic resources) format.

1.4 CONCLUSION

A library is a collection of sources, resources, and services, and the structure in which it is housed and it plays a vital role in assisting the parent institution to fulfill its goal. The effectiveness of the library to a large extent depends on the utilization of its resources and services. It can be concluded from the literature that the notion of library has considerably changed over the years and modes and forms of library resources and services of accessibility has drastically expanded over the years. Provision of modern libraries and acquaintance with skills to use libraries is unavoidable for students in higher education and academia.

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