

## Digital E-Resource Awareness among Scholars

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### Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to explore the knowledge of effectively explaining the definition, types of E-resource, categories of e-resource, advantages of e-resource, disadvantages of e-resource. This research paper helps to know the details of e-resource to the beginning stage of research scholars to get an idea to search their research sources. It explore the basic concepts of research students they get an idea to search the database. Internet has dramatically changed function. It has led to tremendous change in the way libraries function and offer services to their users. At present, the libraries actively procure, organize, display and issue e-forms of books, journals, newspapers, theses and dissertations. This is also due to change in information seeking behavior of users. The new generation users prefer online resources as they want all information at the click of mouse.

### Introduction

The importance of e-Resources becomes more indispensable after the arrival of Internet for the common man. Now the e-Resources can be accessed over the Internet without physically available in a library. They are hosted on publishers/aggregators/institutions servers and user can access them, search, retrieved required information from them directly from respective website. Libraries have undergone drastic changes in recent years, in both information gathering and dissemination techniques. Electronic libraries are the recent development in the ever-changing technological world today. Students nowadays have the ability to carry the library wherever they are, their Internet-enabled devices being the only requirement. Most universities worldwide have subscribed to various online databases and other e-resources as a way of availing resources to their students.



## E- RESOURCE

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.

### DEFINITION

**E-resources** means materials in a digital format those are accessible electronically. E-resources may be created or acquired for providing library services. Examples include, but are not limited to, e-journals, e-books, electronic database collections, and downloadable audio or video files. *E-resources* means Information resources that user accesses electronically including, but not limited to electronic journals, electronic books and other Web- based documents;

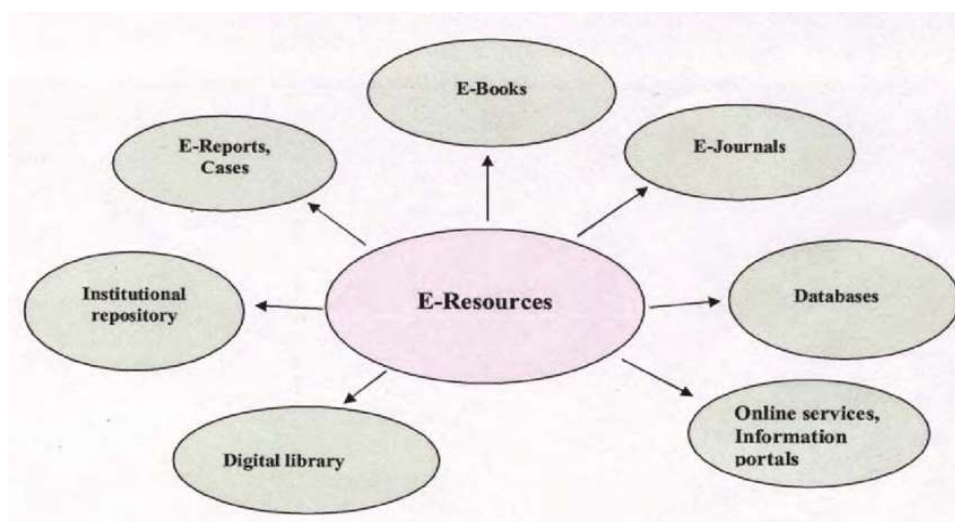
**Types of e-resources:** The e-resources are basically divided in two major types are:

#### 1. Online e-resources, which may include:

- E-journal (Full text & bibliographic)
- E-books
- Online databases
- Web sites

#### 2. Other electronic resources may include:

- CD ROM
- Diskettes
- Other portable computer databases.



**Types of E-Resource**

### **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:

**a) Multi-access**

**b) Speed:**

**c) Functionality:**

**d) Content:**

**e) Mobility**

**f) Savings physical Space**

**g) Convenience**

**h) Saving time& money**

The same resource, i.e., article or journal may be accessed by many users at the same time.

- E-resources may be accessed from anywhere, anytime as per the convenience of the users.
- The users may search a large number of resources in one go through a single search interface.
- E-Resources also provide usage statistics which help the library staff in finding out the usage of the product .
- Articles/issues of journals appear online before their print version is available.
- Hypertext format and links of e- resources lead users to related content and articles.
- Electronic resources have audio, video and animation content which is not present in print format.
- The subscription of e- resources helps libraries in saving space

### **Disadvantages**

- 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.
- Many titles that are available in traditional print books are not yet available in an electronic book format.

- New technologies always require time, experience, and money in order to take full advantage of its capabilities.
- The readers need to have access to Internet in order to read electronic resources.
- If a library cancels or stops subscription to an e-journal, it is not certain that the library will get access to back issues of that journal. Whereas, library having printed material certainly has back issues of that journal in its possession. In case of e-books too, if a library stops subscription to e-books, it is denied access to the e- book. Whereas the physical copy once bought always remains in the possession of the library.
- Use of e- resources entails reading on screen which is tedious and harmful too.

### **Categories of E-Resources**

There are different types of e-resources as mentioned below:

- E-journals
- E-Books
- E-reports
- E-Theses and dissertations
- Institutional repositories

### **E-JOURNALS**

E-journal has been defined as a periodical publication which is published in electronic format usually on the Internet. A periodical publication means that it has some periodicity i.e., It may be published weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly or annually. The term electronic journal has been used for the following:

- An established journal could stop its print version and transfer to e- only format.
- An electronic journal can be free or fee based through annual subscription, licensing or pay per use.

### **E-Book**

E- Book, also known as electronic or digital book is a text and image based publication in digital form. It is produced or published to be read on computer or other digital devices. E-Books are the digital equivalent of standard printed books. E-books are available in a wide variety of formats. Some may be downloaded in full to be read offline, whereas others may only be read online while connected to the Internet.

## **E- Reports**

A report is a document which contains information in a narrative, graphic or tabular form; it is prepared on adhoc, periodic or regular basis as per requirement. A report may refer to some specific period or event or subject. It may be communicated to the public orally or in written form. A report which is available in digital form is known as an e- report.

## **E-Theses and dissertations**

Thesis or dissertation is a document submitted in support of candidature for an academic degree or professional qualification. It presents work or research, undertaken by a student, and its results or findings .The users submit theses and dissertations to the universities/institutions in print. The digital form of theses and dissertations are known as e- theses and dissertations.

## **Institutional repository**

Institutional repository is an online database which provides access to the digital collections of theses, dissertations, e-prints etc., of a particular institution for online viewing. It provides associated metadata regarding the document, i.e., name of the student, university name, year of graduation, document title, abstract, keywords, etc. Institutional repositories are also known as digital repositories. The universities and research institutions set up these repositories to collect organize and showcase the intellectual contribution of their faculty members and scientists.

## **Conclusions**

The evolving nature of electronic resources, par-circularly in regard to e-books, provides challenges in developing standardized methods of conducting quantitative analysis. The abilities to calculate cost per use, identify usage trends, document how funds are allocated to acquire materials, and provide evidence for collection development decisions are essential components to developing e-book collections that address “just in case” and “just in time” information needs. However, training opportunities in this area of library work are still in development and not always widely available. By sharing methods currently used within the professional community, opportunities for experimentation, feedback, and standardization become available.

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