

# FACTORS AFFECTING DIGITAL RESOURCES USE BY HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIANS IN MANGALORE

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*This paper examines the study to understand the effective use of the digital resources among health science librarians in the Mangalore city. For the collection of the background information a comprehensive study of the literature search was done. As an important user of the study are health sciences librarians like Medical, Dental, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy. They need speedy accurate and reliable information. This topic will help in knowing how the librarians accessing digital resources and how they extended orientations to users for the using digital resources. For this purpose the data collected through the questionnaire and interview method. A total 25 questionnaires were distributed to the users. Most of the respondents sincerely co-operated with the effort.*

Key words: Digital Library, Networks, MEDLINE, MEDLARS, DELNET, Proquest.

## INTRODUCTION

Dramatic changes to the concept of the libraries have been made by information technology. Libraries are gradually moving towards digitalization which allows permanent accessibility to human work of billions of people all over the world. Nevertheless, digitalization alone does

not necessarily lead to “universality”. One of the main principles of universal digital library is its independency of both the time and the location. The librarians of the 21<sup>st</sup> century have to prepare themselves to suit to the working in network environment and also to acquire to necessary skills such as leadership, exploiting information handling, communication, crisis management, team building and decision making. The use of the internet by students, teachers, researchers, journalists, librarians, information scientists and other professionals have already gathered momentum in our country with the strengthening of the information infra structures day-by-day.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main aim of the present study is to find out the relevance of document collection to the user’s needs. The objectives of the study are:

1. To know the background of the Librarian and the digital library.
2. To assess the existing state of affairs of the digital library in respect to organization and administration.
3. To assess the pattern of digital library staff, facilities and services offered by the college library under the study.
4. The extent to which the digital library is able to meet the needs of the users.
5. To know how far librarians fulfills the objectives of a health science library.

## NEED FOR THE STUDY

Libraries and information centre collect, organize and disseminate the information to the users. The organization of information requires various gazettes computers and Information. Technology has been playing a significant role in information, organization and its dissemination by library and Information Centre. Information centre provides the services to its users and to achieve the objective of its parent organization. Hence, the needs of the study on the Factors Affecting Digital Resources use by Health science Librarians in Mangalore.

## SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study includes knowing the digital library infrastructure, facility and services provided by the digital resources among health science librarians. The study includes the opinion of librarians. Further, the scope of the study also included to know the library Networks, e-resources.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The Primary data has been collected through questionnaire method supplemented by informal discussion with the users. Questionnaires consisting of 25 questions have been designed to collect opinions from the users. During the course of the study an attempt was made to collect the required data from all possible sources. However since this is a time bound project, sample survey method is used for the study. Questionnaires were distributed to the users comprising of the staff only. However, the study is restricted to only health sciences librarians like Medical, Dental, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy for the factors affecting digital resources use by health science Librarians in Mangalore - A Study

## COMFORTABLE USE OF THE COMPUTER

Past use is good indicator of the present use and present may well be a good predictor of the future use. All these factors are well depending on the comfortable of use the computers.

**Table 1: Comfortable use of the computer**

SL. No	Use of computer	No. of respondents	%
1	Very Comfortable	11	45
2	Comfortable	14	55
3	Uncomfortable	--	---

From the above table shows that most of the responds are very comfortable to use the computer.

## PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMPUTER

Computer practical knowledge to the users has become prominent in the library, because most of the Libraries are automated. Further it helps to be benefited for the Librarians. Most of the Librarians opinion is that they will be benefited by the practical knowledge of the computer.

**Table 2: Practical Knowledge of the computer**

SL.NO	Practical Knowledge	No. of respondents	%
1	Yes	25	100
2	No	Nil	Nil

Above table shows that 100% of Librarians have practical knowledge of using the computer.

## DIGITAL LIBRARY TRAINING PROGRAM

**Table 3: Digital Resources Training Program**

SL.NO	Training Program	No. of respondent	%
1	Yes	20	80
2	No	05	20

In the above Table shows that 20(80%) Librarians are attended the Training Program, and 5(20%) librarians are not attended any training program under the Digital Resources

## DATABASE ACCESSED IN THE LIBRARY

Table 4: Database access

SL.NO	Database	No. of Respondents	%
1	MEDLINE	18	72
2	MEDLARS	07	28

In the above Table shows 18(72%) respondents opined that MEDLINE is accessed in the library, and 8(28%) respondents said that MEDLARS is accessed in the library.

## MEMBER OF ANY CONSORTIUM

Table: 5 Member of any Consortium

SL.NO	Consortium	No. of respondent	%
1	HELINET	20	80
2	UGC info Net	05	20
3	INDSET	Nil	
4	DELNET	15	60

In the above table shows that 20(80%) of respondent are member of the HELINET consortium in their college and 5(20%) of colleges are UGC Info Net member and nobody has mentioned the INDSET. Most of the colleges are using DELNET 15(60%) From the above table we concluded that most of the college libraries are using HELINET Consortium in around the Mangalore city health science college libraries.

## INFORMATION SEARCH THROUGH INTERNET

The main objectives of the librarians accessing the digital resources are for referring micro and macro documents as well as accessing the internet. In order to meet the pressure of

information retrieval and communication at national and international level, the internet search is very necessary in most of the libraries. The internet is being consulted for the different types of information. These are analyzed and given below.

**Table: 6: E-Resources**

SL.NO	E-Resources	No. of Respondents	%
1	Full text	20	80
	Journals		
	Abstract	25	100
2	Text book	15	60
	Encyclopedia	10	40
	Dictionary	10	40
3	Reference		
	Year book	05	20
	books		
	Bibliography sources	05	20
	Thesis and Dissertations	05	20

In the above table shows 20(80%) of respondents were answered, in their library their accessing full text of the journals and 25(100%) of respondents were satisfied with Abstract about the journals. In the Text books, only 15(60%) librarians were accessing from the E-sources. And in under the Reference book Encyclopedia 10(40%), Dictionary 10(40%) Year book 5 (20%) Bibliography sources 5(20%) Thesis and Dissertation 5(20%) respondents are accessing the E- sources from the digital library

## ACCESSING THROUGH HELINET

The digital libraries may be defined as the new way of carrying out the functions of libraries encompassing new types of information resources. It is also known as a distributed text-based computerized information systems and services. It may have several provisions to access documents; those are of high value, mostly from outside the organization. In a simple

language, we can even say Digital Libraries as libraries which have number of machine readable publications and facilities for remote access to several databases.

**Table 7 Accessing through HELINET**

SL.NO	HELINET Consortium	No. of Respondents	%
1	Annual review	06	24
2	Ovid	20	80
3	Taylor/Francis		
4	Black well	20	80
5	Springer	05	20
6	Bentham		
7	Science Direct	20	80
8	J-gate	22	88
9	Theime/Verlag	05	20
10	MD consult	20	80

## FREQUENCY OF ACCESSING TO E-RESOURCES

When compared to the traditional journals, the E-journals have high and very accurate. Now a day some of the E-journals are freely available on the net. A question has been possessed to find out the use of E-journals in the library. The analysis is given in the table.

**Table 8: Frequency of Accessing to E-resources**

SL.NO	Frequency to access	No. of respondent	%
1	Daily	10	40
2	Alternate days		
3	Twice a week	15	60
4	Weekly		

From the above mentioned table indicates that 10(40%) librarians are accessing the E-sources daily and 15(60%) of respondents are accessing the e-sources Twice a Week in the library. It is very clear that most of the librarians are accessing the E-sources.

## INTERNET CONNECTION IN THE LIBRARY

The internet provides sources of the information that can benefit every user. Internet is comprised of thousand of inter connected networks which provide digital pathways to millions of information sites, because these networks subscribe to internet hosts and their associated applications and database. Electronic search and retrieval tools permit users of gather information and data from a multitude with other internet users. The Various mode of internet connection are to access E- resources

**Table 9 Internet connection**

SL.NO	Internet connection	No. of respondent	%
1	Telephone line	15	60
2	Lease line	05	20
3	V-SAT		
4	ISDN/Dish net		
5	Broad band	05	20

In the above diagram 15(60%) of the library has connected internet with the telephone line and 5(20%) of has taken leased line in the library and nobody has having ISDN/Dish net and only 5(20%) of the library has using though broad band connection in the library.

## INFORMATION STORAGE TECHNOLOGY

Now a days the development of information technology provided different types of storage media, like magnetic tapes, magnetic disc, CD ROMs, digital video disc, floppy disc etc.

**Table 10: Information storage technology**



SL.NO	Storage Technology	No. of respondents	%
1	Floppy disc	15	60
2	CD's	25	100
3	Mail attaching	10	40
4	Print out	20	80
5	USB ports	10	40

In the above diagram 15(60%) of the respondents are storage the information in the Floppy. Most of the librarians are storage the information in CD's and 10(40%) Mail attaching, 20(80%) Print out, 10(40%) USB ports. These are the various storage media of the information's.

## FINDINGS

1. Digital Resources users of the study only for Dental, Medical, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy librarians of various colleges under the Health sciences in Mangalore city.
2. The majority of librarians are comfortable with computer.
3. 100% of librarians have practical knowledge of using computer.
4. Most of users to use the digital resources for locate information relevant to studies
5. Some of the librarians are attended the training program in leading digital resources.
6. Few libraries have been fully automated.
7. Most of the health science libraries are members of the HELINET consortium.
8. Few libraries have connected their own Networks connected with library/outside the library
9. Most of the college's digital resources have connected with leased line.
10. Digital resources provide access to Internet, e-journals and e-books etc.
11. The important facilities available in the library are computer, audio-visual equipments, storage technologies, internet facilities and CD-ROM databases, OPAC, scanners and printer. Etc.
12. Most of the librarians are downloading e-resources.
13. The health sciences librarians are extended orientation to users for using the digital resources.

## SUGGESTIONS

Users of the college library were asked to give suggestions in the questionnaire. Some of users have given this suggestion and they are as follows:

1. Lack of the professional qualified staff.
2. Lack of training to users and library staff.
3. Cost has been increased about the accessing HELINET.
4. Lack of the budget allocation from the college.
5. Digital resources must have to provide more number of information about the research work.
6. Some of the libraries have the entire infrastructure required to develop the digital resources and they do not find any problems to develop the digital resources, shortage of time, busy schedule are the problems to develop the digital resources.
7. Most of the librarians are not till faced any problems in the digital resources.
8. Computer must be equipped with laser technology.
9. Most of the facilities and methods are unaware, so orientation program about that and methods of using that facilities should be given.

## CONCLUSION

As the librarians and the information professionals are going to progress into the 21<sup>st</sup> century then a clear and effective use of “digital library” model for library services and development will be increasingly important. An increasingly complex technological social, legal and economical environment defines many boundaries with in which digital library services will evolve. Librarian may discover that “libraries without wall” are actually only libraries with all new technologically bounded books, legally restricted operations and administratively operation. The digital library may be equally impenetrable and as profoundly limiting to their patterns as the physical library.

This role is frequently unrecognized, and for that reason, too little attention is given to this role. There has been too little attention paid to the research role that should be played by the librarian. With the development of new methods of information storage and dissemination, it

is imperative that the persons primarily responsible for this function should be actively engaged in research. We have little information at the present time as to the relative effectiveness of these various media. We need research in this area. Librarians should assume an active role in incorporating into their area of responsibility the various types of storage media

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