

Use of Electronic Resources by Social Scientists in University Libraries of Thailand and India: A Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT

Advances in computer applications during the past few decades have brought radical changes in the way information is gathered, store, organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed. The Internet and the Web are constantly influencing the development of new modes of scholarly communication; their potential for delivering goods is quite vast, as they overcome successfully the geographical limitations associated with the print media. The Internet can be used for efficient retrieval and meeting information needs. This is very important for university libraries since most of them call for more and more research work. This important fact is convincing many libraries to move towards electronic resources, which are found to be less expensive and more useful for easy access. The present paper is the Comparative Study of Use of Electronic Resources by Social Scientists in University Libraries of Thailand and India. This study is sponsored by ICSSR-NRCT Bilateral Programme 2014.

Keywords: Internet, Electronic Resources, Social Scientists, University Libraries, Thailand, India.

INTRODUCTION

Although information in electronic format was created with the advent of the computer in the 1950s, it was not until the early 1960s that the first database suitable for searching was developed. MEDLARS was the first on-demand computer-based information retrieval service, and it was developed primarily for the medical profession. In 1971, MEDLINE, the online version of MEDLARS, was the first major online dial-up database search service. In the following year, DIALOG offered the first public online commercial database. With these first databases, there were no real acquisition decisions, as they were offered as access services to which libraries could subscribe. Actual searching of these databases produced charges that many libraries passed along to users. While the information revolution was clearly underway, it was not until after the introduction of the CD-ROM in the mid-1980s that electronic resources began to have a major impact on selection practices in libraries (Meadow, 1988). Many of the first CD-ROM products offered to libraries were versions of larger online databases and were supplied on a subscription basis with ownership of the data remaining with the publisher/producer. As librarians grappled with these technological advances, they continued to make careful selection decisions for these high cost products. Most typically, a group that included subject specialists, reference librarians, instruction librarians, and technical staff made the selection decisions. However, just when librarians

appeared to have mainstreamed the selection of electronic materials as they had audiovisual materials, another new technology arrived-the World Wide Web.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

On the use of electronic resources by users in the libraries has been made at the large amount. Biranvand, A. and Khasseh, A. (2014), explored the effect of taking advantage of electronic books on the academic progress of students at Payame Noor University. Kwafoa, P. Y.; Imoro, O. and Afful-Arthur, P.(2014), investigates faculty's awareness and usage of online academic databases in order to determine the benefits they associate with electronic resources and the challenges they encounter in accessing electronic resources. Tajafari, M. (2014), examines that the level of e-journals accessibility at university libraries affiliated to the MSRT in Iran was high. A great majority of research scholars were aware of e-journals at their libraries. Adeniran, P. (2013), conducted a study on the Usage of electronic resources by undergraduates at the Redeemer's University, Nigeria. Research reveals that e-book, e-journal, and e-news are the most commonly use electronic resources among the students. Xianjin Zha, Jing Li, Yalan Yan (2013), examines and compare Chinese electronic resources and English electronic resources in terms of ease of use, usefulness and usage in the context of a Chinese university library, so as to facilitate the effective use of English electronic resources in China. Younghee Noh (2012), measures the performance of electronic resources in academic libraries in Korea. To measure the efficiency of the input-output ratio, evaluation indicators were divided into inputs and outputs. Sudharma H. & Majid Khan (2009). focuses on the impact and use of e-resources by social scientists pursuing research in the NASSDOC library. Gary W. White and Gregory A. Crawford (1997) studied that the Electronic resources are becoming increasingly important to libraries of all types and sizes.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the frequency of use of electronic resources by the Social Scientists.
2. To study the place of use of electronic resources by the Social Scientists.
3. To find out the types of electronic resources used by Social Scientists.
4. To ascertain the purpose of use of electronic resources by the Social Scientists.
5. To find out the reasons of use of electronic resources by the Social Scientists.
6. To study the problems faced while using the electronic resources by the Social Scientists.
7. To find out the impact of use of electronic resources by the Social Scientists.
8. To analyze the dependency of use of electronic resources by the Social Scientists.

SCOPE

The present study is the comparative study on the use of electronic resources by the social scientists in university libraries from Thailand and India. Four university libraries from each country has been selected for the study. The University libraries from Thailand were Kasetsart University (KU), Thammasat University (TU), Srinakharinwirot University (SU) and Chulalongkorn University (CU). The University libraries from India were Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (Dr. BAMU), University of Mumbai (UOM), SNDT Womens University (SNDT) and Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS). For the present study random sampling technique is used for selection of University Libraries from India and Thailand. Secondly the purposive sampling technique is used for the selection of social scientists from India and Thailand.

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive survey method is used for the present study. Questionnaire as a data collection Tool has prepared for collecting data from social scientist. The population of the study is the University Libraries from India and Thailand. The present study conducted from social scientist from India and Thailand. For the present study random sampling technique is used for selection of University Libraries from India and Thailand. Secondly the purposive sampling technique is used for the selection of social scientists from India and Thailand.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The questionnaire was used to collect the data on the Use of Electronic Resources by Social Scientists from University Libraries of Thailand and India. 100 questionnaires were distributed and also mailed to the social scientist in Thailand and Indian Universities. The response received were 50 from Thailand and 50 from India.

Gender of Social Scientists



Figure 1 - Gender of Social Scientists

It is evident from figure 1 that the gender of the social scientists for the study from Thailand were female more respondent than the male while in India were male more respondent than the female.

Programme Registered by the Social Scientists



Figure 2 - Programme Registered by Social Scientists

It is evident from the figure 2 that the programme registered by the social scientists from Thailand and India were found more for Ph.D than M.Phil.

Departments of the Social Scientists

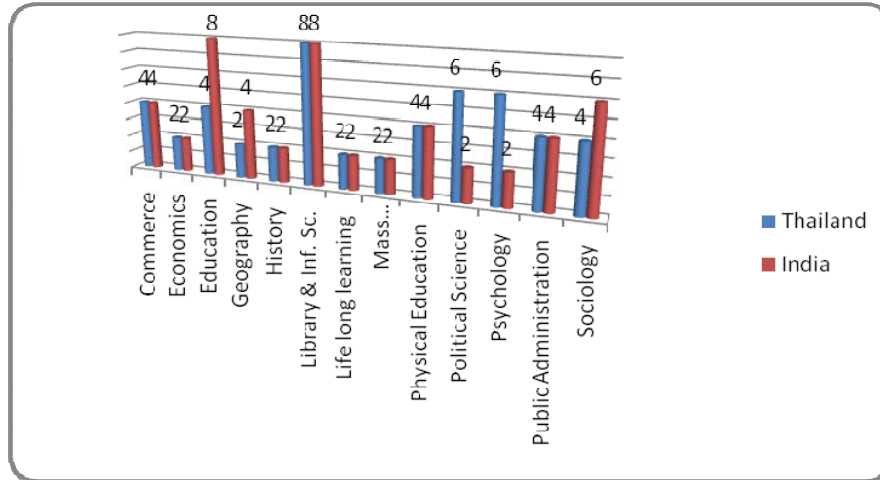


Figure 3 - Departments of the Social Scientists

It is evident from the figure 3 that the departments or the faculty of the social science from Thailand and India responded were from Library and information science, Education, Political science, Psychology and Sociology.

Frequency of Use of Electronic Resources by Social Scientists

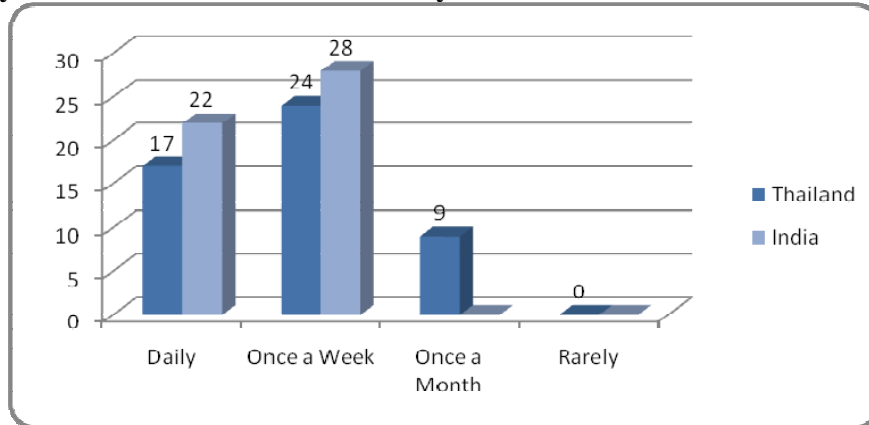


Figure 4 - Frequency of Use of Electronic Resources by Social Scientists

It is evident from the figure 4 that the frequency of use of electronic resources by social scientists from Thailand and India found once a week followed by daily use of electronic resources.

Place of Use of Electronic Resources by Social Scientists

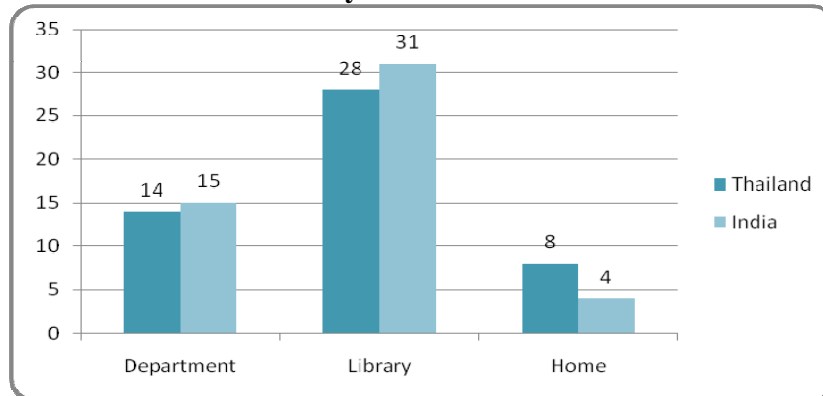


Figure 4 - Place of Use of Electronic Resources by Social Scientists

It is evident from the figure 5 that the place of use of electronic resources by social scientists from Thailand and India were found to be in the library followed by in the department.

Types of Electronic Resources used by Social Scientists

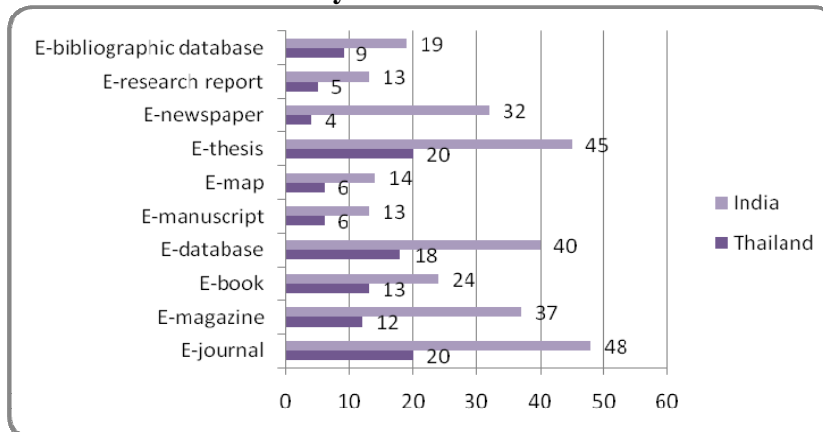


Figure 6 - Types of Electronic Resources used by Social Scientists

It is evident from the figure. 6 that the types of electronic resources used by social scientists from Thailand and India were E-journal, E-thesis followed by E-databases at the most.

Purpose of use of Electronic Resources by Social Scientists

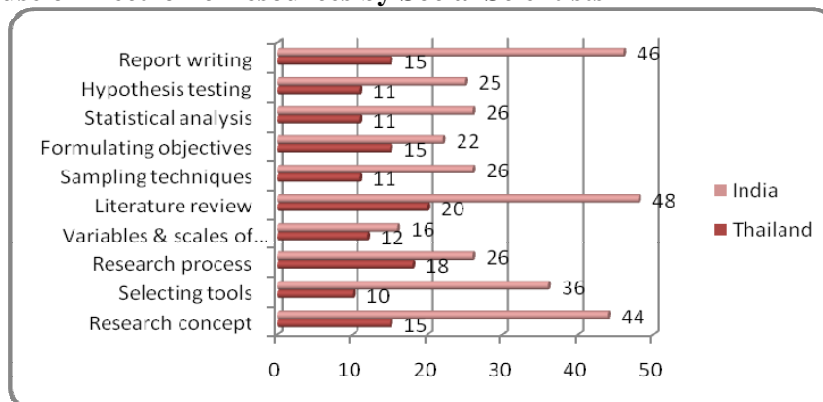


Figure 7 - Purpose of use of Electronic Resources by Social Scientists

It is evident from the figure.7 that the purpose of use of electronic resources by social scientists from Thailand and India were Literature review, Report writing and Selecting tools.

Reason of use of Electronic Resources by Social Scientists

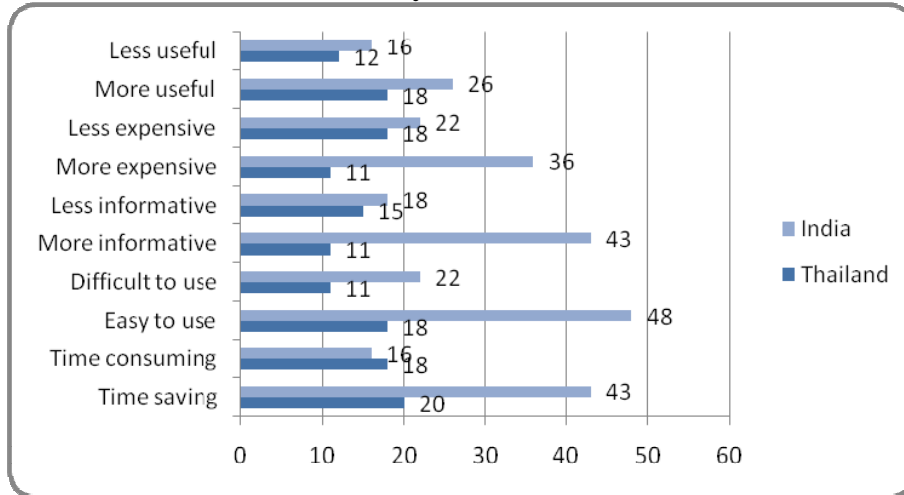


Figure 8 - Reason of use of Electronic resources by Social scientists

It is evident from the figure. 8 that the reason of use of electronic resources by social scientists from Thailand and India were Easy to use, More informative and Time saving.

Problem faced while use of electronic resources by social scientists

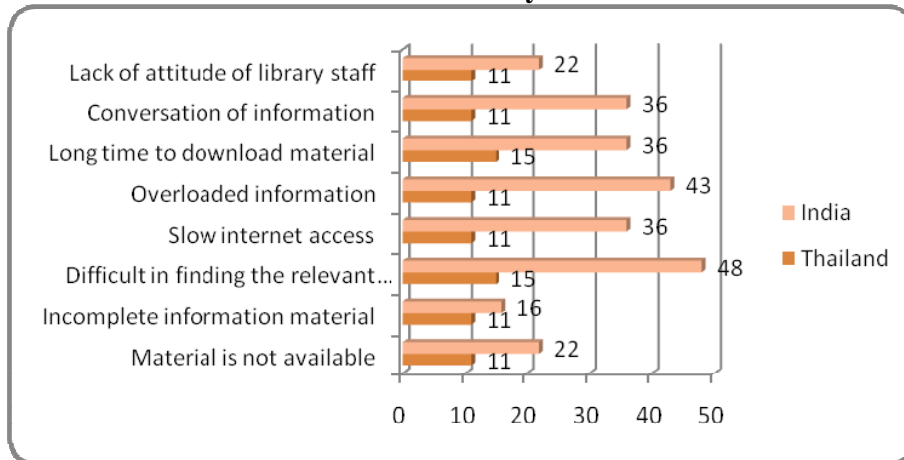


Figure 9 - Problem faced while use of electronic resources by social scientists

It is evident from the figure 9 that the problems faced while using the electronic resources by social scientists from Thailand and India were difficult in finding the relevant information, Overload information and conversation of information.

Use of Electronic Resources Improves Research Process

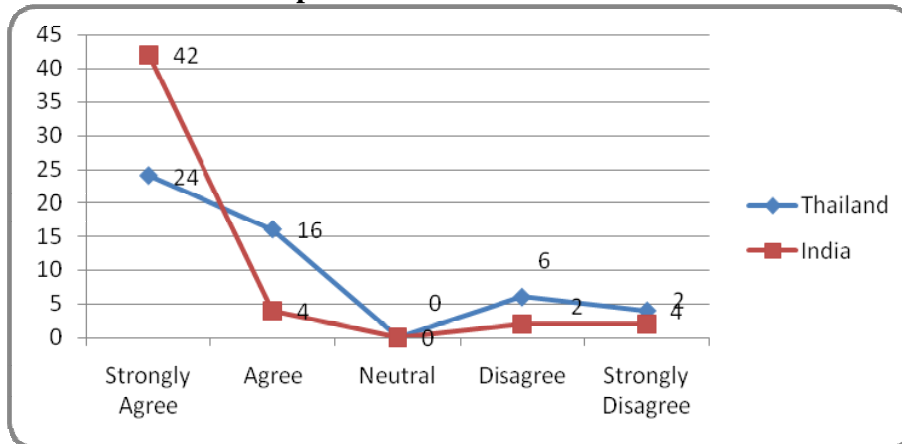


Figure 10 - Use of Electronic Resources Improves Research Process

It is evident from the figure 10 that the use of electronic resources improves research process by social scientists from Thailand and India were strongly agree and agree.

Use of Electronic Resources are Easier than Print Resources

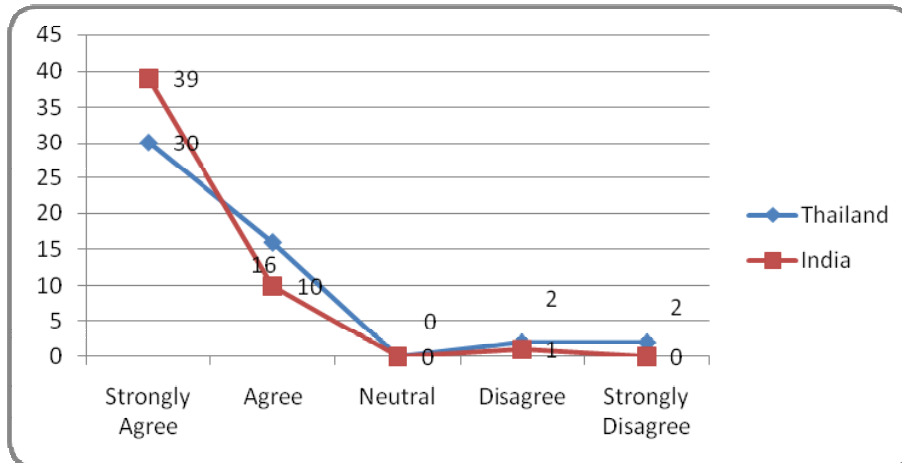


Figure 11 Use of Electronic Resources is easier than print resources

It is evident from the figure. 11 that the use of electronic resources is easier than the print resources by social scientists from Thailand and India were strongly agree and agree.

Use of Electronic Resources Develops Knowledge and Ability in Research

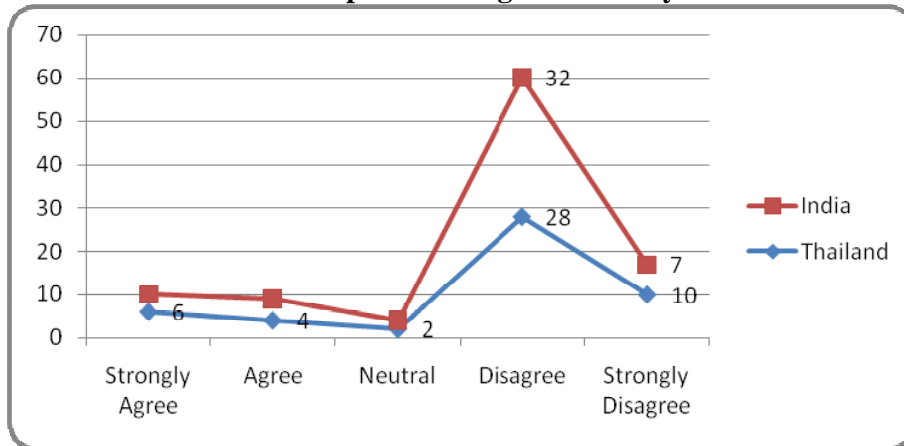


Figure 12 - Use of Electronic Resources Develops Knowledge and Ability in Research

It is evident from the figure 12 that the use of electronic resources develops knowledge and ability in research by social scientists from Thailand and India were Disagree to Strongly disagree.

Use of Electronic Resources brought Revolutionary Changes in Research

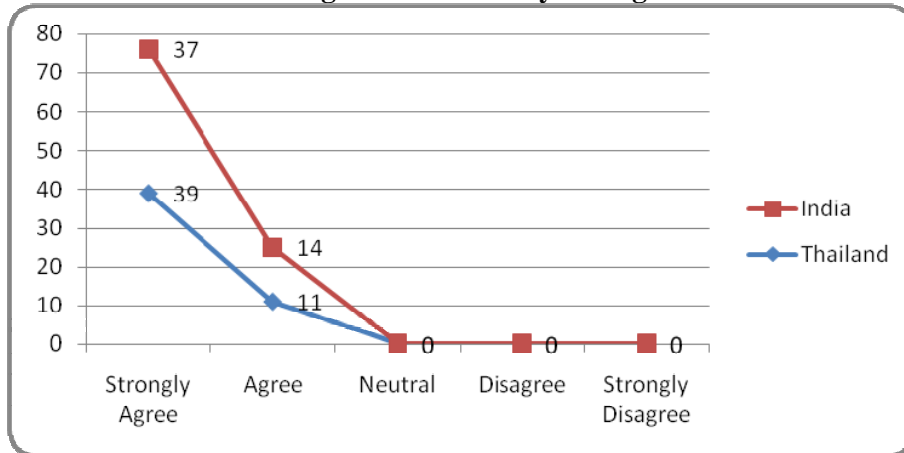


Figure 13 - Use of Electronic Resources brought Revolutionary Changes in Research

It is evident from the figure 13 that the use of electronic resources brought revolutionary changes in research by social scientists from Thailand and India were Strongly Agree and Agree.

Electronic Resources are Gateways for Locating Information

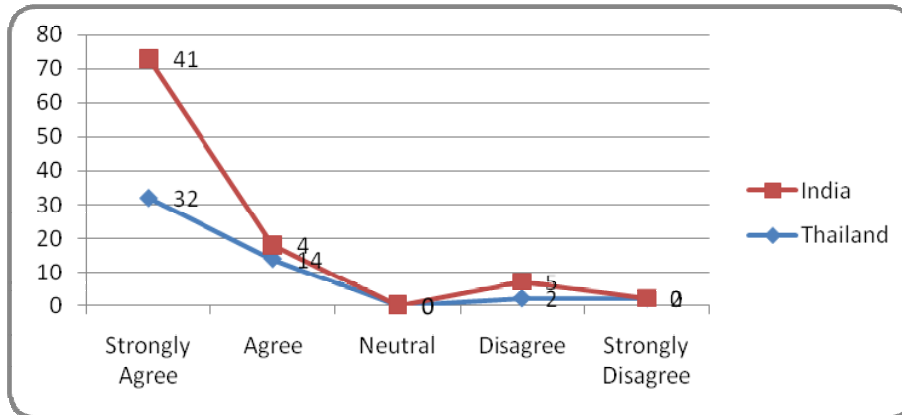


Figure 14 - Electronic Resources are Gateways for Locating Information

It is evident from the figure 14 that the use of Electronic resources is gateways for locating information by social scientists from Thailand and India were Strongly Agree and Agree.

Electronic Resources provides the Archival Information Easily

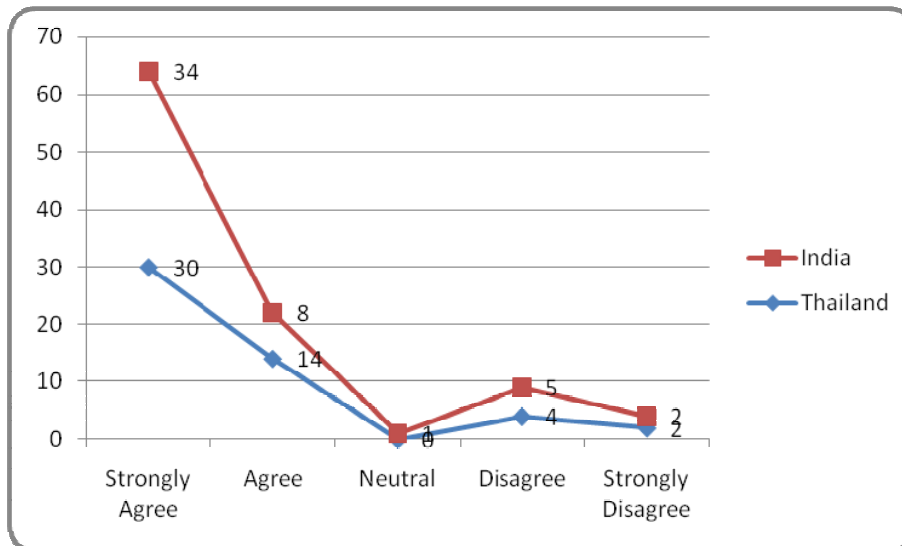
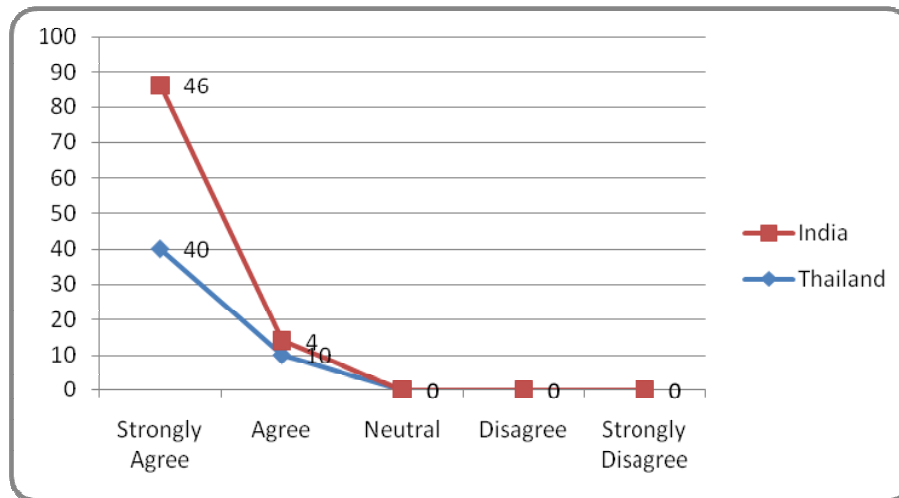
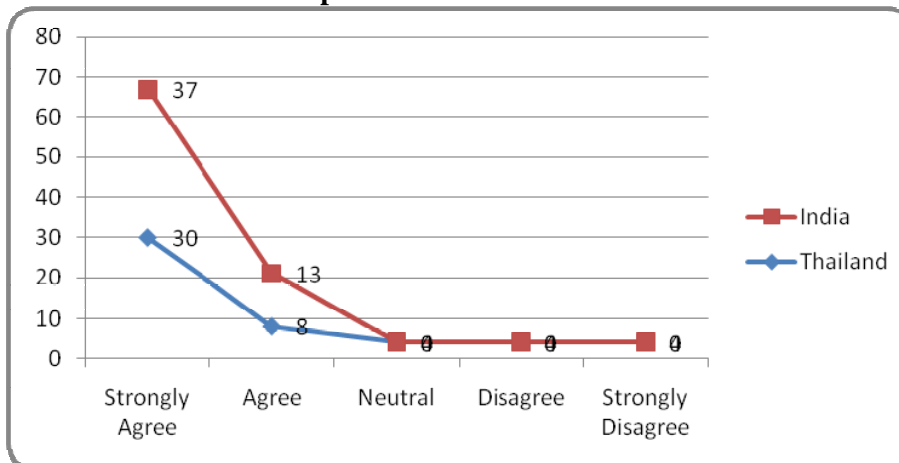


Figure 15 - Electronic Resources provides the Archival Information Easily

It is evident from the figure 15 that the electronic resource provides the archival information easily by social scientists from Thailand and India were Strongly Agree and Agree.

Electronic resources can be accessible 24x7**Figure 16 - Electronic resources can be accessible 24/7**

It is evident from the figure 16 that the electronic resources can be accessible 24x7 by social scientists from Thailand and India were Strongly Agree and Agree.

Electronic Resources are Less Expensive than Print Resources**Figure 17 - Electronic Resources are Less Expensive than Print Resources**

It is evident from the table 17 that the electronic resources are less expensive than print resources by social scientists from Thailand and India were Strongly Agree and Agree.

FINDINGS

The major findings of the present study are:

1. The frequency of use of electronic resources by social scientists from both the countries was found to use it once a week and daily.
2. The place of use of electronic resources by social scientists from both the countries was found to use them in the library and department.
3. The type of use of electronic resources by social scientists from both the countries gives preference for e- journals, e-thesis and e-databases.
4. The purpose of use of electronic resources by social scientists from both the countries seems for literature review, selecting tools and report writing.

5. The reason of use of electronic resources by social scientists from both the countries was to use it for more informative and time saving.
6. The problems faced while using the electronic resources by social scientists from both the countries were difficult in finding the relevant information, overloaded information and conversation of information.
7. The social scientists from both the countries were strongly agree and agree for the use of electronic resources improves the research process.
8. The social scientists from both the countries were strongly agree and agree for the use of electronic resources are easier than the print resources..
9. The social scientists from both the countries were disagree and strongly disagree for the use of electronic resources develops knowledge and ability in research.
10. The social scientists from both the countries were strongly agree and agree for the use of electronic resources brought revolutionary changes in research.
11. The social scientists from both the countries were strongly agree and agree for the use of electronic resources are gateways for locating information.
12. The social scientists from both the countries were strongly agree and agree for the use of electronic resources provides the archival information easily.
13. The social scientists from both the countries were strongly agree and agree for the use of electronic resources can be accessible 24x7.
14. The social scientists from both the countries were strongly agree and agree for the use of electronic resources are less expensive than the print resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Libraries should keep the statistics on use of electronic resources by the users.
2. Organise promotion on use of educational CD / DVD for the students.
3. Promotion for use of databases of social sciences.
4. Faculty research work should be digitalized and should upload on the library website.
5. Electronic theses should be downloadable from any part of the world.

CONCLUSION

The use of electronic resources has become the need of the social scientists. The libraries of the respective countries are spending 60% of the budget on the subscription of the electronic resources. The users can access the resources from anywhere in the world if they have provided the username and password. The revolution in the information communication technology is having drastic change in information gathering which saves the users or the researcher's valuable time.

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