

Use of Electronic Resources in Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) & Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH): A Study

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Abstract

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) & the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) are among the leading research councils of the Indian system of medicine involved in the systematic research in the field of unani medicine & homoeopathy respectively. The immense developments in ICT (information communication technology) in libraries have cemented the way for libraries to provide electronic resources to users. It has changed the skeleton of the library services. The CCRUM & CCRH libraries under the ministry of the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) have witnessed a prominent shift from traditional to modern digitized libraries providing access to various types of electronic resources. The present study is an attempt to analyze the use of the electronic resources by the users in CCRUM & CCRH, New Delhi.

Keywords: Use of Electronic Resources, Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH)

Introduction

Electronic resources have become an integral part of health care and play a very critical role in all the activities related to it, including clinical decision making, care management, patient education, public health and policy making. Electronic resources in health sciences aggregate information from a wide spectrum of points and are known

to link patient information, knowledge-based tools, local & external information resources and automated decision making aids. This electronic data is merged into larger healthcare information systems thereby providing a platform for improved decision making and a better sharing of information at every level. Electronic resources have transformed the health care industry by means of improving the organization's operational efficiency and quality of the health services (Cleveland & Cleveland, 2009). The electronic resources have reframed the skeleton of the health information system and transformed it into the networked system consisting of interwoven pattern of health science information. In the same set up the research councils namely "The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine" (CCRUM) & "The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy" (CCRH) working under the ministry of AYUSH provide access to various types of electronic resources to its users and play a prominent role in circulating health science information (in particular unani & homoeopathy) in India.

Institution Profiles

2.1 Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM)

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine was established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India as an autonomous organization in the year 1979, under the ministry of AYUSH to initiate, aid, develop and to co-ordinate scientific research in Unani System of Medicine. The Council is engaged in

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the multifaceted research activities in the field of Unani medicine. The Council's research programme comprises of clinical research, drug standardization, survey and cultivation of medicinal plants and literary research.

2.2 Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH)

Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) was introduced as an independent body in 1978, under the ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India. CCRH is a research oriented institute. It has a multi-faceted approach to research & investigation. The activities include analysis, compilation and development of medicinal plants, medicine consistency, medicine proving, laboratory confirmation and experimental research. In addition to this CCRH cooperates with other research organizations for research purposes & external research.

Literature Review

A huge number of literature has been published worldwide witnessing the use of the electronic resources in the various institutions/universities/organizations etc. Some of the pioneer efforts in this regard include the following Bhat & Ganaie (2016) revealed that the users at Dr Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry in Himachal Pradesh access electronic resources mainly from their department/office chamber followed by access in hostel and home. Laptop was found to be the prominent device used by the users to access and read electronic devices. Search engines were discovered to be the most prominent platform used by the users to search electronic resources & Google proved to be the number one search engine among users. The "title" approach followed by "keywords/subject terms" was used by the majority of users to search information. The users were not familiar with most of the advanced search techniques as Boolean operators were used by only less than half of the users & less than 10% of them stated to know other search techniques. The self-study was found to be the main sources of awareness among users regarding information search and retrieval skills. Ajayi (2013) witnessed the lack in the computer literacy skills of nurses in the Teaching Hospitals Complex Nigeria. He revealed that the majority of the nurses did not possess the knowledge of computers. However few of them were able to access and retrieve information from the available databases as

they could learn through various means while practicing. Major problems identified with respect to using electronic resources included workload, lack of skills, location of the library with regard to the hospital, etc. The high desirability was found among the nurses for the introduction of health informatics to their profession. Nemati, Anaraki & Babalhavaeji (2013) in their comparative research study based on the awareness and ability of medical students in using the electronic resources of the Integrated Digital Library (IDL) portal of Iran among three major Iranian universities namely Tehran University of Medical Science (TUMS), Iran University of Medical Science (IUMS) & Shahid Beheshti Medical University (SBMU) revealed that the awareness and utilization level of students in the three universities were lower than the average and general search engines were used by the users who were not aware of the existence of the IDL portal. The most considerable problem as witnessed by the users was the lack of awareness about IDL. Among the surveyed universities, users (students) of TUMS were found to make use of End Note, Elsevier, Thomson, Scopus and Proquest databases most. All the surveyed students witnessed the effect of the IDL on the academic activities as much as 64% in the IUMS, 72% in TUMS and 66% in SBMU. In the surveyed universities slow speed internet and the lack of proper IT (information technology) knowledge were the main hindrances witnessed by the users in using IDL. Zaved Ahmed (2013) expressed the need for more electronic resources to be made accessible to the users of public universities in Bangladesh as he identifies the dissatisfaction among the faculty members with the current level of university subscribed e-resources in the public universities in Bangladesh. The study identified that limited number of titles, limited access to back issues, difficulty in finding information, inability to access from home, limited access to computers and slow download speed as major constraints. The effective use of e-resources was found to be affected by these factors in the public universities. However all these factors were found to revolve around the two factors – poor IT infrastructure and limited access to e-resources which was in turn responsible for other constraints including an unwillingness to use these resources regularly and as a result dissatisfaction with such resources. Ali & Nisha (2011) revealed that more than 60 per cent of users in the Central Science Library are using e-journals weekly & users mostly use e-journals for the purpose of research. Majority of users use printed journals & access

e-journals through popular search engines followed by the library's e-journals web pages. The most preferred format for reading online articles was PDF. Most popular search method for searching e-journals among research scholars was found to be the keyword followed by author and date of publication respectively. The major problem encountered was the slow downloading of the PDF files. The insufficiency of workstations & slow internet speeds were the major problems encountered hindering the use of e-journals. Davies (2011) revealed that majority of United Kingdom (UK) and Canadian physicians had never used electronic resources for diagnosis; they were using paper-based information sources for the same. However the physicians in United States (US) reported using electronic resources for the purpose of treating patients. It was analyzed that electronic resources were used for research purpose most by US followed by Canada and UK. The only information use for electronic resources that was similar for all countries was found to be continuing professional development (CPD). It was witnessed by the study that MEDLINE/Pub Med searching was done most by Physicians in the United States followed by Canadian & UK physicians respectively. Rehman & Ramzy (2004) revealed that medical libraries are switching over to electronic resources at an accelerated pace. They identified that the electronic resources are very much essential but expensive to greater extent and revealed the concern of the medical librarians regarding the effective use of these resources. Medline was found to be the most heavily used electronic resource by the health care professionals at Health Sciences Center (HSC) of Kuwait University. Time constraints, lack of awareness and low skill levels were the basic constraints faced by the users. However the majority of users proposed a range of measures of formal orientation and training to become more effective users.

Purpose of the Study

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) & the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) are the pioneer research councils in the field of unani medicine & homoeopathy respectively. They are actively engaged in the research activities in their respective fields. These councils have libraries associated with them which suffice the needs of the users by providing various types of resources and services in particular to electronic resources. These electronic

resources support the research & developmental activities of the councils by providing latest information to users. The present study is an attempt to analyze the use of these electronic resources by the users in CCRUM & CCRH, (New Delhi)

Scope: The scope of the study is confined to the following research councils:

- a) The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), New Delhi
- b) The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), New Delhi.

Methodology: A survey method was adopted for gathering of the required data necessary for the completion of the study. The main research instrument used in the study was a questionnaire that was used to collect data from the users including researchers, research associates, scientists, doctors & faculty in the in CCRUM & CCRH, New Delhi. The data collected from the users was tabulated and analyzed by means of simple statistical analysis.

Sampling

Simple statistical random sampling was used for selection of the sample to be studied. Samples were drawn from the CCRUM & CCRH by using the sample size determination formula. The users (health science professionals) were first divided into six strata on the basis of their work roles. The six strata include faculty members, research scholars, students, supporting staff, administrative staff and outsiders. Samples were drawn from each stratum by using the sample determination formula

Sample size(n)=25% of N where N=Total Population i.e. 25% of 96=24(CCRUM)

Sample size(n)=25% of N where N=Total Population i.e. 25% of 140=35(CCRH)

Then among those 25% different strata's of users including faculty members/research scholars/students/supporting staff/administrative staff /outsiders were chosen randomly.

Objectives of the Study

The Objectives of the study are enlisted below:

1. To study the usage of electronic resources in CCRUM & CCRH libraries in New Delhi.

2. To study the purpose of users for using electronic resources.
3. To study the frequency with which users are using electronic resources.
4. To study the various factors hindering the usage of electronic resources.
5. To study the problems faced by the users while using electronic resources.

Analysis and Discussion

Chart 1: Awareness about E-Resources

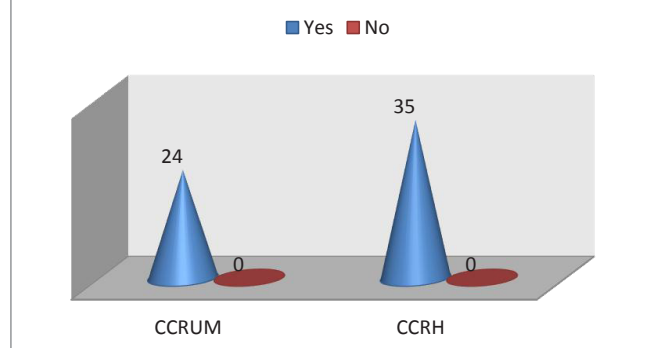


Fig. 1: Awareness about the Electronic Resources (E-resources)

The chart reveals that both in CCRUM & CCRH, all the users are aware about e-resources.

Chart 2 :Types of Information Resources Used

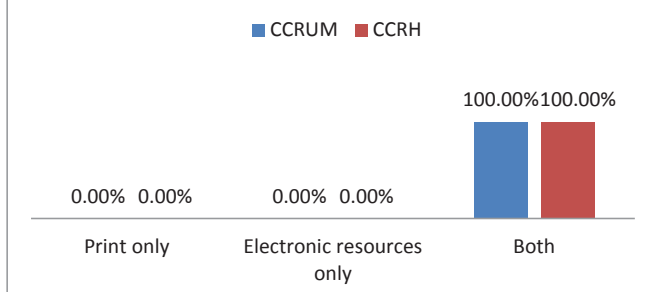


Fig. 2: Types of Information Resources Used

The chart reveals that all the users in CCRUM & CCRH make use of both print as well as electronic resources. This further reveals that introduction of e-resources in these research councils have not affected the use of print resources.

Chart 3: Mode of Access to E-resources

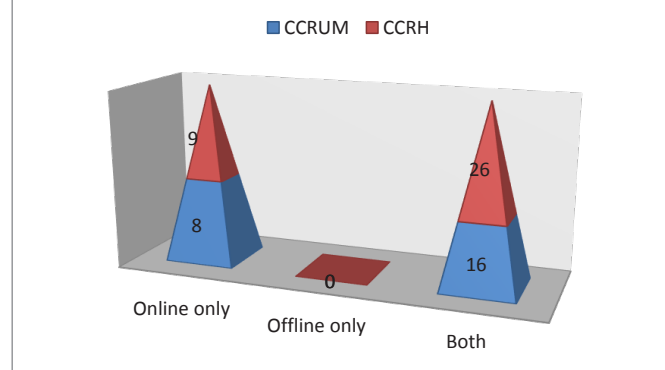


Fig. 3: Mode of access to Electronic-resources (E-resources)

The chart reveals that in CCRUM most of the users(16) make use of both online as well as offline mode of access to e-resources whereas only few number(8) of users use only online mode of access to e-resources. In CCRH majority of the users(26) make use of both online as well as offline mode of access to e-resources & only few number(9) of users make use of only online mode of access to e-resources. This reveals that most of users in these research councils use both online as well as offline mode of access to e-resources

The chart reveals that in CCRUM, 20 users responded that they prefer e-resources over print resources because they find them economical followed by 19,18,17,13,12,12,11 & 10 number of users who prefer to use e-resources over print ones because they consider e-resources easy to keep, fast to access, easy to search/ retrieve, highly available, easy to use, portable, more up-to-date & easy to download respectively. In CCRH almost the same trend is observed 33 users responded that they prefer to use e-resources over print resources because they consider e-resources economical followed by 27,26,25,21,19,18,18,17 & 19 number of users who prefer to use e-resources over print resources because they find e-resources easy to search/ retrieve, fast to access, easy to keep, more up-to-date, more up-to-date, easy to use, easy to download, highly available & portable respectively. This reveals that the

users use e-resources because of their varied multiple features and not due to only one single factor.

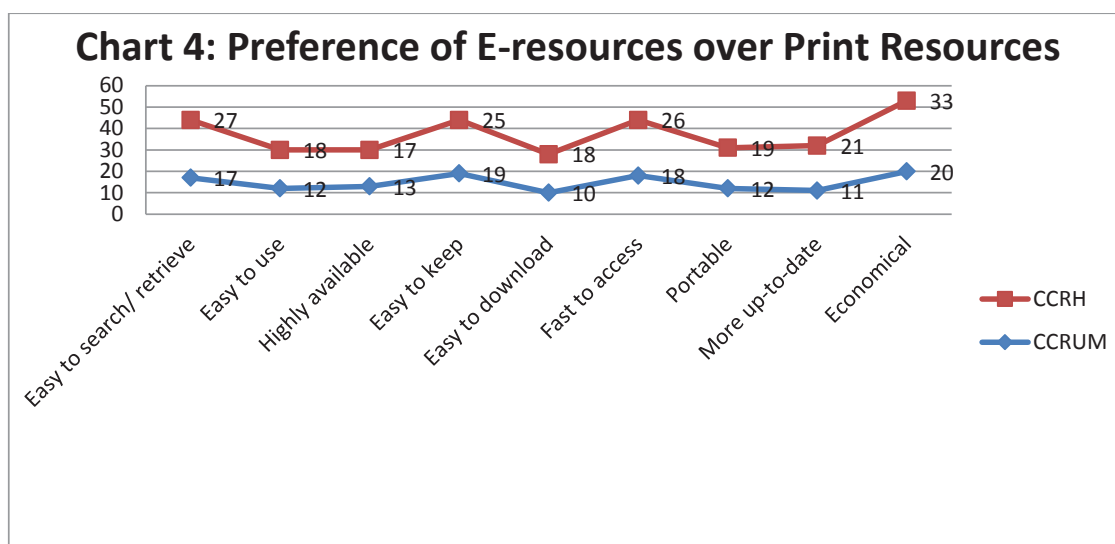


Fig. 4: Preference of E-Resources over Print-Resources?

*Multiple responses were permitted

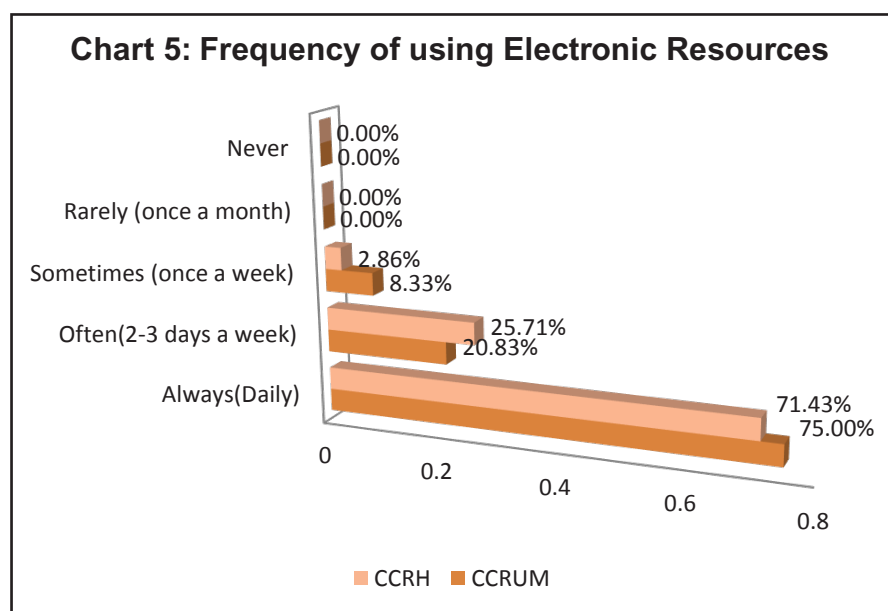


Fig. 5: Frequency of Using Electronic Resources

The chart reveals that in CCRUM major percentage (75.00%) of users use e-resources daily followed by 20.83% & 8.33% of the users who make use of e-resources for 2-3 days a week & once a week respectively. In CCRH almost the same trend is observed where major percentage (71.43%) of the users use e-resources daily

followed by 25.71% & 2.86% of the users who make use of e-resources for 2-3 days a week & once a week respectively. This depicts that usage of e-resources is very much frequent among users of these research councils & majority of the users use e-resources daily.

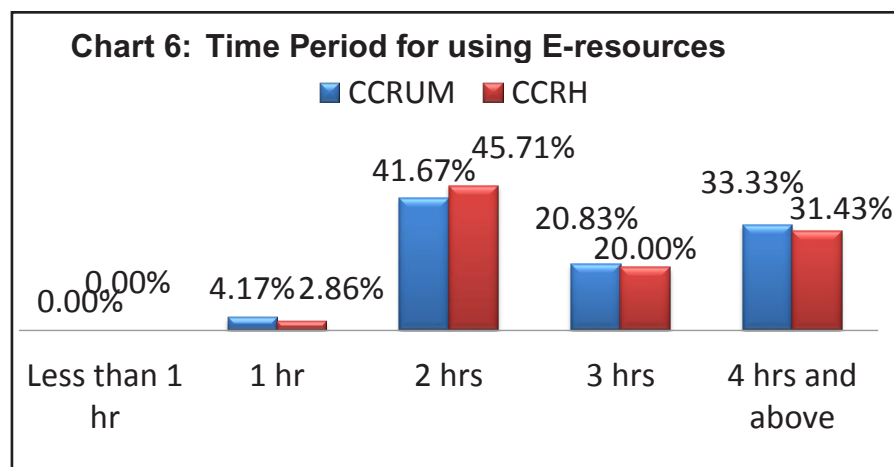


Fig. 6: Time Period for using Electronic Resources

The chart reveals that in CCRUM 41.67% of users make use of e-resources for 2 hours followed by 33.33%, 20.83% & 4.17% of users who make use of e-resources for 4 hours & above, 3 hours & 1 hour respectively. In CCRH almost the same trend is seen where 45.71% of users make use of e-resources for 2 hours followed by 31.43%,

20.00% & 2.86% of users who make use of e-resources for 4 hours & above, 3 hours & one hour respectively. No such user is found who uses e-resources for less than one hour. Thus the data depicts that mostly users in these research councils use e-resources for 4 hours & above.

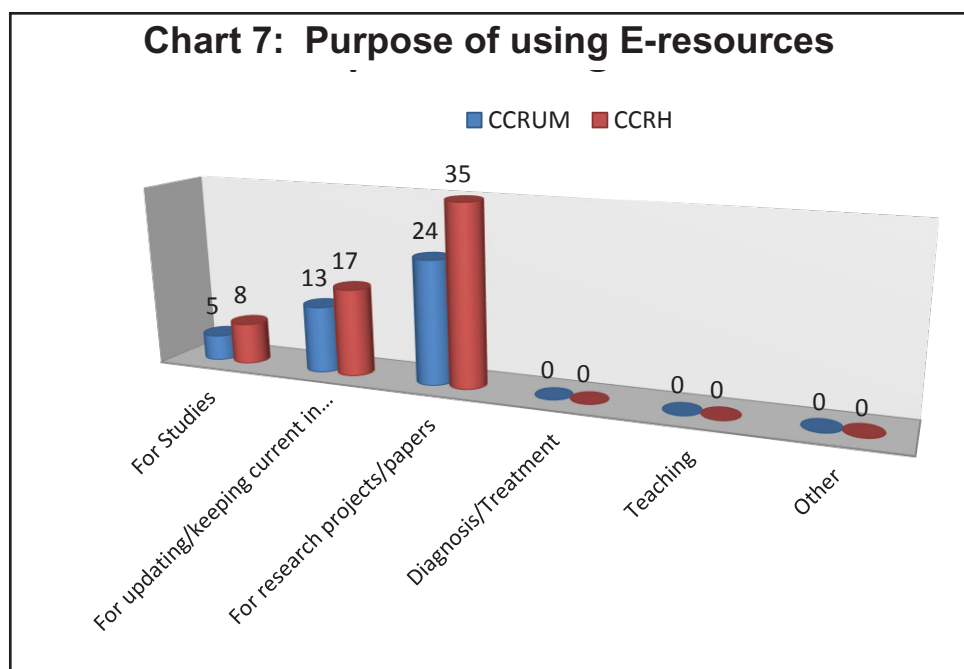


Fig. 7: Purpose of Using Electronic Resources

The chart reveals that in CCRUM most number (24) of users use e-resources for research projects & papers followed by 13 & 5 users who make use of e-resources for updating/keeping current in the field & for studies

respectively. In CCRH most number (35) of users use e-resources for research projects & papers followed by 17 & 8 users who make use of e-resources for updating/keeping current in the field & for studies respectively.

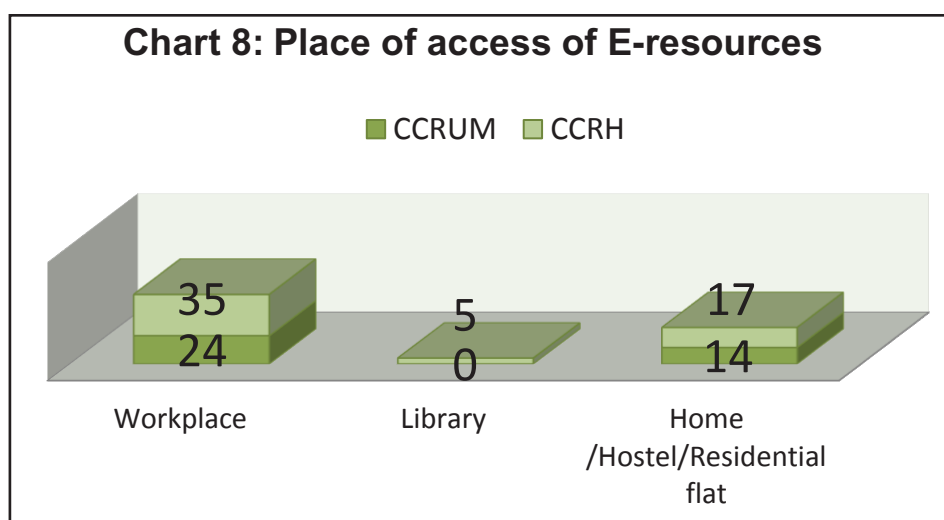


Fig. 8: Place of Access of the Electronic Resources

The chart reveals that in CCRUM all the 35 users responded that they use e-resources at their workplaces however 17 & 5 users among them use e-resources at their homes/hostels/residential flats & library respectively. In CCRH all the 24 users witnessed to use e-resources at

their workplaces & 14 among them witnessed that they also use e-resources at their homes/hostels/residential flats. This depicts that every users uses e-resources at their work places, some at their homes & very few in library.

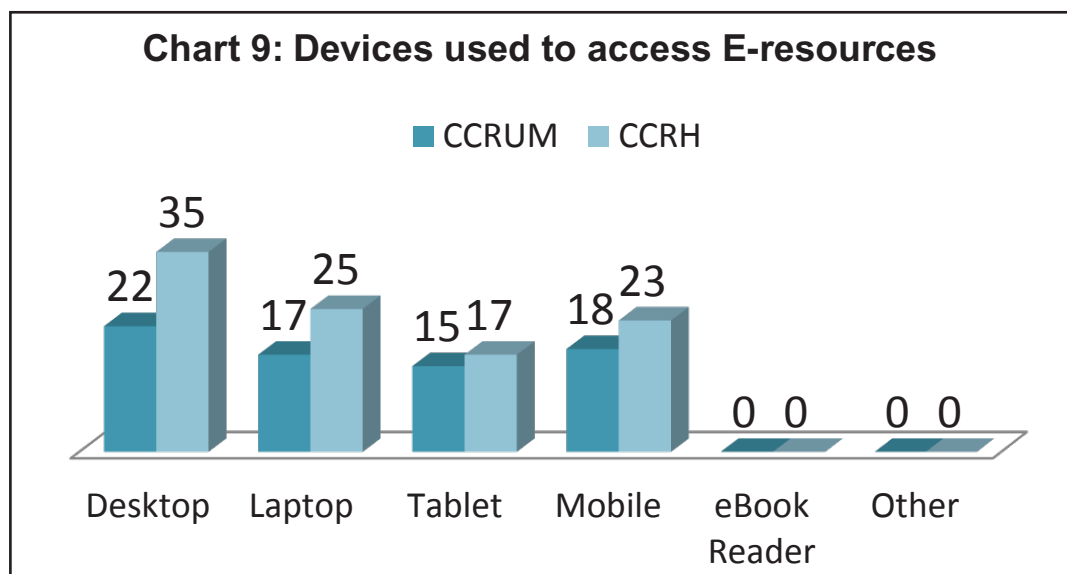


Fig. 9: Devices Used to Access Electronic Resources

*Multiple responses were permitted

The chart reveals that in CCRUM 22 users out of total 24 users witnessed that they make use of desktop whereas 18,17 & 15 number of users witnessed to make use of mobiles, laptops & tablets to access e-resources

respectively. In CCRH all the 35 users witnessed that they make use of desktops to access e-resources whereas 25,23 & 17 number of users witnessed to make use of laptops, mobiles & tablets respectively.

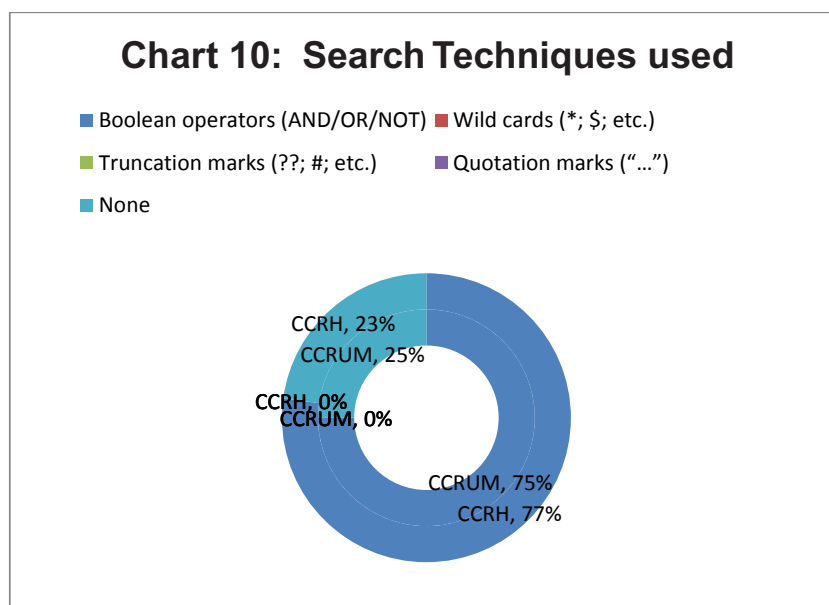


Fig. 10: Search Techniques Used

The chart reveals that in CCRUM major percentage (75%) of the users make use Boolean operators to search e-resources. whereas 25% of the users said that they don't make use of any search technique for searching e-resources. In CCRH, major percentage (77%) of the

users make use Boolean operators to search e-resources whereas 23% of the users said that they don't make use of any search technique for searching e-resources. This depicts that Boolean operator is the main searching technique used by the users in these research councils.

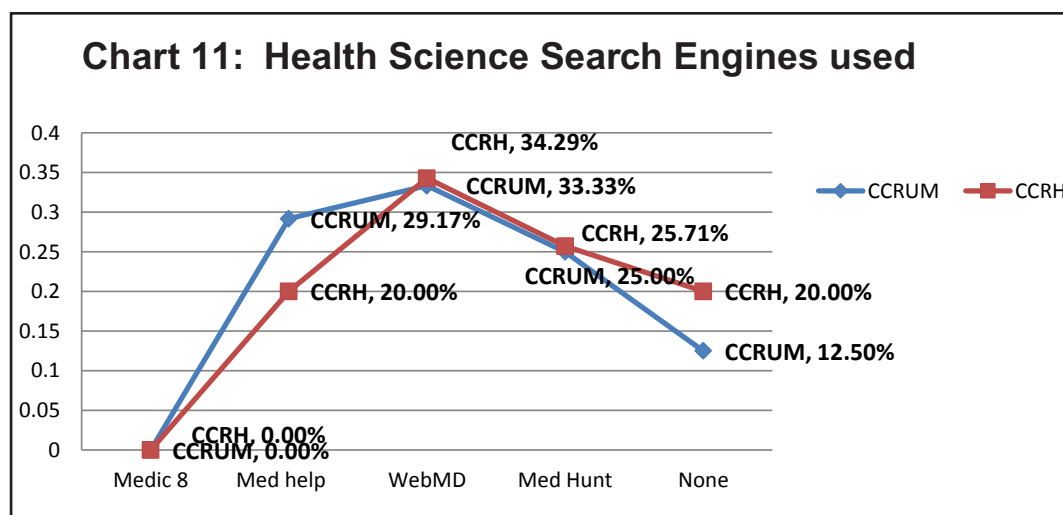


Fig. 11: Health Science Search Engines Used

The chart reveals that in CCRUM, 33.33% of users make use of WebMD followed by 29.17% & 25.00% of users who make use of Med help & Med Hunt respectively. Whereas 12.50% of the don't make use of any health science search engine. In CCRH 34.29% of the users make

use of Web MD followed by 25.71% & 20.00% of users who make use of Med Hunt & Med help respectively. Whereas 20.00% of the users said that they don't make use of any health science search engine.

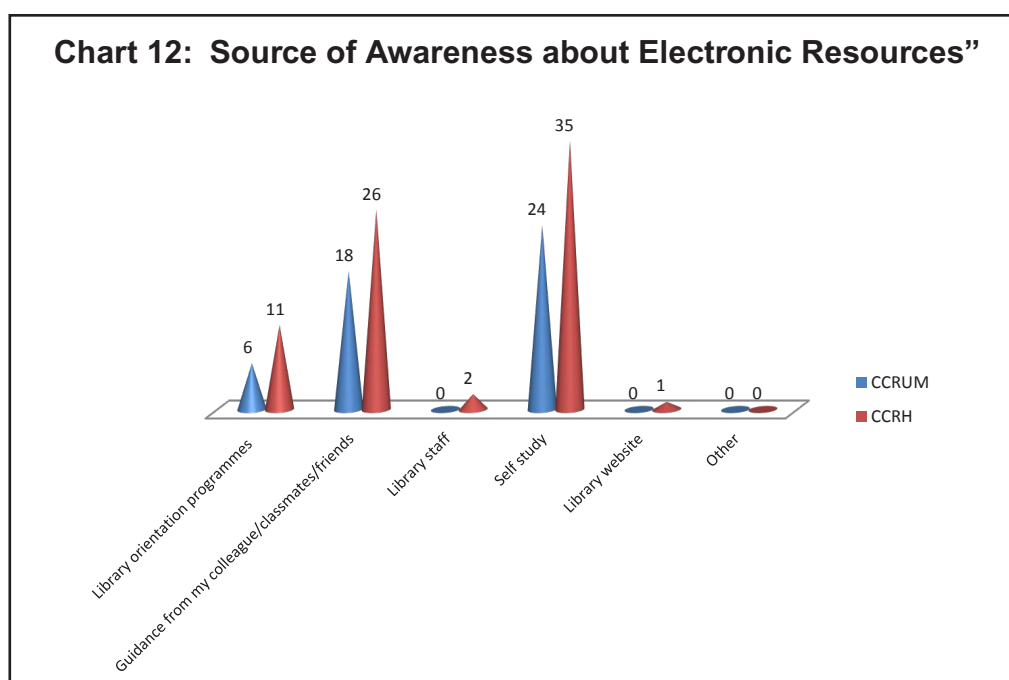


Fig. 12: Source of Awareness about E-resources

The chart reveals that in CCRUM mostly users come to know about e-resources through self-study & guidance from their colleagues/classmates/friends. However a very few number of users reported to learn about e-resources through library orientation programmes. CCRH, almost follows the same trend where most of the users report

to learn about e-resources resources through self-study & guidance from their colleagues/classmates/friends. Some users witnessed to learn about e-resources through library orientation programmes. Whereas very few users reported to learn about the e-resources through library staff & library website.

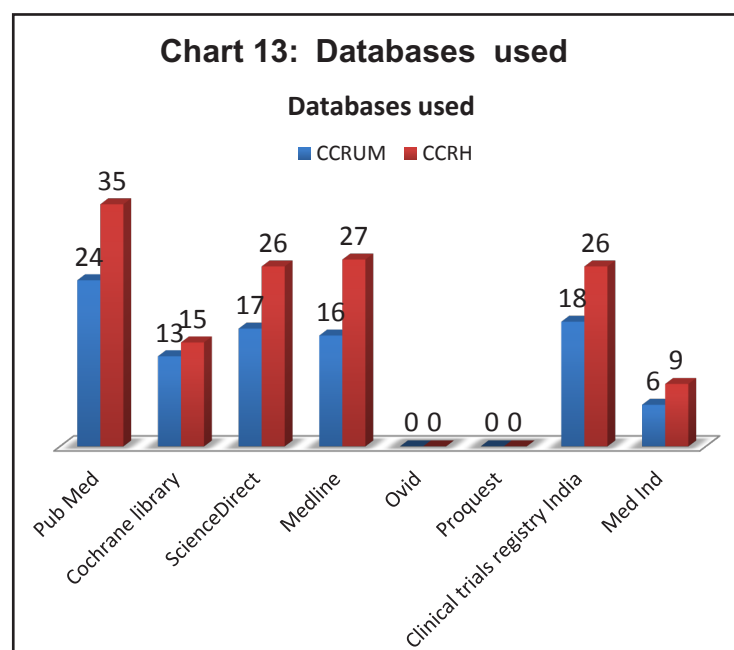


Fig. 13: Databases Used

The chart reveals that in CCRUM all the 24 users use Pub Med database whereas 18,17,16,13 & 6 users witnessed to use clinical trials registry India, Science Direct, Medline, Cochrane library & Med Ind databases respectively. In CCRH all the 35 users use Pub Med database whereas

27,26,26,15 & 9 number of users witnessed to use Medline, Science Direct, Clinical trials registry India, Cochrane library & Med Ind respectively. This reveals that Pub Med is the most commonly used database among the users.

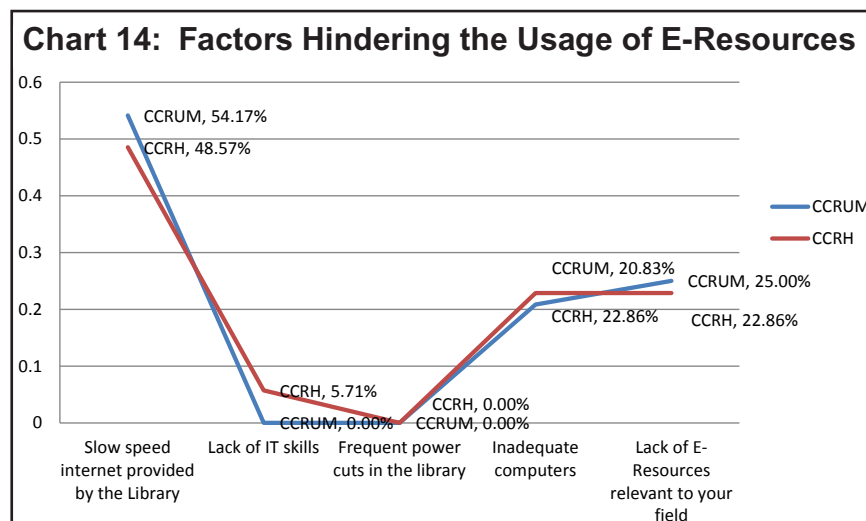


Fig. 14: Factors Hindering the Usage of E-Resources

The chart reveals that in CCRUM 54.17% users witnessed that slow speed internet provided by the library is the main factor which hinders them from using e-resources. whereas 25% of the users report the lack of e-resources relevant to their field as a factor which hinders them from using e-resources & 20.83% of the users report that the inadequate number of computers in their library as a factor which hinders them from using e-resources. In

CCRH 48.57% of the users believe that the slow speed internet is the main factor which hinders them from using e-resources followed by 22.86, 22.86 & 5.71% of the users who believe that inadequate computers, lack of e-resources relevant to their field & lack of Information Technology (IT) skills respectively as the main barrier to them in using e-resources.

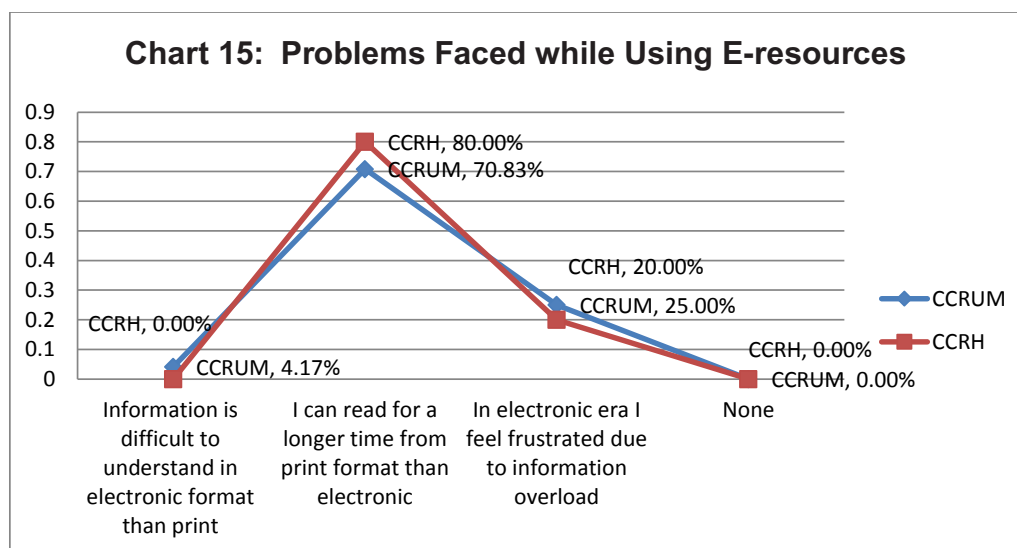


Fig. 15: Problems Faced while Using E-resources

The chart reveals that major %age of the users in CCRUM (70.83%) & CCRH (80.00%) witnessed that they face problem while using e-resources as they can read for a longer time from print format than electronic format. Whereas 25.00% of users in CCRUM & 20.00% of users in CCRH witnessed that in the electronic era they feel frustrated due to information overload. A very few %age (4.17%) of users in CCRUM report that information is difficult to understand in electronic format than print format.

Findings

The following are major findings of the study:

Awareness: The study revealed that all the respondents in CCRUM & CCRH are aware about the availability of e-resources.

Types of Information Resources Used: It was analyzed that all the users in both the research councils use both print as well as electronic resources.

Mode of Access: The study revealed that most of the users in CCRUM & CCRH prefer both online as well as offline mode of access to e-resources

Frequency of Use: The study reveals that majority of users in CCRUM & CCRH use e-resources on daily basis.

Purpose of Use: The study reveals that mostly the users in CCRUM & CCRH use e-resources for the research projects/papers & for keeping themselves updated in their field.

Place of Access: The study reveals that the work place is the main place of accessing e-resources for the users in CCRUM & CCRH.

Factors Hindering the Usage of e-resources: The study reveals that slow speed internet provided by the library, lack of e-resources in their relevant field & inadequate computers as factors which mainly hinder the users from using e-resources.

Problems: The study revealed that majority of the users in CCRUM & CCRH face problems while using e-resources, because they can read for a longer time from print format than electronic format.

Conclusion

The electronic resources have become an integral part of CCRUM & CCRH libraries. The users in these libraries have greatly accepted the e-resources in their routine

work. The e-resources serve their essential information needs. The present study reveals that electronic resources play a major role in information dissemination process among the users of CCRUM & CCRH libraries in New Delhi. The study concluded that the users of CCRUM & CCRH libraries use electronic resources for various academic purposes. However, there are many loop holes on which CCRUM & CCRH libraries need to work so that the users can get the maximum benefit out of the e-resources.

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