

USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES BY RESEARCH SCHOLARS AND FACULTY MEMBERS OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF STUDY AND RESEARCH IN LAW, RANCHI: A STUDY

Saket Kumar*

**Senior Library Assistant, National University of Study & Research in Law, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India.*

Email: saketnusrl@gmail.com

Abstract *The present paper is an attempt to study the issues related to access and use of electronic information resources (EIR) by research scholars and faculty members of National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi and their awareness about advantages and disadvantages. It also aims to highlight the problems encountered by the users and suggests some useful remedial measures for its improvements. The finding shows that 71.2% of the respondents are aware of electronic information resources and 36.5% of users use e-journals the most. The study also identifies that around 40% of users think that more electronic information resources need to be subscribed. This study would absolutely benefit the researchers through exploring impact of usage of electronic information resources on academic performance. .*

Keywords: *Information, ICT, Electronic Information Resources, Library, EIR, University, NUSRL*

INTRODUCTION

Information is the key component of modern age. Almost everything is based on the information and depends upon its resources. The information and communication technology (ICT) has transformed old concept of libraries from traditional to digital form. Now, Internet has become an unavoidable necessity for every institution of higher learning (Bhat & Mudhol, 2014). Advances in ICT during the past few years have brought radical changes in the way information is stored, organised, accessed, retrieved and consumed. The information needs of the faculty members and research scholars have changed and grown. Now it is necessary for libraries to provide quick and comprehensive access to resources to faculty members and research scholars by using best possible tools and techniques. The emergence of electronic information resources (EIR) has tremendously transformed information handling and management in libraries. Electronic information resources are those resources which include documents in electronic or e-format that can be access via internet in a digital library environment. These resources include various types of electronic documents like e-books, e-journals, e-databases, scholarly web resources, patents etc. In this

era of ICT, electronic information resources are the integral part of teaching, learning and research activities. Usages of electronic information resources are the most important step during the process of gathering information and for updating knowledge on any particular subject. Electronic information resources enable innovative teaching, increase timeliness in research and increase discovery and creation of new field of enquiry.

ABOUT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF STUDY AND RESEARCH IN LAW

National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi was established in terms of a Legislative Act by the State of Jharkhand in 2010. It is the fourteenth National Law University of India. The university's campus is spread over an area of around 64 acres at the outskirts of Ranchi.

The Central Library of NUSRL has a rich collection of books, journals, e-resources database, CD-ROM databases, dissertations, law reports, magazines, newspapers etc. to fulfill the academic requirement of students, research scholars and faculties.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the level of awareness among users.
- To observe the types of electronic information resources available.
- To find out the purpose of utilisation of electronic information resources.
- To find out the problems faced by research scholars and faculty members while using electronic information resources.
- To suggest improvement measures based on the inferences drawn from the study.
- To give useful conclusion for the benefit of users (research scholars and faculty members).

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In the last few years, large number of studies has been conducted on how faculty members and research scholars use the electronic information resources in the universities worldwide. A major survey of literature was carried out by Tenopir (2003). He analysed the results of over 200 studies of the use of electronic information resources in libraries published between 1995 and 2003. Elavazhagan and Udaykumar (2013) examined the exposure and measure the extent use of EIRs by the faculty members and research scholars at BITS Pilani-Hyderabad campus, and confirmed that the e-resources are time-saving, easy to use and handle, more informative, preferred, flexible and effective. Madhusudan (2010) in his study found that electronic resources had become an integral part of information needs of research scholars. Further, he found that e-resources could be good substitute for conventional resources. Satpathy and Rout (2010) investigate the use of e-resources by the faculty members of CVRCE and found that the faculty members are aware of various types of e-resources and suggests the need for the improvement in the access facilities with high internet speed and subscription to more e-resources. Gupta (2011) analysed the use of electronic journals from the INFONET consortium by faculty and research scholars of physics and chemistry at Kurukshetra University. Respondents identified the need for training in using e-resources and retrieving information from them on a regular basis. Thanuskodi (2012) evaluated the use of electronic resources in terms of use and user satisfaction in Supreme Court Library. Results of the study showed that access to internet is quite common among the respondents of government advocates and junior advocates. Gupta and Sharma (2016) found in their study that library is widely used by students and they are satisfied with the available information resources and services. Vellaichamy and Jeysankar (2014) pointed out that majority of respondents use internet for research purpose. Mulla (2011) found in his study that the majority of respondents

faced a problem of lack of timing or lack of training was the main problem while using e-resources.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The present study focuses on the use of electronic information resources by the research scholars and faculty members. The geographical area of the present study is primarily restricted to the Central Library of National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi only.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted for the present study is survey method. A structured questionnaire was designed to elicit the opinion of research scholars and faculty members. Out of 65 questionnaires distributed among the respondents, 52 duly filled in were returned back which helped to oxygenate a formidable contribution to this piece of research. Statistical techniques of percentage of students have been used to analyse the collective data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis and interpretation of the data is presented in subsequent section as follows:

Table 1 shows that out of 52 respondents, 36 (69.2%) were male and 16 (30.8%) were female.

Table 1: Gender Distribution of Respondents

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Female	16	30.8
Male	36	69.2
Total	52	100

Table 2 shows that 53.9% of respondents access the EIR in their department where as 36.5% respondents use EIR in library. Only 9.6% of respondents reported that they use EIRs at some other place.

Table 2: Place of Access to Electronic Information Resources

Place	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Library	19	36.5
Department	28	53.9
Others	05	09.6
Total	52	100

Table 3 reflects the awareness level of respondents about EIRs. It was found that 71.2% of respondents were well aware about the EIRs whereas 28.8% respondents don't have knowledge about it.

Table 3: Awareness about the Electronic Information Resources

Awareness	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	37	71.2
No	15	28.8
Total	52	100

Table 4 highlights that 53.8% of the respondents reported that they learned to use EIRs by trial and error method. 21.2% of the respondents learned EIR skills by formal training. Only 7.7% of the respondents reported that with the guidance of library staff they learn to use the EIR while 17.3% of the respondents learn to use the EIR by some other methods.

Table 4: Methods of Learning Electronic Information Resources Skills

Methods of Learning	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Trial and error method	28	53.8
Guidance from library staff	04	07.7
Formal training by experts	11	21.2
Other methods	09	17.3
Total	52	100

Table 5 shows that majority of respondents use electronic information resources for e-journals. 36.5% users use e-journals, followed by 32.7% as online databases. 15.4% of users use EIR for e-thesis and dissertation followed by 9.6% respondents who use EIR for e-books. Only 5.8% of users reported that they use EIR to find some other type of electronic information resources.

Table 5: Types of Electronic Information Resources

Types of E.I.R.	No. of Respondents	Percentage
E-journals	19	36.5
E-books	05	09.6
Online database	17	32.7

Types of E.I.R.	No. of Respondents	Percentage
E-thesis & dissertations	08	15.4
Others	03	05.8
Total	52	100

The purposes of using EIRs are depicted in Table 6 which represents that 55.8% of the users use EIRs for their research and study purpose. 26.9% users use EIR for writing journal articles while 13.5% of the respondents use EIR to update their knowledge in their area of specialisation. Only 3.8% users reported that they use EIR for some other purpose.

Table 6: Purpose of Using Electronic Information Resources

Purpose of using EIR	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Research/Study	29	55.8
Writing journal articles	14	26.9
To update the subject knowledge	07	13.5
Others	02	03.8
Total	52	100

Table 7 shows that the most preferred format while using EIRs is PDF format with 59.6% responses. 23.1% users reported that they prefer to use MS-Word format to read EIR where as 13.5% said that they use HTML format. 3.8% respondents reported that they use some other file format to read EIR.

Table 7: Preferred File Format for Reading Electronic Information Resources

File Format	No. of Respondents	Percentage
PDF	31	59.6
HTML	07	13.5
MS-Word	12	23.1
Others	02	03.8
Total	52	100

Table 8 highlights the problems which users face while using EIRs. Majority of respondents (44.2%) reported that the main problem which they face while using EIR is availability of appropriate electronic information resources. 21.2% respondents reported that slow Internet connectivity is also a problem in using EIR while 17.3% respondents reported that due to lack of IT skills they face problems. 11.5% respondents reported that authentication issue is another problem while using EIR where as 5.8% users reported that using EIR is time consuming.

Table 8: Problems Faced while using Electronic Information Resources

Disadvantages	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Insufficient e-resources	23	44.2
No authentication	06	11.5
Time consuming	03	05.8
Slow internet connectivity	11	21.2
Lack of IT skills	09	17.3
Total	52	100

In Table 9 the respondents give suggestions for improvement. It was reported that 40.4% users suggested subscribing more EIR. 23% users feel that Internet connectivity should be improved. 15.4% suggested that training sessions should be conducted to learn how to use EIR. 13.5% thinks that stable electricity backup must be available for uninterrupted use of EIR, while 7.7% suggested that conducive environment should be provided for better use of EIR.

Table 9: Suggestions for Improvement

Suggestions	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Improve internet connectivity	12	23.0
Subscribe to more e-resources	21	40.4
Have stable electrical backup	07	13.5
Organise training sessions for using E.I.R.	08	15.4
Provide a conducive environment	04	07.7
Total	52	100

Table 10 shows that 59.8% of users are satisfied with the EIR available. 34.6% of users are not satisfied with the EIR while only 5.8% of the users are fully satisfied with the EIR.

Table 10: Level of Satisfaction

Satisfaction Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Fully satisfied	03	05.8
Satisfied	31	59.6
Not satisfied	18	34.6
Total	52	100

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE STUDY

This study has examined the pattern of awareness level, usages, types, satisfaction level of electronic information resources by the faculty members and research scholars of National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi. The present study has made several useful disclosures. One of the findings of the study revealed that majority of the users are aware of electronic information resources which is a good sign. It was also discovered that the main objective of using EIRs is to support the research and study work. Other findings revealed that around 60 percent of the users are satisfied with the electronic information resources.

Suggestions from the users are very important as it is necessary to improve the resources of the library. Based on the study it is suggested that subscription of more EIRs and improved internet connectivity is very much needed for better use of the electronic information resources. Training programmes should be conducted regarding how to use the electronic information resources more effectively. There should be proper planning and definite programmes for the introduction of electronic information resources to users.

CONCLUSION

The successful operation of any library depends, to a large extent, on the choice of library collections. The choice of collection should meet the need and requirements of the end users. Consequently, librarians must be aware of how the faculty members seek information. From the findings of the study several major conclusions can be drawn. It was concluded that research scholars and faculty members prefer electronic information resources as a great part for their study and research. The study reveals that the research scholars and faculty members are using the available electronic information resources satisfactorily. From the above discussion it is very clear that the use of electronic information resources is expected to increase in future. Electronic information resources have become the vital part of human life in 21st century. The explosion of electronic information resources in the library has had a significant impact on user's behaviour in the way academic community uses, stores, disseminates and preserves information.

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