

PRINT V/S DIGITAL INFORMATION RESOURCES: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

Amit Kumar Deval*, Niranjan Singh**

Abstract *The present day libraries and information centre's houses many forms and formats of information resources for fulfilling the information needs of their users. Broadly, if we classify these resources then they fall under the two categories viz. print resources and digital resources. Now, at such a point of time, where both the resources has shown their strong presence in the library collection, it is generally asked, that which information resources have supremacy over the other. A featuristic study regarding their use, has been carried out amongst the users of Delhi university library system (DULS) and the results shows that out of the 12 features studied 6 are in favour of print resources.*

Keyword: *Information resources; Print resources; E-resources; Digital information resources; Library resources*

INTRODUCTION

Digital and print information resources are some time discussed as though they are two distinct kinds of information resources, one of them unreliable and suspect, the other dependable and trustworthy. Over the past few years the distinction between the digital and printed world has broken down completely and it is no longer makes any sense to think of them as two opposing categories of information resources. After a decade of rapid technological and economic change, the digital information resources is now becoming the main medium for distributing and accessing information from academic literature, and it is fast becoming a principal medium for distributing and accessing books. It is being assumed that if you are looking for print publications, the best place to start is online. Although the distinction between what is online and what is in print is breaking down, the concept of print publication continues to be important.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Bauer, Kathleen

This study states that libraries are experiencing rapid change as they add electronic resources. These resources are popular with patrons, but their usage is not captured in traditional library statistics. Libraries must find a way to represents the diverse data available for electronic resources in some meaningful way that allows for comparison with statistics for print resources. To do this, the Cushing/Whitney medical library has created two indexes, the electronic and print usage indexes. The indexes at Cushing/ Whitney show that

in 1998-1999, patron usage of electronic resources more than doubled, where as print use declined.

Chowdappa, N. ; Chandrashekhara M. and Ramasesh, C. P

The study depicts the extents of dependency of users of educational and research institutions of Mysore city on the electronic/ digital media. The responses of 1000 users and the critical evaluation of 24 subject experts under depth study have been gathered to render valid findings and suggestions. The attempt clearly shows the degree of the use of digital information resources vis-à-vis the conventional print media.

Dow, Ronald F

The author is of the view that referred journals perform a crucial role in the formal dissemination of new knowledge. Significant to the communication process are editors and editorial board gatekeepers. These gatekeepers were surveyed to learn their views on supporting paper formatted journals with journals in electronic formats. The survey showed that editorial gatekeepers, although generally supportive of the creation of electronic journals, are still very enamored of the paper format as both a means of publishing and a medium of archiving academic writing. It is suggested that editorial gate keepers may view electronic journals as an extension of the informal communication system of the disciplines rather than as a medium for supplanting the traditional paper format of academic journals.

* Assistant Librarian, University Information Resource Centre, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi E-mail: akdeval@yahoo.co.in

** Librarian, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra (Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India) E-mail: niranjan_19702004@yahoo.co.in

Lombardo, Shawn V. and Miree, Cynthia E.

This study propound that many business students rely heavily on the web for research, in parts because of their unfamiliarity with the breath of their library's business resources (online and in print). This study sought to determine whether library instruction could impact undergraduate business student's attitudes and use of three information formats: print materials, library databases and web resources. Over the course of a semester, pre/post instructions questionnaires were collected from ninety students enrolled in a business capstone course—results indicate that after library instructions, students held more favorable attitudes towards print resources and used them in their research more than they had initially expected.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives set forth for the study are earmarked as:

1. To know the attitude of user's towards print and digital information resources.
2. To ascertain the latest trends of information seeking among the academic fraternity.
3. To find out which format of information resources has more influence on academic efficiency.
4. To know the preference of user community towards print and digital information resources.
5. To identify which format is regarded as the best medium for delivering information to the user community.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is limited to the student (UG, PG and Research Scholars) and faculty members of University of Delhi, New Delhi. The samples of 60 users' were selected from the faculty of Arts, Commerce, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences. It is felt that the finding and results will reflect and represent the opinion of the users at large.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on survey method and structured questionnaire was designed to elicit the behavior of user towards print and digital information resources. The questionnaire consists of 12 likert type questions on 3-point rating scale. 70 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty members and research scholars of various department of University of Delhi. Out of this 70 questionnaire only 60 questionnaires (85.71%) are received back and the

sampling technique that is used for the study is stratified accidental random sampling method. For the analysis of the questionnaire descriptive statistics and content analysis technique was used and the results are represented in tabular and graphical form.

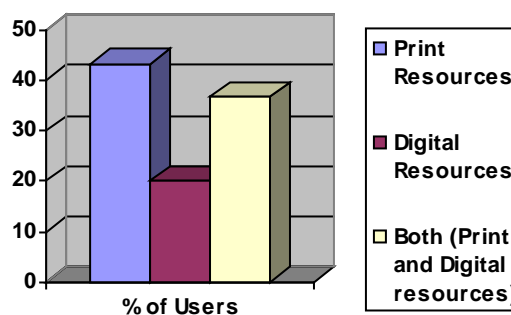
RESULT AND DISCUSSION

On the basis of the data collected, following results and discussion can easily be drawn:

1. Easy to use

It was asked through the questionnaire that out of print and digital information resources, which is easy to use? User's are in favour of print resources.

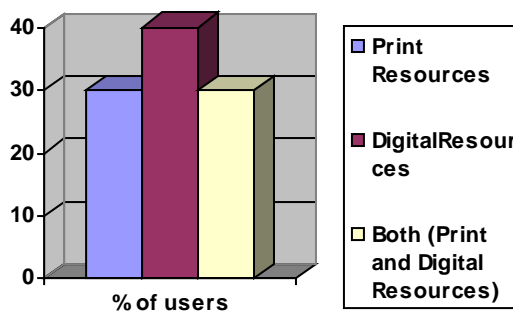
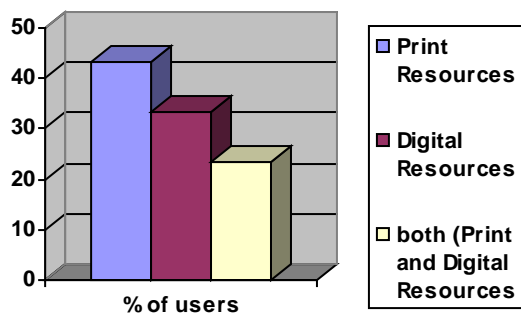
S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	26	43.33
2	Digital Resources	12	20
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	22	36.66



2. Quality and Functionality

User's opinion with respect to quality and functionality states that 26 users (43.33%) are in favour of print resources. According to them, print information resources provide better quality and functionality to users in comparison to digital resources.

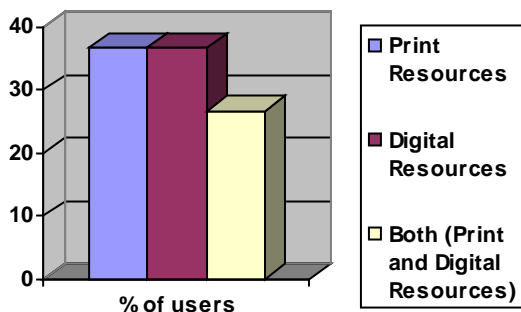
S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	26	43.33
2	Digital Resources	20	33.33
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	14	23.33



3. Conduciveness

It was asked from the users which information resource is more conducive to reading? For the users both the resources are equally conducive for reading with 36.66% (22) responses, each. However, 16 (26.66%) users are in favour of both the resources.

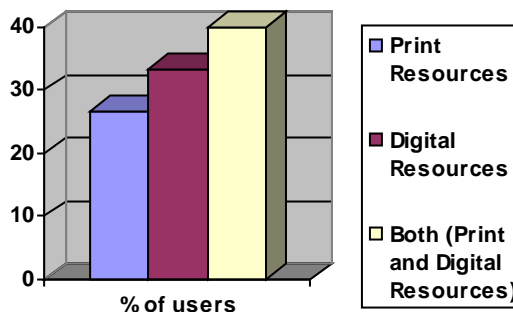
S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	22	36.66
2	Digital Resources	22	36.66
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	16	26.66



5. Information Need

The finding of the survey depicts that now the larger share in fulfilling the information needs of the users are met with digital information resources. This shows a clear cut change from print to digital information resources. The result is depicted in tabular form as:

S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	16	26.66
2	Digital Resources	20	33.33
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	24	40



4. Publishing of Scholarly Output

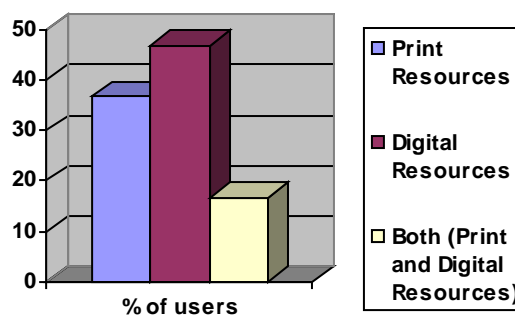
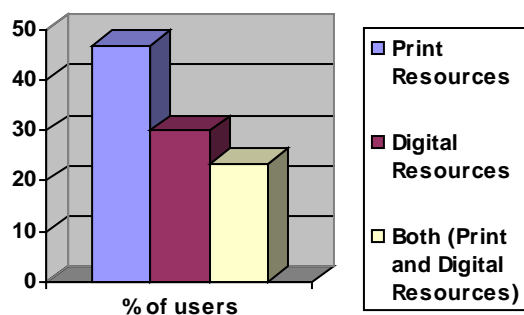
Users were asked, which information resources, they prefer for publishing their scholarly output? 24 users (40%) preferred digital as a medium for publishing their research output. 30% (18) users said print information resources are preferable for them. The preference for both the category of information resources is also 30% (18).

S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	18	30
2	Digital Resources	24	40
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	18	30

6. Satisfaction

Users were asked the question that “which information resources provide them more satisfaction, while reading?” More of the users (46.66%) said that, they achieve satisfaction more in reading print resources.

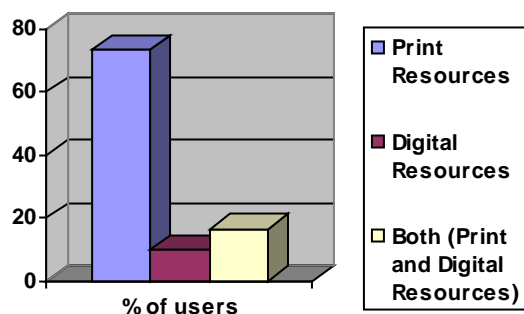
S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	28	46.66
2	Digital Resources	18	30
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	14	23.33



7. Physical Comfort

As far as physical comfort is concerned, 73.33% (44) of the users says that they feel more physical comfort in reading print resources as compared to digital information resources 10% (6). Only 16.66% (10) users are in favour of both the information resources.

S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	44	73.33
2	Digital Resources	6	10
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	10	16.66



8. Timely and up to date Information

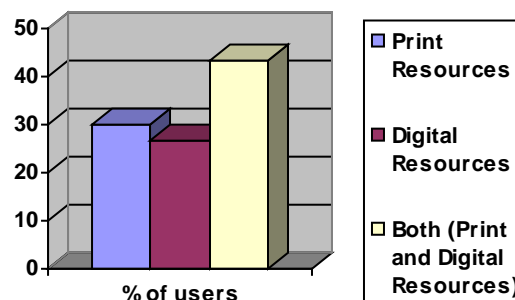
The answer to the question “which information resource provides more timely and up-to-date information to their users?” states that 46.66% (28) users are in favour of digital information resources. Only 36.66% (22) users supported print resources and rest of the 16.66% (10) users are in favour of both the resources.

S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	22	36.66
2	Digital Resources	28	46.66
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	10	16.66

9. Academic Work

When the user were asked about their preference with respect to the use of print and digital information resources for their academic work, then a mixed response with a slight inclination towards print resources was obtained. The result shows that 18 users (30%) prefer print resources, and 16 users (26.66%) preferred digital information resources. Rest of the 43.33% (26 users) preferred both the resources for their academic work.

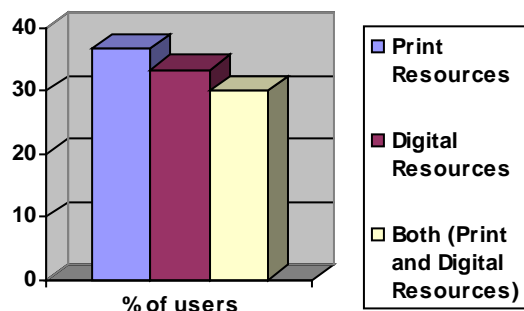
S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	18	30
2	Digital Resources	16	26.66
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	26	43.33



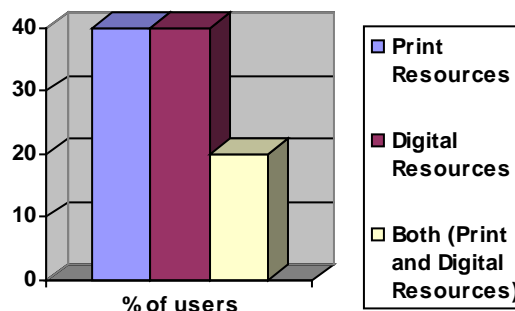
10. Accessibility and Availability

The usage of any information resources mainly depend upon the accessibility and availability of that particular resources. When users were asked, ‘which information resource is easily accessible and available to them in the library?’ 36.66% (22) of users reported that it is the print resource that is easily accessible and available for them. 33.33% (20) users say the digital information resources are also equally accessible and available. For the rest of the 18 (30%) users both the formats of resources are accessible and available.

S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	22	36.66
2	Digital Resources	20	33.33
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	18	30



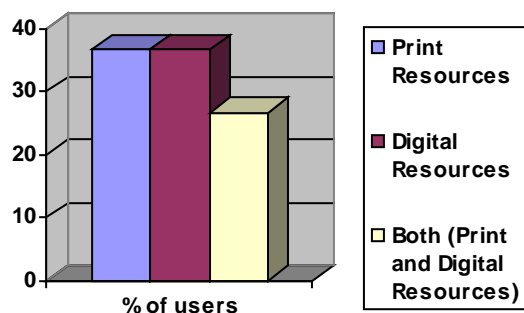
S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	24	40
2	Digital Resources	24	40
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	12	20



11. Best medium for Delivering Information

Information can be delivered in any format of information resources, however, a question was raised to the user to know their opinion regarding, “To which information resources they pay regard as the best medium for delivering information?”. The mixed result was obtained and there was no clear cut demarcation for this question. Results are produced below as:

S. No.	Information Resources	No. of users	% of users
1	Print Resources	22	36.66
2	Digital Resources	22	36.66
3	Both (Print and Digital Resources)	16	26.66



12. Content

Content constitute the main body of any scholarly output. As a matter of fact, it was asked from the user through the questionnaire that “content of which information resources is more consistent and better organized?”. Here again a mixed result was obtained and there was no clear cut demarcation for this question. The result depicts that 24 (40%) users each supported both the categories of information resources. Rests of the 20% (12) users are in support of both the resources.

CONCLUSION

The basic motto of this paper is to get a clue about a debate that is going on in the library and information science profession that out of the two formats of information resources, which has a supremacy over another. In this regard, various facets of both the resources was analyzed and it was observed that although print has strong hold in some of the domain like ease to use, quality and functionality, satisfaction and physical comfort achieved in reading but it is equally being noticed that digital information resources has superseded the supremacy of print resources in many of the other features, therefore in essence it can be said although, both are having their presence in library collection but a clear cut shift is being noticed from print to digital information resources and it is being assumed that this shift and difference might get broadened as the time will march ahead.

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