Chapter 11

Outlook Change From Print to E-Resources: A Study of the Uses and Advantages of E-Resources on Print in the State Universities in Kerala, India

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ABSTRACT

Electronic information resources in libraries have made remarkable changes in the users’ perceptions towards print resources. A survey among 421 respondents in six state universities in Kerala reveals that the use of e-resources is considered as an advantage and it benefits the academic community. While analyzing the use of e-resources compared to the print resources, the statement ‘E-resources affect the reading habit so it is not be encouraged’ is rejected because it is not an advantage. All 12 hypotheses set for ‘benefits of electronic resources for accessing scholarly information’ are accepted because all the regulatory constructs have significant influence on benefit of e-resources.

INTRODUCTION

The principal part of education and research is ‘Access to Information’. The situations of the world have been changed by the development in information and communication technologies. Technological advancements had a great deal of
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effect on library and information services. Earlier the library collections were just in the conventional bound volumes, yet now it has changed from print to electronic. Most of the libraries offer information both in print and electronic configuration to its users. Now, electronic resources have turned out to be imperative piece of the learning process. With the advent innovative technologies, electronic resources are effortlessly and promptly accessible to users. The present study was conducted among the post graduate students, research scholars and faculty members of six state universities in Kerala. It examines the use and advantages of e-resources compared to print resources.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of related literature is necessary to empower the researcher to get an unmistakable understanding about the particular field of study. It helps the researcher to have an understanding into the tested methods, procedures and interpretations of similar studies conducted somewhere else. Some prominent studies related to e-resources are reviewed.

Library e-resources have evolved from the introduction of machine-readable cataloguing (MARC) and online public access catalogues (OPACs) in the late 1960s to CD-ROM databases in the late 1980s, to electronic journals, electronic books, online databases and Web-based ERs at the end of the twentieth century (Hawthorne, 2008). South African universities, in particular, enjoy a high level of ICT integration and adequate ICT infrastructure. ERs serve as an integral part of research, teaching and academic activities. Although South African universities have invested vast amounts of money in the acquisition of ERs, there are questions about the efficiency and use of these resources. For example, Ashcroft (2011) observed that, while issues regarding the introduction of e-journals, such as raising user awareness, bundling, the proliferation of passwords and consortia purchase have been resolved, the situation regarding e-book provision is less stable.

Dattatraya T. Kalbande (2013) attempted to study the use of e-resources, its impact, and the places from which the users are accessing these resources. A survey among 108 faculty members was conducted at the Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri (M.S). The result showed that the awareness about e-resources encourages users to use these resources at maximum. Users are accessing these resources from the department and home. The impact of e-resources was noticeable from the decrease in number of print resources in comparison to the increase in e-resources. The study was conducted through a structured questionnaire to elicit the opinion of the science research scholar, distributed among 100 research Scholars of different science departments, of out of which 80 dully filled questionnaires were
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