

USE OF E-RESOURCES BY UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEMBERS OF MADHYA PRADESH AND CHHATTISGARH : A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Abstract

In modern world, Information and Communication Technology has made radical changes as far as managing information sources with relative ease. In this way, information and communication technology has become an important tool to gather or retrieve information. Majority of library collection now-a-days comprise of electronic information resources. This paper compared use of e-resources by faculty members of selected universities operational in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The collected data has been comparatively analyse to provide a birds eye view of use of e-resources by faculty of selected universities operational in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Conclusions are drawn with suggestions to improve shortcomings as far as use of e-resources by faculty members of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are concerned.

Keywords: e-resource, University, Faculty, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh

INTRODUCTION

An integral and one of the most valued part of any educational institution is its library from which teaching and learning activities are enhanced. Library offers students, faculty members and researchers to acquire information related with their educational needs. In the past, when traditional libraries were operational, one had to rely on so many persons and spend hours and hours of valuable time to get the information on desired topic. But with the advent of information and communication technology, e-resources become integral part of library because it not only saves time but also enables libraries to function smoothly (Sinha, 1990).

An electronic resource is defined as a resource which requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. Types of e-resources includes online e-resources such as e-journal, e-books, online database or website. The offline e-resources may have CD ROMs or other portable databases.

Hence, keeping the importance of e-resources in academic settings the present study was planned to compare e-resource usage of faculty member of selected Universities operational in Chhattisgarh Since Chhattisgarh has been carved out of Madhya Pradesh, it would be interesting to know the difference in e-resources used by faculty members of relatively new State of India i.e. Chhattisgarh with inception wise older State of India i.e. Madhya Pradesh.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Quite a few studies have been conducted on e-resources and allied factors. Chauhan, Chand and Kaur (2011) conducted a study and identified the limitations and problems for low usage of these e-resources at the Himachal Pradesh University and offers some suggestions to improve the usage. Nallathamb and Kanakaraj (2012) found that the majority of the respondent in the engineering colleges have used electronic resources daily. Adebayo (2013) 'examined the challenges associated with cataloguing electronic resources in six randomly selected university libraries in Southwest Nigeria and "highlighted some challenges associated with cataloguing electronic resources such as lack of adequate physical description of some electronic resources, inadequate workflow in cataloguing sections, copyright issues among others. Kalbande, Shinde, and Ingle (2013) surveyed 108 faculty members at the Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, India and observed that the impact of e-resources was visible from the decrease in number of printed documents in comparison to the increase in number of electronic resources. Elavazhagan and Udayakumar (2013) examined the exposure and measure the extent use of e-resources by the faculty members and research scholars of BITS, Pilani - Hyderabad Campus and confirmed that the e-resources are time saving, easy to use and handle, more informative, preferred, flexible and effective.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The basic objectives of the present study can be summarized as below.

- To know the types and media of e-resources used by faculty members of Universities operational in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.
- To compare use e-resources by faculty members of Universities operational in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The Study is confined to the use of e-resources by the regular faculty members of 06 universities of Chhattisgarh i.e. G.G.U. Central University, Bilaspur, Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur, Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur, Indira Kala Sangeet University, Khairagarh, Kushabhau Thakre Univeristy of Journalism and Mass Communication, Raipur and Pt Ravi Shankar Shukla Unversity, Raipur. The Study is confined to the use of e-resources by the regular faculty members of 06 universities of Madhya Pradesh i.e. Awadesh Pratap Singh University, Rewa, Devi Ahilya University, Indore, Dr. Hari Singh Gaur University, Sagar, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur and Vikram University, Ujjain.

The various limitations of the study are:

- (a) The study is limited to faculty members working in selected Universities operational in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.
- (b) The study is limited to regular faculty members only.
- (c) The study is limited to study the use of e-resources by faculty members of selected Universities operational in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED

Cross sectional survey method was used in the present study with questionnaire survey technique. The questionnaire was constructed by the researcher to meet the requirement of the present study. The reliability and validity of the questionnaire was established and it was found to be highly reliable and valid.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

A structured questionnaire was prepared and was distributed to 500 faculty members of Universities operational in Chhattisgarh. Similarly questionnaire was distributed to 500 faculty members of Universities operational in Madhya Pradesh. Due to some reasons 212 faculty members from Universities of Madhya Pradesh and 202 faculty members of Chhattisgarh returned fully filled questionnaires. The collected data were edited, tabulated and analyzed with the help of statistical techniques and graphical representation.

Table-1

Types of e-resources used by Selected University Faculty Members

S. No.	e-resources	University Faculty Teachers (N=414)	
		No.	%
1.	e-book	324	78.26
2.	e-journals	345	83.33
3.	e-magazine	169	40.82
4.	e-thesis	241	58.21
5.	e-research report	236	57.00
6.	e-technical report	100	24.15
7.	e-encyclopedia	208	50.24
8.	e-dictionary	205	49.51
9.	e-newspaper	196	47.34
10.	e-maps	39	9.42
11.	e-bibliography	128	30.91

A perusal of table 1 indicate that faculty members of selected universities operational in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh use various types of e-resources. The faculty members access e-book (78.26%), e-journals (83.33%), e-magazine (40.82%), e-thesis (58.21%), e-research report (57.00%), e-technical report (24.15%), e-encyclopedia (50.24%), e-dictionary (49.51%), e-newspaper (47.34%), e-maps (9.42%) and e-bibliography (30.91%). The highest percentage in terms of usage was found to be in terms of e-journals and least percentage of e-resources used was e-maps.

Table-2**Mode of e – resources used by Faculty Members**

	Sources of E-resource	Faculty Members of Selected Universities (N=414)	
		No.	%
1.	Online	262	57.54
2.	Offline	28	11.32
3.	Online & Offline	140	35.84
4.	Others	-	-

A perusal of entries reported in table 2 indicate that majority of faculty members use online e-resource (57.74%) followed by respondents who use both online and offline e-resources (35.84%) and lastly 11.32% respondents rely only on offline e-resources.

Table-3**Comparison of e-resources usage between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh**

S.No.	e-resources	University Faculty Members				df	χ^2
		Madhya Pradesh (N=212)		Chhattisgarh (N=202)			
		No.	%	No.	%		
1.	e-book	154	72.6	170	84.1	1	8.06*
2.	e-journals	158	74.5	187	92.5	1	24.25*
3.	e-magazine	78	36.7	91	45.0	1	2.91
4.	e-thesis	108	50.9	133	65.8	1	9.43*
5.	e-research report	104	49.0	132	65.3	1	7.98*
6.	e-technical report	24	11.3	76	37.6	1	39.06*
7.	e-encyclopedia	72	33.9	136	67.3	1	46.6*
8.	e-dictionary	82	38.6	123	60.8	1	20.41*
9.	e-newspaper	88	41.5	108	53.4	1	5.93*
10.	e-maps	20	9.43	19	9.4	1	0.02
11.	e-bibliography	54	25.4	74	36.6	1	6.03*

$\chi^2(df=1) = 3.84$, * Significant at .05 level

The analysis of entries reported in table 3 yields following facts:

- 72% of University faculty Members from Madhya Pradesh access e-books as compared to 84.1% University faculty Members of Chhattisgarh. The calculated $\chi^2=8.06$ shows significant difference in use of e-book as electronic resources between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- 74.5% of University faculty Members from Madhya Pradesh access e-journals as compared to 92.5% University faculty Members of Chhattisgarh. The calculated $\chi^2=24.25$ shows significant difference in use of e-journals as electronic resources between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- 36.7% of University faculty Members from Madhya Pradesh access e-magazine as compared to 45.0% University faculty Members of Chhattisgarh. The calculated $\chi^2=2.91$ shows non significant difference in use of e-magazine as electronic resources between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- 50.9% of University faculty Members from Madhya Pradesh access e-thesis as compared to 65.8% University faculty Members of Chhattisgarh. The calculated $\chi^2=9.43$ shows significant difference in use of e-thesis as electronic resources between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- 49.0% of University faculty Members from Madhya Pradesh access e-research report as compared to 65.3% University faculty Members of Chhattisgarh. The calculated $\chi^2=7.98$ shows significant difference in use of e-research report as electronic resources between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- 11.3% of University faculty Members from Madhya Pradesh access e-technical report as compared to 37.6% University faculty teachers of Chhattisgarh. The calculated $\chi^2=39.06$ shows significant difference in use of e-technical report as electronic resources between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- 33.9% of University faculty Members from Madhya Pradesh access e-encyclopedia as compared to 67.3% University faculty Members of Chhattisgarh. The calculated $\chi^2=46.06$ shows significant difference in use of e-technical report as electronic resources between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- 38.6% of University faculty Members from Madhya Pradesh access e-dictionary as compared to 60.8% University faculty Members of Chhattisgarh. The calculated $\chi^2=20.41$ shows significant difference in use of e-dictionary as electronic resources between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- 41.5% of University faculty Members from Madhya Pradesh access e-newspaper as compared to 53.4% University faculty Members of Chhattisgarh. The calculated $\chi^2=5.93$ shows significant difference in use of e-dictionary as electronic resources between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

- 9.43% of University faculty Members from Madhya Pradesh access e-maps as compared to 9.4% University faculty Members of Chhattisgarh. The calculated $\chi^2=0.02$ shows non significant difference in use of e-maps as electronic resources between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- 25.4% of University faculty Members from Madhya Pradesh access e-bibliography as compared to 36.6% University faculty Members of Chhattisgarh. The calculated $\chi^2=5.93$ shows significant difference in use of e-bibliography as electronic resources between University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

FINDINGS

- e-journals was found to be the most frequently accessed e-resource by faculty Members of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh while e-maps was least accessed e-resource by the faculty Members.
- The faculty Members of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh prefer to use online resources more as compared to offline e-resources.
- Use of e-book, e-journal, e-thesis, e-research report, e-technical report, e-encyclopedia, e-dictionary, e-newspaper and e-bibliography was found to be in significantly higher magnitude in University faculty members of Chhattisgarh as compared to University faculty members of Madhya Pradesh at .05 level of statistical significance.
- No statistically significant difference was observed in use of e-resources such as e-magazine and e-maps between University faculty Members of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

CONCLUSION

The findings of the present study reveal that use of e-resources such as e-book, e-journals, e-thesis, e-research report, e-technical report, e-encyclopedia, e-dictionary, e-newspaper and e-bibliography was found to be significantly higher in university faculty Members of Chhattisgarh as compared to University faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh. It shows that university faculty Members of Chhattisgarh are more aware of e-resources as compared to university faculty Members of Madhya Pradesh. Hence on the basis of results it can be concluded that use of information and communication technology in the form of e-resources by faculty Members working in universities operational in Chhattisgarh is significantly better as compared to faculty Members working in universities operational in Madhya Pradesh. On the basis of results it is suggested that more in depth study in future is the need of the hour so that causes of lesser use of e-resources by university faculty members of Madhya Pradesh can be determined. It is also suggested that.

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