

Use of library e-resources among the final year students of LIS; Based on university of Kelaniya.

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Abstract

The research problem of this study is do final year LIS students of university of Kelaniya use library electronic resources? And the objectives are this study were to identifying the use of e-resources among LIS students, to identifying the purposes of using e-resources by LIS students, to identifying the benefits to use e-resources LIS students and to identifying the problems using e-resources used by LIS Students. As a research method have used survey research method. Used primary sources for data collection. Main primary sources was questioners and interview. Used MS Excel software for data analyzing. The main finding of this study was that students studying library science at the University of Kelaniya have some understanding of the electronic information sources available in the library. And they use these electronic sources to obtain information for their studies and research. A detailed result of this study was discussed and recommendations were made to improve and enhance the usage of e-resources.

Keywords: *Digital resources, Electronic resources, online databases, students, University of Kelaniya*

Introduction

With the advent of new information and communication technology (ICT), a number of electronic resources such as e-journals, e-books, e-mail, e-database, and e-dissertation have been developed and used in libraries. Therefore, it is easier for the readers to get updated information. Focusing on University Libraries University libraries also include in their libraries the electronic resources needed for many students' academic and research activities. Electronic information sources that provide this up-to-date information are essential for students' academic and research work. However, despite the fact that libraries have various electronic sources of information, the question for this study is whether those sources are used by university students.

Objectives

- To identifying the use of e-resources among LIS students.
- To identifying the purposes of using e-resources by LIS students.
- To identifying the benefits to use e-resources LIS students.
- To identifying the problems using e-resources used by LIS Students.

Methodology

The use of e-resources is studied using the survey (questionnaire) method. Final year 50 undergraduate students of LISC was selected as a population and selected as a sample 50 students. Have collected data through primary sources. Structured questionnaire was created to collect data from university of Kelaniya undergraduate students. Keeping the study's primary aims in mind to obtain data, undergraduates were personally contacted.

Used MS Excel software for data analyzing.

Results and Findings

The study identified five major e-resources that university students use in their studies. The final year students of Library and Information Science have identified how they have used these electronic resources for their academic activities.

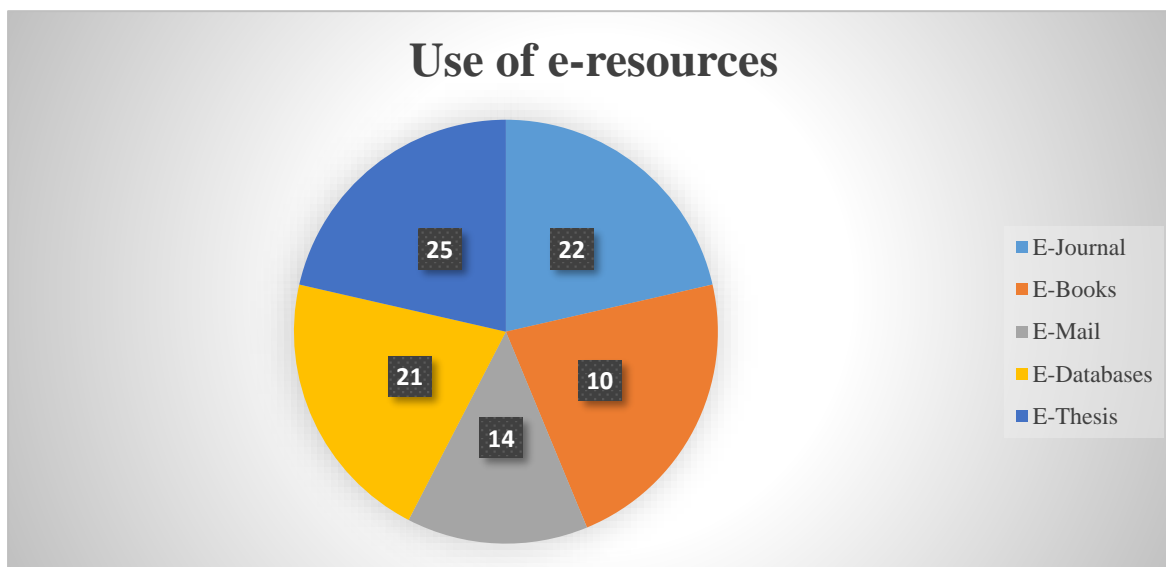


Figure 1 – Use of e-resources

(Authors, Survey Data 2021)

Among 50 LIS student, 22 of LIS students are use of e-Journals. 10 of LIS Students are use of E-Books, 14 of LIS students are use of e-mails, 21 of LIS Students are use of e-databases and 25 students are use of e-thesis.

Table 1: Purposes of using e-resources by LIS students

Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
To review literature	50	100%
To complete assignment	45	90%
To gain information on specific topics	34	68%
To supplement study notes	23	46%

(Authors, Survey Data 2021)

100% (50) respondents used e-resources to enable them to review literature. 90% (45) respondents used e-resources to complete assignments and 68% (34) used e-resources for gain information on specific topics. In addition of these, 46% (23) students have used to get supplement study notes.

Table 2: Benefits to use e-resources LIS students.

Benefit	Frequency	Percentage
Availability of search tool	24	48%
Multi users' access	50	100%
Time saving	44	88%
Space saving	50	100%
Easy of use	31	62%
Availability of support facilities	21	42%

(Authors, Survey Data 2021)

The survey found that even though most students had poor search abilities, they nevertheless used e-resources for their studies. The students demonstrated that using e-resources provided them with many benefits. 24 (48%) students were inspired to use e-resources because of the availability of search tools. 50 (100%) indicated that multiple users could access e-resources concurrently; 44 (88%) mentioned benefits relating to time saving; and 50 (100%) stated that compared to print sources, e-resources are less bulky – hence, accessing and using them helped save space. Moreover, 31 (62%) said that they could use e-resources at their own convenience, that is, they benefited from the easy-to-use feature of e-resources, while 21 (42%) stated that many support facilities were available to facilitate access. Table 3 illustrates the results obtained on the benefits that motivated students to use e-resources.

Table 4: Problems using e-resources used by LIS Students

Problem category or type	Frequency	Percentage
Access problems	50	100%
Literacy and search problem	13	36 %
Lack of adequate skills	6	12%
Frequent power cuts outside	50	100%
Slow internet connection and signal problem	50	100%
High costs associated with Internet use outside	50	100%

(Authors, Survey Data 2021)

When considering the problems that students may encounter when using electronic sources, we have divided the problems into 6 main categories. According to the responses received, 100% (50) of the students have faced main problems. That are Access problems, frequent power cuts outside, slow internet connection and signal problem and High costs associated with Internet use outside. 36% (13) students have Literacy and search problem and 12% (6) student have Lack of adequate skills.

Conclusion

With the development of information and communication technology to enhance the digital environment, university libraries are striving to attract more users and make libraries more user-friendly by improving their infrastructure. The user-friendly features of e-resources are increasingly attracting users to libraries. It not only improves the quality of research, but also ensures the confidence of faculty and students to stay up-to-date on their desktops with access to a large amount of electronic resources and databases. The information reflected in the above study shows that the students have adequate knowledge of the electronic information sources provided by the University of Kelaniya Library.

Recommendation

The above-mentioned issues must be addressed by paying attention to recommendations in order to improve the supply of e-resources to assist research and learning activities. This can be accomplished by providing students with frequent and mandatory information literacy training targeted at equipping them with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively seek, locate, assess, and use information to satisfy their educational needs.

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