

Use and Impact of Electronic Resources At King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

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***Abstract** - Currently accessibility of electronic resources in a University library is very popular. However, their suitable and extreme use is an issue for argumentation. The current study discuss the subsistence of diverse electronic resources and services are available in king Abdulaziz University library at Jeddah, in Saudi Arabia. The study also highlights different types of electronic resources used by students, the frequency and purposes of using electronic resources and the barriers faced by the students when using the electronic resources in the library.*

Keywords: electronic resources, Private faculty Library, library

Introduction

Improvements in computer sciences during the few years go have transported big changes in the way information collected, save, organized, available, retrieved and used. The programming of computers in information processing has brought many products and services to the field. The internet is always influencing the growth of new methods of scholarly communication; their possibility for transfer needs is quite visible, as they overcome the geographical barriers associated with the paper media. Moreover, the delivery time between product publication and its distribution been reduced. The Internet can be used for effective retrieval and meeting information needs. This is very significant for University libraries since many of them ask for more research work. This important fact is persuasive many libraries to shift towards electronic resources, which are establish to be Cheap and more valuable for simple access. This is particularly useful to distant learners who have , restricted time to access the University libraries from outside the campus by internet access to usually available electronic resources, fundamentally OPACs, CDs, Flash memory and internet, which are replacing the paper media. Libraries have witnessed major transformation in last years in their service structure and their collection development. Over the last years, a noticeable metamorphosis been observed in collection development policies and practices. Paper medium is progressively giving way to the materials in electronic form (Singh, 2016).

Objectives of the study:

Some of the main objectives of this research are as follows:

1. Realize the various types of electronic resources and services are available in King Abdulaziz University central library.
2. Investigate the different types of electronic resources used by students.
3. Study the frequency and purpose of using electronic resources and services available in the central library.
4. Study the effect of electronic resources and services on the students.

5. To know the response regarding traditional materials can be replaced by electronic materials or not.
6. Determine the barriers that faced by the students while accessing and using the electronic resources in the central library.

Literature Review:

Some of related studies have done on the use of electronic resources by students, teachers and researchers of universities and research institution. (78%) of the respondents told that the use of the University Grants Commission Information network, electronic journals has formed high dependency amount on their research work and they ask for current article notice services and electronic document equipment services (Singsona & Hangsing, 2015). (67.64%) of research scholars of faculty of science and 69.23% of research scholars of (67.64%) of researchers in faculty of science and (69.23%) of researchers of engineering use electronic journals for research activities while (35.29%) of sciences use electronic journals to find new knowledge and (23.70%) of engineering use these for study (Lewis, Use and Impact of AICTE Electronic Resources and DELNET in the Engineering College Libraries of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts: A Comparative Study, 2016). Ease of accessibility and the prompt of availability of information cause the users to use electronic resources much more (Chohda, 2015). (49%) of respondents are satisfied with online services provided by the library. The survey indicates that the use of electronic resources in Jamia Milia Islamia is not satisfying and needs more guidance to increase their usage (Singh, 2016). Electronic journals are turn into an essential need for the daily academic researchers. Navjyoti finds that fast publication and availability on the personal computer are the usefulness that attract researchers (Newmon & Sengar, 2016). The shortage of training is a main barrier factor in the usage of electronic journals, so that necessarily to enhanced. Kennedy suggested the containment of Web pages to the library catalogue as a solution to the maintenance of growing web site links (Siddiqui, 2018).

Kaur reports that electronic resources can be good substitutes for traditional resources if the access speed is quick, access to the electronic journals provided and more computer terminals combined to provide access to electronic resources (Viswanatha & Sasireka, 2016). Renwick advice there be more promotion of the library's electronic resources (Ankrah & Atuase, 2018). Kaur and Verma find that users use the obtainable resources regularly, like online databases, CD ROMs and multimedia (Singh & Sharma, 2018). Shmara reports that availability of electronic resources in a faculty library is very widespread. However, their suitable and highly use is an issue for investigation. The current study evaluate the existence of different electronic resource in Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University Library. The research highlights the priority and significance of online resources among the academic staff and researchers (Tella, et al., 2018).

Brief history about King Abdulaziz University (Anon., 2019):

In the year 1967, King Abdulaziz University officially established as a private university in the city of Jeddah in the western region of Saudi Arabia. The university started its first academic year in 1968, with a small number of students. In 1969, the Faculty of economics and administration established as the first faculty and next year the Faculty of Arts and Humanities was established. In 1974, the Council of Ministers of Saudi Arabia decided to merge the university with the government; converting it to a public university. King Abdulaziz University has further witnessed tremendous quantitative and qualitative progress

in terms of enrollment and diversity of academic programs. It is now recognized as a world-class University due to its international outreach and collaboration in research, innovation, accreditations and rankings. It does this while continuing to maintain its traditional commitment to delivering outstanding education and community service. As of 2017, it had almost 31,000 students, of which 28% are international, and is considered to be one of the best universities in the Arab world. In 2018, Times higher education ranked it the first Arab University due to very strong citation impact and highly international outlook. It also ranked number one in percentage of total publications with international collaboration, according to US news rankings.

ResearchMethodology:

Current study was restricted to the students of King Abdulaziz University, at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. A questionnaire survey conducted to gather the information regarding the use of electronic resources, frequency of use of electronic resources, purpose of using electronic resources, problems faced by the users while using electronic resources. Two hundred questionnaires distributed to collect the primary data out of which 113 questionnaires founded usable for analysis. The questionnaires completed by personal visits with users. Questionnaires distributed randomly to the users. The collected data analyzed and presented in the tabular form as flow.

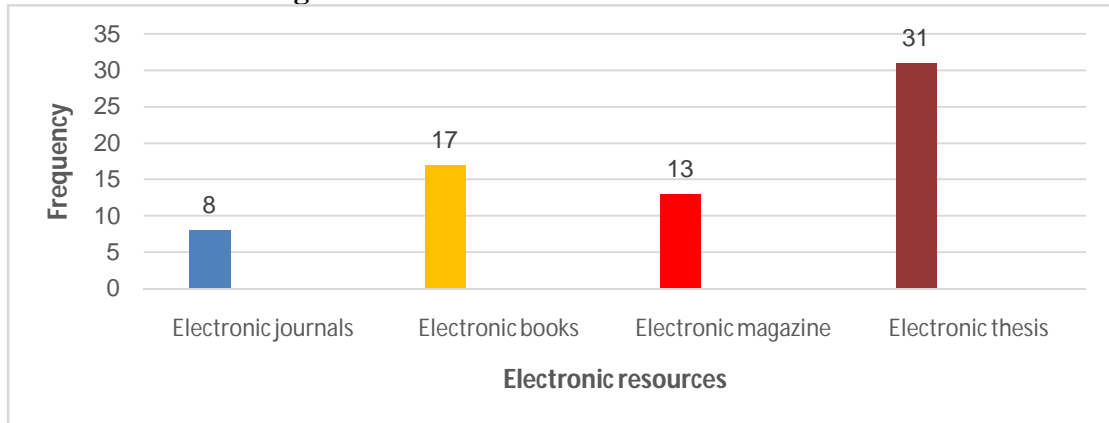
ResultsandDiscussions:

Table 1 and figure 1 below shows that the majority of the students 27.43% prefer to use electronic thesis. Second highest preference is electronic books and use of electronic newspapers with more than 15.05%. Figure 1 also show that only students, the rest of the electronic resources for example electronic magazines, preferably use the well-known electronic resources; electronic journals are comparatively less used.

Table-1 use of various electronic resources

Electronic resources	Frequency	%
Electronic journals	8	7.08%
Electronic books	17	15.05%
Electronic magazine	13	11.50%
Electronic thesis	31	27.43%
WWW	9	7.96%
Electronic newspaper	17	15.05%
Others	18	15.93%
Total	113	100%

Figure- 1 use of various electronic resources



The table 2 highlights that majority of the students;for example, more than 45.14%respond that the interface of the library website is userfriendly while 29.20% students think that the interface of the library website is not userfriendly.

Table-2 User-Friendly Interface to the Library Website

User Friendly Interfaceto the Library Website	Frequency	%
Yes	51	45.14%
No	33	29.20%
No comments	29	25.66%
Total	113	100%

Figure-2 User-Friendly Interface to the Library Website

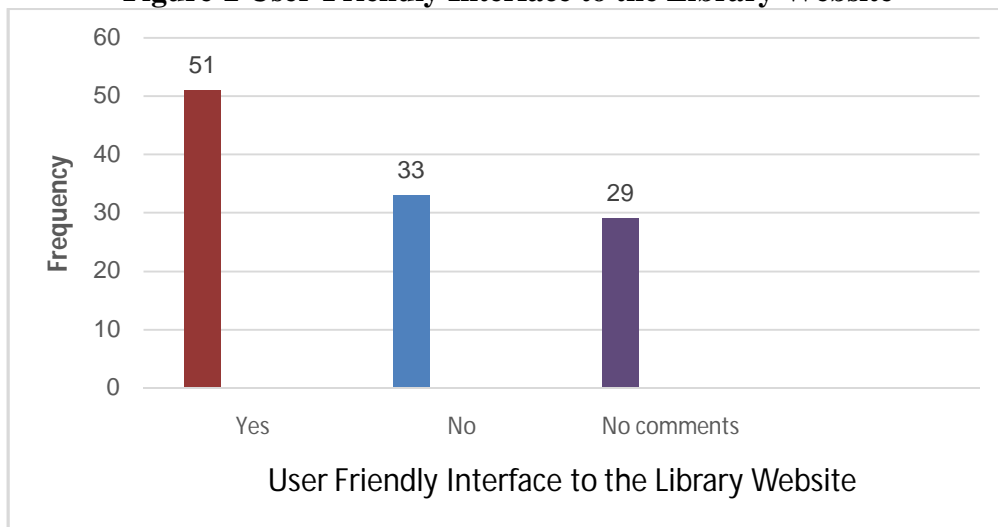


Table 3below shows that 43.36% of respondents have taken the training regarding the access to electronic resources,while more than 56% didn't get any training regarding the access to electronic resources.

Table-3 Training Taken Related to Electronic Resources

Training token	Frequency	%
Yes	49	43.36%
No	64	56.64%
Total	113	100%

Table 4 reveals that more than half of respondent (56.64%) respondents use electronic resources when necessary. 21.24% respondents use the electronic resources very often, whereas 11.50% respondents use electronic resources rarely.

Table-4 Frequency of Using Electronic resources

Using Electronic resources	Frequency	%
Very often	24	21.24%
Occasionally	13	11.50%
When necessary	64	56.64%
Never	12	10.62%
Total	113	100%

Table5 shows that more than 57% respondents use different databases when necessary, 28.32% occasionally and rest of them (14.16%) use of different databases very often.

Table-5 Frequency of Use of Different Databases

Use of Different Databases	Frequency	%
Very often	16	14.16%
Occasionally	32	28.32%
When necessary	65	57.52%
Total	113	100%

Table 6 elaborates that majority of the students use electronic resources in research and education purpose, so more than (38%) for research purpose, (38.05%) for education purpose and more than 13% for communication purpose and rest of the respondents (12) used electronic resources for entertainment purpose.

Table-6 Purpose for Using Electronic resources

Purpose for Using Electronic resources	Frequency	%
Research	43	38.05%
Entertainment	12	10.63%
Education	43	38.05%
Communication	15	13.27%
Total	113	100%

Table7 reveals that most of respondents (46%), think that electronic resources never reduce the use of traditional resources, whereas (30.09%) respondents feel that electronic resources may replace traditional sources of information.

Table-7 Do electronic materials can replace traditional materials?

Electronic resourcescan replace traditional materials	Frequency	%
Yes	34	30.09%
No	52	46.02%
No comments	27	23.89%
Total	113	100%

It can inferred, from table 8 that accessing electronic resources is not free from problems. The problems encountered while using the electronic resources mainly come from four factors: break down of the system, high cost of surfing time, Problems of power outage when using computer, slow server. More than 50% of the respondents stated the problem of slow server

to access, electronic resources, which takes a lot of their slot time to retrieve the relevant information, whereas 21.24% reported that they faced the high cost of surfing time. More than 15.93% of the respondents found Problems of power outage when using computer.

Table-8 Problems faced by students in accessing electronic resources

Problems faced by students in accessing Electronic resources	Frequency	%
Break down of the system	14	12.39%
High cost of surfing time	24	21.24%
Problems of power outage when using computer	18	15.93%
Slow server	57	50.44%
Total	113	100%

Conclusion:

Study shows that the use of electronic resources is very popular among the University and most of the students are dependent on electronic materials to get the relevant information. However, actual use of electronic materials is not up-to the worth in comparison to investments made in earning these materials; secondly, infrastructure and training plans should also revised as per requirements. It is observed that the availability of electronic resources on the library is almost sufficient for all the existing disciplines but the infrastructure to use these resources is not sufficient and can prevent the ability to meet the requirements of users.

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