The Impact of Using Electronic Resources: a Study based on Kelaniya University Library Users

Somananda, Rev. B. and Weerasinghe, M.K.

somanandabopeththe@gmail.com, mervinku@hotmail.lk

Abstract

Electronic information has gradually become a major resource in every university library". The emergence of e-resources transformed information handling and management in the academic environment and in University libraries. Through the use of e-resources, academics and students now have access to global electronic information resources for their scholarly communication. This paper presents and analyses the status of electronic resources facilities and services provided by the Kelaniya University Library (KUL). It also discusses the purpose of using e-resources, benefits, subject coverage status, overall user satisfactions, problems that are faced by KUL users while accessing e-resources and perceived impact of e-resources on users.

Keywords: *Kelaniya University Library, Electronic resources, Electronic services, Management of E-resources, Electronic information retreival*

Introduction

Academic library is a part of any educational institution, which is the hub of the teaching, and learning activities where students, teacher and researchers get their required information according to their need. Academic libraries have been in existence for over 500 years and are still very useful today to all educational institutions. In the traditional libraries users have to spend much more time for searching information and for that they have to depend mainly on the library professionals or library staff. But in the age of information communication technology, computers are being used for day-to-day housekeeping activity of the library, which saves the time of the end users, and library professionals also and at the same time avoid duplication of work and make the library service smooth and effective (Sinha, 1990).

In modern times, the content of libraries is not restricted to physical formats such as books, magazines or journals. Libraries are now shifting from traditional printed resources to the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and other electronic-driven services (Nnadozie and Nwosu, 2016; Okazie, 2016). According to Shuling (2007: 72) "electronic information has gradually become a major resource in every university library". The emergence of e-resources transformed information handling and management in the academic environment and in University libraries. Through the use of e-resources,