

**THE ON-LINE RESOURCE TOOLS FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING
AND LEARNING: A CASE STUDY OF E-BOOKS AND
E-JOURNALS IN MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

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Abstract

The advent of ICT and Internet medium plays vital role in accessing the e-book and e-journal for the benefit of the higher education. The advantages of e-resources and its wide scope in the research activities are to be made familiar to the user community. It provides the teacher and the scholar with quality professional development through anytime and anywhere access concept. Hence the user's community has to learn to identify and understand the needs, strategies, content creation and access, technology used and the new skill practice etc. In the e-book resource, the users have to identify the location, links, contribute links to assign, purchase or update the collection, create an active reading strategies, archival etc, The Tools and techniques should be best taught to them for the best use of e-journal resource collection. This paper aims to study the effective learning and teaching by e-books and e-journals, and bring out the notice of the users the on-line resources for the purpose of learning and teaching.

Keywords: e-books, e-journals, learning and teaching of e-resources, Higher education, On-line education, Public domain of resources, Access techniques to the resources.

Introduction:

The research and development in higher education by using ICTs, information resources, techniques and technologies, web based resources and on-line resources etc provided through information centers and University libraries caused important area of awareness and understanding of the information and its use. The University Grants Commission(UGC) has undertaken various initiatives over a long period to enhance the quality of higher education and the universities and their libraries are also mooted to take up the positive progress tasks to enlighten the higher education in India. In its various reports UGC has exhorted that the higher education system has to be augmented in such a way that the system of learning and teaching should also be enriched. The curriculum, ICT and Internet use, electronic resource collection and access to the various e-resources through common consortia etc were given top most priority to develop the higher education in India.

TEACHING COMMUNITY AND E-RESOURCES

Since the technology based e-resources are the base for the research, teaching and learning, the use of e-resource technology is sprang even among the teachers in the University level. The method of search techniques, software used and access techniques etc are also changing very often which needs the periodic learning process for the educators and research scholars through the workshops, seminars, hand-on training to create the ability to immediate access of e-resources like e-journals and e-books in the University library system. The collection of e-consortium of the institution should create a situation that the faculty would be satisfied with e-service provided and create more personalized and individualized learning environment.

The changing nature of ICT and its reflection over the transition in education has emerged to dimensions in learning, the need for the high quality professional development of the teachers become very inevitable to help their students in new academic standards and the teacher has to establish to meet the goal of having high quality teacher in the class room. The on-line e-journals and e-books provide the teacher to have a professional high quality through “the any time and any where access” so the teacher can build the profession in such way to involve the reflection, discussion with the

colleagues and students, and to develop portfolio of personal best practices through these resources effectively.

The teacher can modify and change the teaching module according to the learners of the subject, introduce, modify and implement the academic content, work out the curriculum, and arranging class room visit and to develop new skills of the students. To achieve these proposals, the teacher has to develop his knowledge up-to-date which can be materialized by the use of e-resources as mentioned earlier.

The best class room materials should not be based on the text books alone. The teacher has to identify the e-resources to yield information by low cost through the e-resources and utilize the variety of resources which are just around him. Hence employing these resources will support the learning and teaching in the classroom on the other side.

The learning environment of the students about these resources can be created and organized by the teacher. He may use the on-line course to introduce the resources to his students to create independent learners. Jamie McKenzie says “learning should be hands-on experience based, rather than abstract, thus meaningful learning results from students working co-operatively on tasks that are also related to their interest”.

- The teacher can use some methods of teaching the e-books access as a pedagogical habit of the students.
- Name the e-books on the specific subject of teaching and links to e-books may be written on the board.
- The students may be asked to locate the e-books, its links, and share with other networks to access.
- The low cost e-books may be asked to purchase by the students so that the norms, legal issues, regulations and the controls levied by the publishers.
- The students may be asked to refer the e-books for the presentations in the classroom and used for discussion too.
- Encourage them to create the digital portfolio and reading strategies to the students.
- The teachers should use the scholars and technologists to exploit the know-how of technology in using the on-line resources for teaching and learning.

E-books

E-books are the textual documents or digital text file which are converted and published in an electronic format. These can be displayed and read by computer systems, e-book readers and other devices with e-book software programs. This term again started to get encompassment with multimedia, hypertext and hypermedia systems based on e-book metaphor. Allen (2000) quoted that “e-book concept has been extended to include book titles that are available on-line, that can be read as email, can be retrieved by a portable electronic reading device or as a file that can be downloaded on to a computer”. Again Hawkins (2000) had interpretation as “ an e-book is the “print-on-demand” book where the contents are stored in a system connected to a high-speed, high-quality printer, from which printed and bound copies are produced on demand with the possibility of buying chapter-by chapter, customized books”. The e-books have the following characteristics:-

- **Easy and Multi-access:** As these resources are the networked product which can provide multiple points of access by 24 hours a day 7 days a week with multiple simultaneous users, and ensures the easy access to the resources.
- **Speed and accuracy:** An electronic resource is lot quick to search the retrieve information from, and to integrate that information into other material on the web content. It is then, assured to cross-search or cross- reference between different publications to reach the accurate destination of required information.
- **Functionality and user approach:** It allows the user to approach the publications to analyze its content of the text by click of the mouse on search mode most functional.
- **Content and deep indexing:** The resources are more importantly the material that can consist of mixed media and the variety of format and language which can be easily accessed to the content by deep indexing.
- **More interactive nature:** the e-books are more interactive than that of the printed materials as these are created and used by the free software and web converters or the MS Word add-ins.

OPEN ACCESS E-BOOKS

OAPEN: Open Access Publishing in European Networks	OAPEN HAVING 1000 Titiles
Google Books	www.googlebooks.com
The Universal Digital Library	MillionBooksProject www.ulib.org/ULIBAboutUs.htm
Project Gutenberg	www.archive.org/details/gutenberg
American Libraries	www.archive.org/details/american
Community Books	www.communitybooks.org
Biodiversity Heritage Library	www.archive.org/details/biodiversity
UN University Full-text Publicaitons	www.library.yale.edu/govdocs/un.html
UC Press e-books, 1982-2004	www.cdlib.org
Taylor and Francis	http://www.ebooksstore.tandf.co.uk/html
National Academy Press	http://www.nap.org
Follett Corpration	http://ebooks.efollett.com
ASCD Full-text Books	http://www.ascd.org/cms/index.cfm/
eBookopolis Academic materials	http://ebookopolis.com/index.asp?entrance
CUP e-Bookstore	http://www.cambridge.org/uk/ebookstore/
eText	http://www.etext.net/index.php
Center for Electronic Texts in the Humanities	http://www.ceth.rutgers.edu/
Educating the Net Generation	http://educause.edu/content.asp
RETAIL CATEGORY	
Amazon	http://www.amazon.com
Adobe Glassbook	http://bookstore.glassbook.com/store
Barnes and Noble	http://www.bn.com
Contentville	http://contentville.com
PreviewPort	http://ebooks.previewport.com

Accessing e-books:

The Joint Information systems Committee (JISC) has identified four means of accessing e-books.

1. Downloadable e-books in which the user can download the text and document usually from the public domain of web site by using specific software.
2. Dedicated e-books readers in which reliably dedicated software and hardware are required to read and download the text and documents.
3. The web-accessible e-books in which the subscription fee is made for one time or the on-going access fees in accordance with the nature of user access.
4. Print on demand books in which the contents are stored in a system on web from which you can have the printed copies on demand. This process is not an e-book delivery electronically but can readily satisfy the user needs.

How to frame the e-book collection:

The selection and acquisition of e-books for any university library should be primarily based on the information needs of the users, scholars and faculty of the institution. The selection of e-books should also be based on the content selection and evaluation criteria as followed in other e-resources to satisfy the diverse needs of the users.

- A bundled package by the publishers consists all areas of subjects
- The pick and select package by the institution on the relevant subjects.
- Priority to acquire the items on heavy demand on specific field of study and research
- Importance given to the core reference collections like encyclopedias on various subjects.
- Collection of monographs and textbooks found essential to the course of study and, rare and out- of -print items.
- Importance given on the collection on the scholarly materials found out- of-print
- Finally the subjects of high IT awareness and access techniques should be propagated.

Advantages of E-books:

Portability is one of the advantages of the e-book so that it can be taken to anywhere else by a simple storage device or by a computer system. The instance Access is ensured by

the e-book mechanism as the subscribed items are readily available on web or by a subscription based local archiving. The search- ability is another advantage of the e-book collection on subject, author, keyword, and other searching entities as it ensures the deep indexing. The Linking is another landmark by which the user is connected and linked with other sources or web. It accommodates multimedia customization and long term preservation of the materials in the soft form. The multiple title search in single book is possible and the On-line Dictionary Link to other sites to verify, examine and correct the search results. The out –of print concept is ceased away from the market. It is the readers choice to add several chapters from the several books and updates the books in the minimal price in every renewal time. It ensures the low publishing cost and low distribution cost so the cost of paper on printing is saved at large level. The physical space saving is another important merit of the e-books welcomed by university level libraries.

E-journals:

The e-journals can be said that the journal published on-line with the full text journal articles is available through the web platform entrusting the browsing and searching functions. Any library user can use the e-journal on the Library website within the library or anywhere in the campus by Campus Wide Network or by WiFi. The e-journals aim to provide the specialized form of electronic documents consist of materials needed for academic research and study.

The collection of e-journals is otherwise termed as e-journal consortia either by subscription or by the sharing of networks through MOU between the institutions. The e-journal consortia are became essential for the libraries due to the explosion of information, formation of information society, amalgamation of information natives on study and research, the diversity of user needs and demands and the financial non-viability to meet the self-sufficiency. The best access to the e-journals is more important than that of the collection and consortia. The search and access of e-journals is based on the keywords, subject, title, e-journal collection, author and so on to retrieve the particular and relevant text, articles or the needed information.

The e-journals are also available on various modes of consortia such as

Open consortia where the member can join and leave by their wish like INDEST Consortia available at : <http://paniit.iitd.ac.in/indest/>

Closed Group type allows only the institutions having collaboration and affiliation like CSIR, IIM are available at: CSIR e-journal consortium <http://www.niscair.res.in>

Centrally funded type primarily depends on the parent body like the INFONET by UGC and the ICMR and CSIR by DSIR, are available at: UGC INFONET

<http://web.inflibnet.ac.in/info/ugcinfonet/ugcinfonet.jsp>

http://icmr.nic.in/icmrnews/e_consortia.htm

Shared-budget type in which the participatory libraries form a consortia like FORSA (Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics)

<http://www.iiap.res.in/library/forsa.html>

<http://niscair.res.in/ActivitiesandServices/MajorProjects/majproj>

www.dsir.gov.in/pubs/itt/itt020/mylibnet.htm

<http://www.rguhs.ac.in/hn/newhell.htm>

Publisher Initiatives like the Emerald Publishing Group having the Emerald Full- Text Library, Elsevier and MathSciNet

www.emerald.com

www.sciencedirect.com

<http://www.ams.org/bookstore/mathsciprice>

The National consortium type where the national level licensing of products are entrusted like INDEST- AICTE, UGC- Infonet. INDEST –AICTE consortia, CSIR Consortia and UGC consortia etc are the examples of consortia at national level to assist and share the web resources by the institutions under its purview.

Open Source Public Domain e-journals and Open Access initiatives:

Budapest Open Access initiative defines the OA literature “ as its free availability n the public internet, permitting any users to access, read, download, copy, distribute and print, or use it for rightly legal without committing any barriers of legal, financial and other technical means by accessing through the freely access of the Internet”. It ensures the open access of full text is greater than that of any subscribed

consortium. The OA repositories literature has two categories like Gold and Green. The journals are permitted to access completely on Open Access is referred as Gold where as the open access delivered by the repositories or achieves are termed as Green.

The journals are often published online in an electronic format which can be available on the Internet. Some of the websites given below are the best suit examples.

The Electronic Library of Mathematics	http://www.emis.de/ELibM.html
e- prints in Library and Information science	http://eprints.rclis.org/
Open Humanities Press	http://openhumanitiespress.org/index.html
Orgnaic e-prints	http://www.orgprints.org/
Scientific Electronic Library Online	http://www.scielo.org/php/index.php
Bio medical central	http://www.biomedcentral.com/
Ariadne	www.ariadne.ac.uk
Cybermetrics	www.cindoc.csic.es/cybermetrics
First Monday	www.firstmonday.org
Information Research	www.InformationR.net/ir/
Journalof Digital Information	www.jodi.ecs.sonton.ac.uk
Journal of Electronic Publishing	www.press.unich.edu/jep
Journal of Information, Law and Technology	www.elj.warwick.ac.uk/jilt
D-Lib Magazine	www.dlib.org
LIBRES	www.libresaurtin.edu.ac
IFLA	www.ifla.org

Advantages of the E-journals Consortia:

As the subscription of the Consortia has been a huge capital investment as far as an institution is concerned, it simply opens the gateway for the electronic archives for the institutions itself. The access and download process can be effectively used for the future archives, such as institutional repositories. As like the velocity of a book is measured by the date slip of the book, the access, availability and monitoring the usage statistics periodically to evolve and alter the collection policy of the consortium. As it is retrieved from the consortia as a shared network resource through on-line, the net cost will be so minimal than the hard print category.

The unrestricted limitations of access to the resource and document without any time limit, the user can access and read the document through the Internet. The web 2.0 in the new Internet technologies accommodate the audio- video and sound, and other image formats to access and down load with out any change of the original.

The articles and related materials will have further link facility to other websites, networks, and even to the e-book consortia so that the user can get the documents as relevant as to his subject of research. It also provides different search facilities to retrieve the documents which include cited journals also. The e-journal access habit of the users help the librarian to develop a common resource databases consists of the subject interest of the users which will, in future, help to formulate a common pool of resource collection to avoid the duplication of subscription from the foreign publishers.

The best method of Consortium provides access to unsubscribed materials and further helps to develop the union catalogue practice among the participating libraries so as to avoid the duplication. It ensures the effective faster document delivery services with high quality literature. It ensures the better search facilities and other current awareness services along with the access services.

Mahatma Gandhi University Library:

The Mahatma Gandhi University is located in the central parts of Kerala came into being in 1983 which caters seven faculties of Arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences like chemistry, physics, nano-technology, environmental sciences and Bio-Sciences. This University has research collaboration with national and international organizations like UGC, CSIR, ICMR, BARC, ISRO, Toronto University, Max Plank Institute of

Technology, Edinburgh University, Ruth Cohn Institute etc to facilitate of cutting edge of technologies and methods. As a first initiative of the Universities in Kerala, the e-journal consortia were introduced. Later the e-these archive was brought out operational in 2009 and a state level award was also honored by the State Government for the e-theses archives even though the age of University is simply minimal, it could possible to made success as compared to other state universities in Kerala.

The Collection and e-journal Consortia in M G University:

The UGC-INFONET service has been enabled by the Internet connectivity of 1mbps leased line to have an access to 7000+ journals and 20 various on-line databases. DELNET, IIS, IITs, NISCAIR AND NCL are the important institutions to whom the membership tie-up to the Mahatma Gandhi University is also maintained to have an effective on-line electronic journal services. List of journals subscription is as follows which are available at www.inflibnet.ac.in/

FULL TEXT E-JOURNALS (PUBLISHERS/AGGREGATORS)

Name of the journal and database	No of Titles
American Chemical Society	37
American Institute of Physics	18
American Physical Society	10
Annual Reviews	33
Blackwell-Wiley	908
Cambridge University Press	224
EPW	1
Elsevier Science	1036
Emerald(LISCollection)	29
Institute of Physics	46
JSTOR	1401
Kamla-Raj Enterprises	21
Nature	01
OJS@INFLIBNET	04
Oxford University Press	206
Portland Press	09

Project Euclid	34
Project Muse	411
Royal Society of Chemistry	29
SAGE Publications	30
SIAM	14
Springer Link	1389
Taylor and Francis	1173

E-theses

The Ph.D awarded by the Mahatma Gandhi University to the scholars who have registered to the programme and whose theses are brought to the purview of this category. All such theses are digitized and made available on the web. The techniques and special aspects of the theses are not relevant to this context, hence the learning process alone is taken into account here. The e-theses are available in the open access from www.mgutheses.org. The INTUTE which is the international open access online service provider of the resources for the education and research which always examine and investigate the web resources useful to the community has selected the open access archives of doctoral dissertations of Mahatma Gandhi University to be one of the best resources for learning and research.

E-Books of the M G university

The Mahatma Gandhi University Library has the perpetual access and subscription to the e-books through the two publishers to enable the scholars and teachers to have learning and teaching capabilities to act in accordance with the emerging dimensions of the information society. The university has been subscribed the e-books in the following publishers:

www.oxfordscholarshiponline.com from the Oxford University Press

www.tandf.co.uk From Taylor & Francis .

The e-books in the Mahatma Gandhi University library consists of the collection of

“package offer” rather than “pick and select” by 2700 titles from OUP and Encyclopedias of Four subjects from the Taylor and Francis.

E-theses and dissertations

[Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations \(NDLTD\)Vidyanidhi](#)

[MGU PhD Theses Archive](#)

[CalTech Electronic Theses and Dissertations](#)

[Shodhganga-Indian ETDs \(INFLIBNET\)](#)

[etd@IISc: IISc Repository of Theses and Dissertation](#)

E-Books in an Academic Environment of the University:

Most of the scholars in the university said that they would use the e-books for their research work than the print version due to the reason that the e-books can be accessed instantly by the hypertext than the hard. The remaining scholars who always depend on the hard copies, it is found that they are not properly given the training and orientation programs. Portability and the e-book can be used at any time would also encourage the scholars to use more.

The students and scholars of the University have the opinion that they are mostly depend on the e-books to find their sources and found useful as these devices are so portable, they can access “any time and any where” and make them so organized. The learning of the e-books on the cost and subscription, the content and format, publisher’s restriction on the access by TPM and DRM, the need for the archives of the essential books for the future use etc are learnt through the use and the teaching of such things through the training and orientation to the both the user community so as to ensure the lifelong learning.

Objective of the Study:

The study of the e-books and e-journals provided in the University library covers the following areas of objective to ensure the best use of these resources.

- To find out the usefulness of the resources aimed to provide for the teachers and scholars in the environment.

- To find out various types of electronic information resources and services used by the scholars and teachers.
- To find out their needs for improving skills in the use of information resources
- To know the existing technological infrastructure of the M G University Library.
- To find out the whether these resources are best used by the user community.
- Whether these resources are satisfying the aspects of currency and up- date of resources or not?
- To find out the use pattern of the resources are restricted any way by the service provider
- To find out the user's knowledge and awareness in finding the information rightly needed to them
- To find out any publisher's restriction on e-books affect the scholarly access.
- And how to overcome the varying difficulties of access documents and related documents access with other navigation.

Methodology:

A structured questionnaire method is used to collect data from the respondents of the scholars and teachers and interview conducted with the librarian to draw the inferences. To find out the results and inferences, a structured questionnaire consisted of 20 questions, and the findings are based on the data analysis.

Data Analysis and Findings:

Out of 125 questionnaires issued to the user community, only 95 were received for the study. Out of which 23 numbers of users are teachers. More than 84.7% of scholars belonged to the Science subjects and 15% of them are belonged to social sciences. The percentage of teachers in the science faculty comes around 69.6 and 30.4% belongs to social sciences.

Out of 72 scholars, 49% of them using the Internet between 1-2 hours daily as against the 26% are using in between 2-3 hours per day which means the hours of use of Internet resources are marginal than the actual use.

The peripheral vision on the research process in which 95.8% (69 out of 72) of the scholars are satisfied with the right way navigation and relevant links to the relevant

information used for the research purpose. The remaining 3 scholars are not aware of the peripheral vision basically.

The 93% of the scholars are agreed with the greater inflow of information and scholarly communication and having greater satisfaction and the remaining 5 scholars do not feel the flow of information due to the deficiency of know-how. The evaluation and scrutiny of data access are also acknowledged by this way.

The currency and update of the e-resources are acknowledged by the 95% of the scholars and remaining 7 scholars do not give much importance to verify the currency. The training and orientation programs are conducted by the university Library in which the 74% (59 out of 72) of scholars are attending the periodical training classes. The remaining 13 scholars enabled to attend the class by many reasons. Out of 72 scholars and 23 faculty members, 95% of the users agreed with the quality of resources provided and satisfied with the on-line resource access than the print and other medium.

Out of 72 scholars, 66 scholars agreed with the quality of content and the quantity of resource acquired in the library, and the 91% of the users demand to have these services in the public domain of service. This percentage of the users also remarked that the copy and down load facility in the e-book access has been felt reduced by the publisher's restriction too.

Findings and Conclusion:

Most of the scholars and teachers using the e-books and e-journals are belonged to the science faculty in general. The interest of accessing e-resources by the social science scholars and teachers are comparatively less.

The number of computer systems for the Internet use allotted to the scholars is found less and the time limit is also minimized to 30 minutes for the scholarly research. It does not validate the best use of e-resources in the consortia and hence the time allotted to the scholars should not be restricted and good number of computer systems may be provided.

The most of the scholars are found unfamiliar with the resources, services and access techniques, so the periodical orientation and training programs should be

conducted in general and the subject wise the programs should also be taken in to consideration.

The Wi-Fi facilities and Internet connections in the residential areas of the scholars and teacher by ensuring the misuse of the facilities and a separate web- centre facilities should augmented as per the directions of the UGC with all facilities other than the extended time of the library working hours.

The subscription and network sharing of the e-resources should be enhanced along with more provision for the database search in this connection.

The dissatisfaction of the users on the ineffectiveness of downloading documents from the e- book archives enforced by the publishers should be studied well and the rules and agreements, licensing and other terms and conditions should be monitored well and bargain for the betterment of the user community.

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