



Effectiveness of E-Resources and its Utilization: An Approach

¹Dr K C Dabas, ²Renu Bala

Prof & Head cum Incharge Library, Baba Mastnath University, Asthal Bohar Rohtak
Research Scholar, Baba Mastnath University, Asthal Bohar Rohtak

ABSTRACT

The paper focuses on the various aspects of E-Resources and describes a few advantages and Disadvantages. Digital technology has made it more easy, speedy and comfortable to apply the stored intellect. This collected information through the ages has to be used for further research; betterment and overall development of the society. Electronic resources are easily accessible in remote areas. Electronic resources solve storage problems and control the flood of information. Print sources are being digitized. Electronic information sources are becoming more and more important for the academic community. The advent of technology has made the libraries to add new things to its collection. The more prominent among them is the e-resources.

ISSN 2454-308X



Key Words: *Electronic Resources, Electronic Services, Organization and Management of E-resources.*

Introduction:

Libraries of all sizes and types are embracing digital collections, although most libraries will continue to offer both print and digital collections for many years to come. New purchases and purchases of journals, magazines, and abstracting and indexing services are heavily weighted toward digital, while digital books (e-books) are only beginning to become a presence in library collections.^[1]

An E-Resource means electronic resource, which are available in electronic/digital form. The e-resources are very useful in academic libraries. This is most important part related to e-resources. The quality has replaced the quantity of library collection during the present days. The quality has direct link with the types of library collection as it depends upon the requirement of the users. An e-database is an organized collection of large information, of a particular subject or various subject areas. The information of an e-database can be searched and retrieved electronically. Contents include journal articles, newspapers articles, books reviews and conference proceedings, etc. e-databases usually updated on a daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly, half yearly or yearly basis. Full text databases contain the whole content of an article such as citation information, text, illustrations, diagrams, charts and tables. Bibliographic databases only contain citation information of an article, such as author name, journal title, publication date and page numbers. ^[2]

This important fact is convincing many libraries to move towards digital e-resources, which are found to be less expensive and more useful for easy access. This is especially helpful to distant learners who have limited time to access the libraries from outside by dial-up access to commonly available electronic resources, mainly CD-ROM, OPACs and Internet, which are replacing the print media.^[3]

Definition of the term:

An electronic resource is defined as a resource which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and so on. Over the past few years, a numbers of techniques and related standards have been developed which allow documents to be created and distributed in electronic form. Hence to cope with the present situation, librarians are shifting towards new media, namely electronic resources for their collection developments that the documents of users are better fulfilled.



The e-resources on magnetic and optical media have a vast impact on the collections of University libraries. These are more useful due to inherent capabilities for manipulation and searching, providing information access is cheaper to acquiring information resources, savings in storage and maintenance etc. and sometimes the electronic form is the only alternative.

E-resources (electronic resource) is that, “Information (usually a file) which can be stored in the form Electrical signal usually, but not necessary on a computer.”^[4]

Types of e-resources:

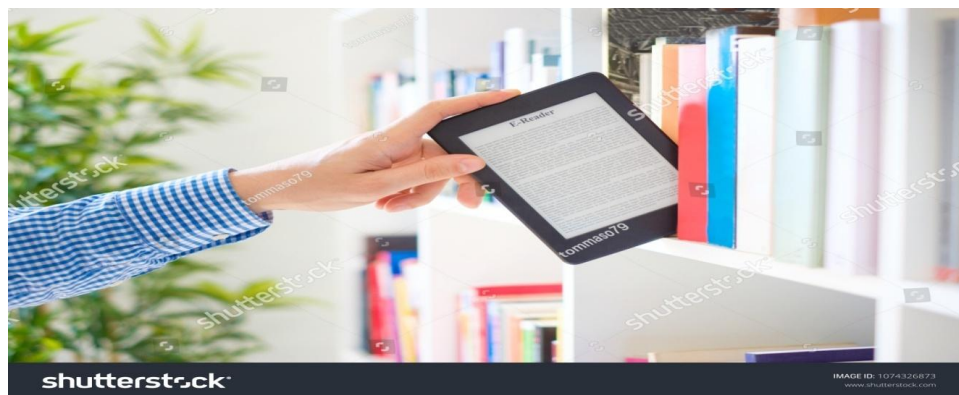
The e-resources are basically divided in two major types are:

- g) **Online e-resources**, which may include:
 - E-journal (Full text & bibliographic)- Electronic journals also known as ejournals, e-journals and electronic serials, are scholarly journals that can be accessed using computer

and communication technology. It means that they are usually published on the web. They are a specialized form of electronic document they provide material for academic research and study, and they are formatted approximately like journal articles in traditional printed journals.



- Journals can be categorized as online only journals, online versions of printed journals, online equivalent of a printed journal and equivalent of a printed journal. Most commercial journals are subscription based or allow pay per view access. Many universities subscribe in bulk to packages of e-journals to provide access to them to their students and faculty.
- **E-books**- An e-book or eBook is also known as electronic book, digital book and e-edition. It is a book length publication which contains text of text, images, or both, and produced on Published through, and readable on computers or other electronic device. An e-book is in digital form.



E- Book can also be defined as an electronic version of a printed book, but e-books can and do exist without any printed equivalent. E-books are usually read on dedicated e-book readers or tablets using e-reader applications. Personal computer and many smart phones can also be used to read e- books. It is very simple and easy to purchase and download e-book through the internet. It is exactly like purchasing any other product. As e-book formats emerged and proliferated, some garnered support from major software

companies such as Adobe with its PDF format, and others supported by independent and open source programmers.

- **E- News Papers-** e-newspaper is a newspaper that exists on the World Wide Web or internet and holds the information electronically. It may exist either separately or as an online version of printed news papers.
- **E-Image** – An e-image is a system of photography using a sensor placed behind a camera lens to translate an image into an electronic signal which can be stored on a disk or magnetic tape for playback on a VCR or video disk player and viewing on a television screen. Electronic image is an image represented as a 2-dimensional array of brightness values for pixels.
- **E-magazine** – e-magazine is a magazine published on the World Wide Web. Some online magazines may refer to themselves as electronic magazines or e- magazine to reflect their readership, demographics or to capture alternative terms and spellings in online searches.



- Many large print publishers now provide digital reproduction of their print magazine titles through various online services for a fee. These service providers also refer to their collections of these digital format products as online magazines and sometimes as digital magazines.
- **E Data Base-** An e-database is an organized collection of information of a particular subject area. The information of an e-database can be researched and retrieved electronically. It can easily be accessed, managed and updated on a daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly basis. E-databases can be classified according to types of contents: Full text•full text and bibliographic.
- **Full Text** – A full text database is a database that contains the complete text of books, magazines, newspapers, diagrams and tables.
- **Bibliographic** – Bibliographic database only contain only citation information of an article such as author name, journal title, publication date and page numbers.
- **E-audio** –e-audio for we to download free of charge to our e-reader or other digital device such as a mobile phone or MP-3 player. For example, Dolby E is an audio encoding and



decoding technology developed by Dolby Laboratories. It allows up to eight channels of audio to be compressed into a digital stream that can be stored on a standard stereo pair of audio tracks.

- **E-paper** – E-Paper is a portable, reusable storage and display medium that looks like paper but can be repeatedly written on refreshed, by electronic means- thousand or million of times. E-paper will be used for applications such as e-books, e- newspapers, portable signs and roll able displays. It is created with mechanical tools such as an electronic pencil. Both of these technologies enable a black and white display. Philips is working on a type of e-paper that will be full colored; Text and images are displayed through a rotation of the bead that occurs in response to an electrical impulse. A full rotation displays as black or white and a partial rotation displays as gray shades.
- **E-Thesis** – An e-thesis or electronic thesis describes a thesis in digital form that is generally accessed via the internet. Access to, and storage of, electronic theses is usually facilitated by open access repositories such as the UCC (Uniform Commercial Code) institutional repository, CORA. UCC is developing an e-thesis programme to ensure that postgraduate research conducted in UCC is widely disseminated. [4]

Need of E-Resources

- E-Resources enable the librarian to provide better service to the user community. The few considerable points are mentioned bellow;
- To get access to an information source by the more than one users.
- E-Resources can be searched quickly.
- These can be found easily by the user.
- These resources can be stored in huge amount.
- Amount of time spent on the E-Resources use.
- Analyses the purpose of using e-resources by respondent
- Know different types of e-resources commonly used by respondents
- To collect, store, organize information in digital form [5]

Utilities of E-Resources

Now a days the reading materials and information sources are changing from print to electronic. Some of such E-Information services are detailed and briefly discussed here:

Sr. No.	E-Information services	Abbreviations
1	Current Awareness Service	CAS
2	Selective dissemination of Information	SDI
3	E-Document Delivery Services	EDDS
4	Online Public Access Catalogue	OPAC
5	Mobile Libraries	M-Libraries

Selections of E-Resources



The selection of E-Resources should be done according to the need and demand of users. As Librarian one should consider the following steps at the time of selection.

- To know the needs of users.
- To know content and scope of e-resources.
- To examine quality of the e-resources and search facility among them.
- To maintain cost effectiveness.
- To check either subscription based or web based at the time of purchasing.
- To check the license copy.
- To evaluate educational support and training.
- To check the compatibility and technical support. [6]

Advantages of E-Resources

The reasons for actually embarking on the purchasing of electronic resources are generally accepted because of the ease of usability, readability, affordability and accessibility. The following are the advantages of e-resources over the print media

a) Multi-access: A networked product can provide multiple points of access at multiple pints round the clock and to multiples simultaneous users.

b) Speed: An electronic resource is lot quicker to browse or search, to extract information from, and to integrate that information into other material and to cross-search or reference among the different publications.

c) Functionality: E- resources will allow the user to approach the publications to analyze its content in new ways by clicking of the mouse on search mode.

d) Content: The e-resources can contain a vase amount of information, but more importantly the material can consist of mixed media i.e. images, video, audio animation which could not be replaced in print.

e) Mobility

f) Savings physical Space

g) Convenience

h) Saving time& money

Disadvantages of Electronic Resources

Now, more and more people prefer e-resources to traditional ones, because it can save their time and money. However, with various e-resources flooded in, more and more people are aware of the disadvantages of e-resources.



- a) The fact that, e-resources require special devices or personal computers can be looked as a disadvantage. Many e-resources are typically produces to be compatible for certain software which in turn may be not easily available. Since e-resources are dependent on other equipment's, certain hardware or software failure may affect it. Unless the hardware, Internet connection or battery power that is required by an e-resource reader is readily available, then its electronic document is useless. In addition, e-resources depending on hardware and software and are more easily damaged than a printed book.
- b) E-resource reading devices are surely more expensive than printed books. All devices of e-resources require power. There is a growing concern that the e-resources at present may not be accessible or compatible to the 210utures e-resources software or devices.
- c) Screen glare and eyestrain are a serious concern for many potential users of e-resource technology. A major worry of reading from an e-resource reader could hurt the eyes. The display resolution of computer screens and electronic devices is considerably less than the print quality produced by a printing press.
- d) Reading from a computer lacks the familiarity and comfort of reading from a book. A paper book can be opened and flipped; through, while an electronic text is more difficult to navigate.
- e) E- Resources have unreliable life span. Paper has a much longer life span than most digital forms of storage. Because of the rapid development of new computer systems it is difficult to judge whether the software or hardware will become outdated. As new hardware is developed, structures must be put into place to allow for the migration of existing materials to the new platforms so that they can still be accessed. Methods of preserving the electronic document must also be developed. A high degree of reliability of the equipment must be a part of the electronic devices that handle the replacements for printed books.
- f) Many titles that are available in traditional print books are not yet available in an electronic book format.
- g) New technologies always require time, experience, and money in order to take full advantage of its capabilities.^[7]

Conclusion

The library/Information centre is considered to be the backbone of any research organization as it provides its user the literature and information through electronic sources and services in order to carry out their academic activity. It took many years for digital libraries to reach the present state but the Librarian's goal of the fully integrated online digital gateways. Although a library already has a particular journal in print form, but most often, for the sake of integrity and rendering effective value-added services to the users, the library is compelled to subscribe the online access of the same journal for the same period. In Indian scenario the digitization



programmers are in their initial stages and much needs to be done to prepare a long term strategy to sustain these efforts and preserve the digital resources for future use.

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