

# Awareness and Accessing of Electronic Resources by the Post Graduate Students of North Eastern Hill University, Shillong

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## Abstract

*The paper focuses on the awareness and accessing of electronic resources in the NEHU Central Library by the Post Graduate Students within four different Schools comprising of different departments. The purpose of seeking information, formal and informal sources used by the Post Graduate Students in searching the relevant information is studied in the paper. It also discussed frequency of their visit to the library and tools used for searching the information. The awareness of digital repository in helping the students for finding information is also touched upon.*

**Keywords:** E-journals, Electronic Resources

## 1. Introduction

North-Eastern Hill University was set up by an Act of Parliament and notified on 19th July 1973. The objectives of the University, as laid down in the act, are “to disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in such branches of learning as it may deem fit; to pay special attention to the improvement of the social and economic conditions and welfare of the people of the hill areas of the North-eastern region, and in particular, the intellectual, academic and cultural advancement”.

The North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) Library, which started with a collection of 600 books in 1973, is now a premier university library of the North-Eastern Region of India with a collection of over 2.3 lakh volumes of books and bound periodicals supplemented by the enormous information resources now available through the UGC-INFONET Consortium and the links to global information resources and services provided on its webpage (<http://www.nehu.ac.in/library>)

The University has established a NDVN facility providing internet access with 2 Mbps Leased Line from ERNET, India and 8 Mbps Leased Line from BSNL. All Campus departments have on-line access to Internet. The NEHU mail server and web server are fully functional and more state-of-art features are planned to make this facility an indispensable aid to the academic cause of the University. The Library was fully automated since 2004 using Libsys 4 Software with networking, local intranet and internet connectivity with NDVN and BSNL services. The NEHU Central Library at Shillong and the NEHU Campus Library at Tura cater to the needs of the students, research scholars, faculty, administrators and staff of the university.

**2. Services of NEHU Central Library: The following services** are provided by the library

### 2.1 In House Resources and Services

- ❖ OPAC
- ❖ Subscribed Journals
- ❖ Subject Information Gateways
- ❖ Free e-books



- ❖ American Libraries in India Catalogue
- ❖ DBT DelCON Consortium

## 2.2 UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium Services

- ❖ Science Direct 10 subject collection
- ❖ Wiley-Blackwell 908 titles
- ❖ Download Titles of UGC INFONET e-journals
- ❖ UGC INFONET e-journals Subject-wise
- ❖ Web of Science
- ❖ Other UGC INFONET Databases
- ❖ J-Gate Custom Content for Consortia (JCCC)
- ❖ MathSciNet
- ❖ IndCat(Union Catalogue of Indian Universities)
- ❖ Inquire about e-resources
- ❖ Usage statistics of e-resources

## 2.3 E-Resources Subscribed by NEHU

- ❖ ACM Digital Library (INDEST Consortium)
- ❖ Biological Abstracts
- ❖ IEL Online (INDEST Consortium)
- ❖ IndiaStat
- ❖ Springer - LNCS e-book series
- ❖ ScienceDirect - CompSc & Engg Journals

## 2.4 Digital Repository

In simplest terms, a digital repository is where digital content, assets, are stored and can be searched and retrieved for later use. A repository supports mechanisms to import, export, identify, store and retrieve digital assets. Putting digital content into a repository enables staff and institutions to then manage and preserve it, and

therefore derive maximum value from it. Digital repositories may include research outputs and journal articles, theses, e-learning objects and teaching materials or research data.

## 2.5 DSpace Software

DSpace is an out-of-the-box open source repository software package for creating repositories focused on delivering digital content to end users, and providing a full set of tools for managing and preserving content within the application. DSpace is the most widely used repository software platform, with over 700 installations worldwide representing a growing and active user community.

NEHU Central Library is using Dspace which is an Open Source Software which is viable to the academic and research organizations to preserve and share their knowledge within the University Campus. Digital Lab has come to a fulltime operation at NEHU Central Library since late 2010. At present about 5000 individual articles submitted by the faculties of different Schools and departments and about 150 thesis of Ph. D Research Scholars are available in full text and were being uploaded in the library web site.

## 3. Methodology

The present study was taken up as pilot survey to assess the feasibility to measure the students' usage of the electronic resources being provided by the NEHU Central Library. The data has been obtained by using questionnaires.

## 4. Objective of the Study

The present study has been carried out to assess the students' level of awareness and access to electronic resources available through the North Eastern Hill University Central Library.

### 5. Scope, Limitation Sample Size of the Study

The study focused on the Post Graduate Students of the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong and is limited to 20 students only from four different Schools of study.

Respondents	Questionnaire Distributed				Response Received	Total Strength
	School of Life Sciences	School of Physical Sciences	School of Social Science	School of Education		
Post Graduates	5	5	5	5	20	1497

### 6. Analysis and Interpretation of the Data

Frequency (N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Frequently	8 (40%)
Sometimes	12 (60%)
Never	0

**Table 1: Frequency of using the library**

**Table I:** Shows that 40% of the students are frequently visiting the library while 60% visit sometimes.

The purpose of visiting the Library(N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Borrowing/Return Books	12(60%)
Consulting periodical & Journals	2(10%)
Availing Photo copying services	0
Consulting other resources	6(30%)
No other places to go	0

**Table II: Purposes of visiting the Library**

**Table II:** Shows that 60% of the students visit library for borrowing and returning books, 30% shows their interest in consulting other resources, only 10% are consulting periodical and journals.

Accessing of book/documents(N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
OPAC	7(35%)
Asking library staff	1(5%)
Searching books at shelves	12(60%)

**Table III: Accessing of Book/Documents**

**Table III:** Shows that 35% are using OPAC for retrieving books, 5% seeking help from the library staff, while 60% students are searching books at shelves. The reason for the decline in using OPAC is due to their unfamiliarity with the user interface, therefore, they prefer searching physically books at shelves.

Level of Computer knowledge(N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
No knowledge	2(10%)
Introductory	12(60%)
Middle	5(25%)
Advanced level	1(5%)

**Table IV: Level of Computer Knowledge**

**Table IV:** Shows that 10% have no knowledge of using computers, 60% are at their introductory level, 25% are in middle level, but only 5% is at the advanced level of computer knowledge. The reason for less interacting with the computer is due to the fact that most of them are at their introductory level of using computers.

Electronic Resources (N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Yes	9(45%)
No	11(55%)

**Table V: Awareness of Electronic Resources and Services**

**Table V:** Shows that 45% are aware about the electronic resources available in the library, while 55% are not aware of the availability of these resources. Most of them need to be guided how to access the available resources.

Internet Browsing (N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Yes	17(85%)
No	3(15%)

**Table VI: Internet Browsing**

**Table VI:** Shows that 85% students are browsing the internet, while 15% do not browse the internet. The number of using internet is high due to the fact that they are at their introductory level. But the purpose of academic purpose indicated to be very low.

Internet (N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Regularly	3(15%)
Quite often	14(70%)
Never	3(15%)

**Table VII: Frequency of using the Internet**

**Table VII:** Shows that 70% are browsing the internet quite often and 15% are using internet regularly while 15 % do not browse the internet. As most of them are depending on their lecture notes.

Internet Browsing (N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Computer center	2(10%)
Home	1(5%)
Cyber Cafe	0(0%)
Library	14(70%)
Hostel	2(10%)
Department	1(5%)

**Table VIII: Purpose of browsing the Internet**

**Table VIII:** Shows that 70% of student use internet browsing at the library, while 10% of students are browsing at computer center and hostel, while 5% are browsing from home and their department. The usage of browsing at the library is high because surfing and browsing is free and as it can be stored and take print outs.

Purpose (N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Academic	20 (100%)
Other purposes	0

**Table IX: Purpose of students' use of electronic resources**

**Table IX:** Shows that 100% of students are using electronic resources for academic purpose only.

Purpose (N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Writing paper	
Seminar	
Assignments	1(5%)
Projects	
Preparing notes	9(45%)
Support academic work	10(50%)

**Table X: Academic Purposes for using Electronic resources**

**Table X:** Indicates that 50% of students are using electronic resources to support for their academic work only, while 45 % are using the resources for preparing notes, whereas 5% are using electronic resources for assignments.

UGC-Infonet (N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Yes	1(5%)
No	19(95%)

**Table XI: Awareness about UGC-Infonet & INDEST**

**Table XI:** shows about the awareness of the student about the availability of accessing resources from the UGC-Infonet. 95% of the students are not aware of the services, while 5% only are aware about these resources.

Digital Repository (N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Yes	3(15%)
No	17(85)

**Table XII: Awareness of Digital Repository**

**Table XII:** Shows that only 15% of students are aware of digital repository while 85% do not know about digital repository.

Training(N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Yes	20(100%)
No	0 (0%)

**Table XIII: Training Required in Accessing the Electronic resources**

**Table XIII:** Shows that 100% of students require training how to access the electronic resources available in the library.

Replacing print document (N= 20)	Number of students and percentage
Yes	5 (25%)
No	15(75%)

**Table XIV: Replacing of Print document**

## 7. Limitations of the Study

Limitations of the present study mainly originate from the data collected by survey of Post graduates student only. The data collected from the respondents was only 1.33%, however, the whole population was not studied. Usage among different

age groups was also not studied, as the more population of users are young students, however, gender study was also not taken as the proportion was more of females.

## 8. Suggestions

The library should create awareness among the users by conducting programmes, such as orientation programs, demonstrations, conferences, seminars and through notices.

### 8.1 Recommendations for Further Research

The present study deals with use and awareness of Post Graduate Students about e-resources in NEHU Central Library, however, this study can be extended over to the academic community of the institution as a whole. Detailed analysis can be taken to see the impact of technology on libraries and usage. Further studies could identify which barriers occur at which stages in the information using process and how can these obstacles be overcome. There is a vast scope for further research to study different types of users' behaviour and comparison of users' behaviour and attitudes towards the e-resources. Finally, investigator believes that studies are needed on ways to improve and encourage academic community to maximum usage of electronic information resources.

## 9. Conclusion

The results of the study offer significant information on the level of awareness and use of electronic resources in NEHU Central Library, the characteristics of the users and their evaluation of the e-resources collection. At present the participants who use electronic resources show low level of awareness about the e-resources collections. However, the users who have knowledge about

availability of electronic resources show high interest in its usage. But many use e-resources as the supplementary way to use information and revealed that they prefer to use the print occasionally if more electronic electronics resources are available and this is observed particularly for young generation. In conclusion, it shows that many users need to know the complete potential of the electronic resources through trainings, orientations and seminars.

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