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USE, PURPOSE AND , IMPACT OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN LIBRARIES OF AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES OF RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

An effort has been made to know the use of electronic resources available in library, purpose of using electronic resources and impact on electronic resources in comparison to traditional resources. The questionnaires were administered on random sample of two hundred fifty library users. The result of the survey indicates that agriculture scientists, research scholar and students are using e-resources. Data analysis show that agriculture scientists are using e-resources for writing and submitting scientific paper, preparing for lectures, updating their knowledge and research work and other purposes. Maximum research scholar and students are using electronic resources to update their knowledge. Majority of agriculture scientists, research scholar and students observed the impact of electronic resources due to easier access as compared to traditional resources.

KEYWORDS- *Use, Purpose, Impact, Electronic Resources, Electronic Books, Electronic Journals, OPAC, Agricultural Universities.*

1. INTRODUCTION :

Initially the computer technology and communication technologies, used in scanning, imaging, storing, processing, retrieving, and transmitting the information were included in e- resources. Actually, e-resources are an important part of IT. These e-resources were used in various areas of library and information science like library management, library automation, library and information networks as well as information repackaging and dissemination. During 1980's and early 1990's several developments have taken place in the field of microelectronics, which have an extraordinary impact on the field of knowledge and consequently the libraries. These developments have brought down the cost of computer technology and also increased the speed of the information process.

2. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Libraries of agricultural universities and institutions of Rajasthan are included in this research work. Inferences on the basis of primary data have been drawn by spot survey and information from the library staff and the users. Final sample of the study includes Agricultural scientists (150), Research Scholars (50) and Students of UG/PG Courses (50) from Rajasthan Agriculture University, Bikaner; Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur; Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur; National Research Centre

on Camel, Bikaner; Centre of Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar; National Research Centre on Arid Horticulture, Bikaner.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Main objectives of this study were as follow:

A. To know use of electronic resources available in library.
B. To know purpose of using electronic resources.
C. To know impact on Electronic Resources in Comparison to traditional resources.

4. ASSUMPTION FOR THE STUDY

On the basis of conceptual framework and review of related literature following assumptions have been made for this study:

A. E-resources are now available in agricultural field in sufficient quantity.
B. Agricultural scientists are frequently using different types of e-resources.
C. Purpose & utilization of e-resources by agricultural scientists is varying in nature and Frequency.
D. E-resources are more impactful than traditional resources.

5. METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire has been developed and administered by the researcher to collection relevant information from agricultural scientists (AS), research scholars (RS) and students (ST) of agricultural universities and institutes of Rajasthan. Information and responses given by respondents were analyzed and interpreted.

6. DATA ANALYSIS

Information and responses given by respondents have been quantified and analyzed with the help of descriptive statistics and Chi-Square as an inferential statistics.

6.1 Use of Electronic Resources available in Library

It was important to know as how many users are using e-resources in their libraries. Responses of various users are quantified and tabulated in following table 1.

Table 1: Use of Electronic Resources by various users

S. No.	Use of electronic resources	Responses of various users					
		AS	%	RS	%	ST	%
1.	Yes	147	98.00	46	92.00	45	90.00
2.	No	3	2.00	4	8.00	5	10.00
TOTAL		150	100	50	100	50	100

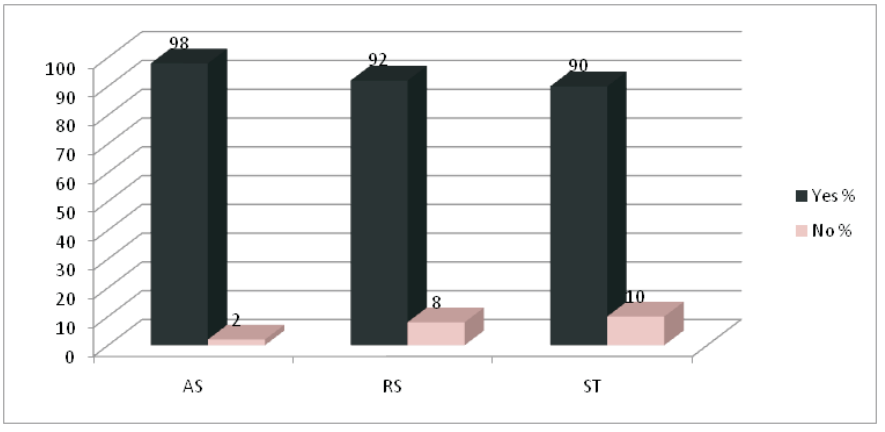
Table 1 depicts the results related to use of available e-resources in the libraries. It indicates that 98% agriculture scientists, 92% research scholar and 90% students are using e-resources. Agriculture scientists 2%, researcher scholar 8% and students 10% don't use of e-resources. Most of the agricultural scientists, research Scholars and Students of agricultural universities and institutes of Rajasthan are using available e-resources in the libraries. Very few of these respondents are not using e-resources.

The significant value of calculated Chi-square with Yates' correction revealed that among three categories of respondents. Agriculture Scientists are using library in majority. The result of use of e-resources is graphically depicted below. (Figure 6.1)

χ^2cal = 5.800* p=0.036 [χ^2tab, 2, 5%= 5.991]

* Not Significant at 5% level of significance after

Figure 1: Use of Electronic Resources by various users



6.2 Purpose of Using Electronic Resources

The users are using the electronic resources for various purposes viz. for preparing class lectures, updating knowledge, doing research work, and writing and presenting papers and completing Ph.D. work etc. Response based on primary use of e-resources has been counted. The collected responses are being presented in Table 2-

Table 2: Purpose of Using Electronic Resources

S. No.	Categories	Responses					
		AS	%	RS	%	ST	%
1	Preparing Class Lectures	45	30.00	5	10.00	0	**0.00**
2	Updating Knowledge	25	16.67	5	10.00	40	**80.00**
3	Doing Research Work	14	9.33	28	56.00	5	**10.00**
4	Writing and Presenting Paper	60	40.00	7	14.00	2	**4.00**
5	Doing research	4	2.67	4	8.00	0	**0.00**
6	Any Other	2	1.33	1	2.00	3	**6.00**
Total		**150**	**100**	**50**	100	**50**	**100**

Table 2 depicts the results related to purpose of using electronic resources in the libraries. The analysis of this is indicating that 40% agriculture scientists are using e-resources for writing and submitting scientific paper, 30% used for preparing class lectures, 16.67% used for updating knowledge, 9.33% used for doing research work whereas only 3% scientists used the e-resources for research work. and other purposes. Similarly 56% research scholars used the e-resources for completing their research work while only 14% used for presenting paper, 4% for research work purposes. The main objective of students in using the e-resources was recorded to be updating of their knowledge (80%). A few students also indicated that the use of e-resources for other Purposes.

Most of the agricultural scientists, research Scholars and Students of agricultural universities and institutes of Rajasthan are using available e-resources in the libraries. For vivid uses i.e. preparing class lectures, updating knowledge, doing research work, writing and presenting paper, doing their research work.

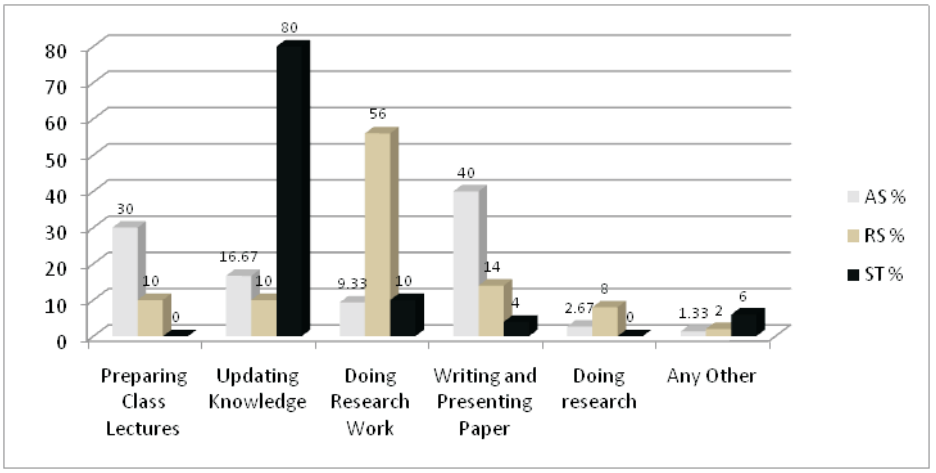
Chi–square test of independence was found to be highly significant and resulted in variations in using e-resources purposes over different category of users. Agriculture scientist are more for the purpose of writing and presenting paper, Research scholars are more frequently using for doing research work while students are mostly using e-resources for updating knowledge.

χ^2cal = 106.327** [χ^2tab, 10, 5%= 18.307]

** Highly Significant

The results of use of e-resources are graphically depicted in figure no. 2-

Figure 2: Purpose of using e-resources



6.3 Impact on Electronic Resources in Comparison to Traditional Resources

Impact of Electronic Resources has been studied on the basis of three parameters- easier access to information, faster access to information and access to wider range of information. Data related to impact of Electronic Resources in Comparison to Traditional Resources have been tabulated.

Table 6.3: Impact of e-resources in comparison to traditional resources

S. No.	Categories	Responses					
		AS	%	RS	%	ST	%
1	Easier access to information	70	47	25	50.00	30	60.00
2	Faster access to information	50	33	15	30.00	15	30.00
3	Access to a wider range of information	30	20	10	20.00	5	10.00
Total		**150**	**100**	**50**	**100**	**50**	**100**

Table 3 depicts the results related to impact of e-resources in comparison to traditional resources. The analysis of this table indicates that majority (47%) of agriculture scientists observed the impact of easier access to their information in e-resources as compared to traditional resources. Faster access was the second impression that 33% they indicated. The impact of wider range of information available in e-resources was noted by 20% agriculture scientists. Research scholars and students also corroborate the same type of impacts.

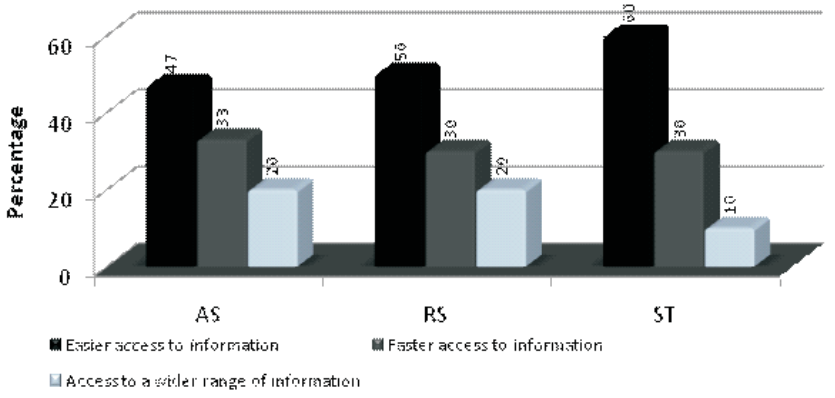
The analysis of this table indicates that majority of agriculture scientists, research scholars and students observed the impact of easier access to their information in e-resources as compared to traditional resources. Faster access was the second impression as they indicated. The impact of wider range of information available in e-resources was noted by few respondents.

Calculated value of Chi-square being less than its tabulated value confirms that impact of e-resources over traditional means of information having similar weight age over all the three categories of respondents.

χ^2cal = 3.764 NS [χ^2tab, 4, 5%= 9.488]
NS= Non-significant

The position of the impact of e-resources in comparison to traditional resources on different types of users is put up diagrammatically more clearly as follows. (figure 6.3)

Figure 6.3: Impact of Electronic Resources



7. FINDINGS /RESULTS

Main findings of this study are:

1. Most of the agricultural scientists, research Scholars and Students of agricultural universities and institutes of Rajasthan are using available e-resources in the libraries. Very few of these respondents are not using e-resources.
2. Most of the agricultural scientists, research Scholars and Students of agricultural universities and institutes of Rajasthan are using available e-resources in the libraries. For vivid uses i.e. preparing class lectures, updating knowledge, doing research work, writing and presenting paper, doing their research work.
3. Majority of agriculture scientists, research scholars and students observed the impact of easier access to their information in e-resources as compared to traditional resources. Faster access was the second impression as they indicated. The impact of wider range of information available in e-resources was noted by few respondents.

8. SUGGESTIONS

The following are the suggestions/recommendations for enhancement in present scenario of electronic resources in libraries of agricultural universities and institutes of Rajasthan state -

1. Respective libraries must subscribe more e-resources through foreign and Indian consortia rather than those accessible through UGC Info-net consortia, INDEST consortia only.
2. Usability of e-resources subscribed by the libraries should be evaluated on the basis of their use and worth in library. Feedback of user can be taken to get clear inference. Decision regarding continuation or discontinuation of the subscription should be based on periodical survey of users.
3. Awareness among users is essential to promote use of e-resources, hence frequent user awareness programmes should be executed by respective library.
4. Usability of e-resource depends on various skills. Basic orientation and training may be may be provided to agriculture scientists, research scholars and students.
5. Proper internet facilities should be maintained in libraries of agricultural universities and institutes of Rajasthan state. Adequate speed of internet surfing should be maintained to have attract more access.
6. future needs of users is vital for resource updation. Libraries should carry out user's survey to know the prospective use of e-resources.
7. Working hours of all libraries need reorganization by keeping users and their schedule in mind.
8. Printout facility of downloaded can be provided at nominal cost to user to increase the searching habit.
9. Improved software & latest configured computer hardware are essential to make more user friendly access so separate budget may be given for this specific need.

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