

Standards and Good Practice of E- Learning and other E-Resources of the Libraries of Uttarakhand State: A Case Study

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Abstracts

This paper provides an overview of the present status of the use of e-resources amongst library users of all universities and colleges of Uttarakhand state. In digital environment, all aspects of e-resources are progressively needful to every aspect of education from teaching and learning. Many colleges and universities in Uttarakhand are in the process of developing where as some are already developed. The research findings confirm the importance of e-resources to the colleges and universities of Uttarakhand state, as they are indulged to use daily by staff in all areas of their work & services. For effective management of libraries in present digital environment, the overall challenge today is very tedious and hectic. The standards & good practices inspired by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, today's cyber technologists & information scientists can build up a quality world in the library profession through e-learning and uses of e-resources in Uttarakhand state as well as any other state of India. In this research paper, some especial type of problems about e-resources have been seen in all academic libraries of Uttarakhand state which creates very serious concerns to academicians and library professionals due to emerging digital environment and wide use of e-resources than conventional resources. This paper reveals the different practices of e-resources & e-learning.

The research study is based on a range of parameters about using, learning, impact, awareness, status, reading habits, internet accessibilities, and availabilities at present done by many research scholars and analysis of their collected data through survey methodology. These analyses are concluding to a very different overview about innovative librarianship in modern digital era. Today, the electronic resources have changed number of facets of library services but in Uttarakhand state, it seems very poor and gloomy. To eliminate the issues causing this, paper suggests and indicates immediate implementation of e-learning standards and good practices, so that this state could move towards innovative librarianship as well as it may be equally applicable to other state.

Keywords: Innovative librarianship, E-resources, Digital Library, Internet, Virtual Library, Academic Libraries, Online journals, Uttarakhand State.

1. Introduction

Today the library services are increasing day by day under the supervision of library professionals and information scientists who are trained with modern techniques and the best skills to maintain the library

and their various services. Today's user wants to consume information via all possible ways, converged digital environment has enhanced the excess to more and more information. ICT have changed our life providing a vital phenomena of e-resources like internet and other search based services which are effecting rapidly in the different areas of all libraries including Uttarakhand state.



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The circulation services, reference services, SDI services, bibliographic and documentation services, audio-visual extension services, library digitalization, automation, digital preservation, internet facility for research enhancement, developing and promoting plan assessment for library and their users and for essential need of information and empowering their users have moved in way of e-resources using or emerging to take opportunities of e-resources.

2. Significance of the Study

Using of electronic resources has resulted in increased access to timely, accurate, relevant and current information in all over world. Library is the fulcrum of support for the entire range of all academic activities. Today all the electronic resources are able to share the information with each other because of communication technologies. In recent years, different types of electronic resources and search engines have emerged as a powerful educational tool, with the increasing impact of standard e-resources and its access is advent that how digital phenomena could help in modernizing the process of teaching, research and learning.

E-resources and their learning have emerged as a formidable social and academic global proportion, facilitating to a wealth of information on the internet for the academic society to support their all activities with research areas. Hence the libraries act as a transformer or carrier of knowledge. In this regard, utilization of e-resource in digital environment has made of tremendous improvement in disseminating practices of information, organizing and managing the libraries, acquisition of library collection in Uttarakhand state, however the digitalization and usage of e-resources in most of the academic libraries of Uttarakhand state have not been improved at present .

The Uttarakhand state is newly established state having more than two hundred libraries of Central Government, Universities, colleges and public libraries. There are twenty-three universities and more than eighty-three colleges have been developed after constituting the new state but the conditions of libraries are very poor, libraries are disorganized and having no standards for using and learning e-resources, while all these libraries of Uttarakhand state are spending lakhs of money on procuring e-resources for its readers. In this paper, the efforts have been made to study the standards and good practices of e-learning, user awareness towards using e-resources and other aspects of digital environment in libraries of Uttarakhand state.

3. Objectives

This paper specially emphasized to study about the usage, users learning methods, awareness of e-resources, accessibility, availability, most used e-resources, impact of e-resources, identify the use and acceptance of e-resources, satisfaction, ascertaining users preferences, determining the frequency of e-resource uses, usefulness of e-resource, time spend in using e-resource, ascertaining the training needs of users in accessing e-resource, to know the problem faced by users while browsing electronic information and evaluating the existing electronic information environment in libraries of Uttarakhand state for solution problems relating to the standards and good practices of e-learning and there resources including the ways and means to overcome them.

4. Scope of Study and Limitations

In this study eleven university libraries have taken for survey and to assess the present status and functioning and data have collected by research scholars of library and information science departments of different universities of Uttarakhand state. Data col-

lected for this study is fully based on work done by five research scholars' questionnaires data and their analysis. The present study is confined only to libraries of Uttarakhand state.

5. Research Methodology

For the purpose of knowing the standards and good practice, the research scholars have done survey through the oral conversation of different libraries some questionnaire, with help of sample survey methodology, the reasonable answers have been concluded through proper data analysis, after analyzing data collected by research scholars, we could to following conclusion through scientific and logical analysis.

The detailed analysis done by all present and previous research scholars is discussed as follows. (The base data can be obtained by contacting the author(s))

6. Data Analysis

The data reveals that there are cyber university libraries four college two special with public library have attended for data analysis. According data not only IIT Roorkee University, Himgiri and Graphic Era Universities have given responses but the Doon University has also given responses, while some PG colleges has not responded. This data clears that in Uttarakhand state only IIT Roorkee most capable and having fully automated library and maximum users are using e-resources at daily basis. For the case of special library, only in LBS, the number of users are using e-resources and this library and it is also fully automated whereas the Doon public library has not given any responses about their e-resources.

About awareness of using e-resources it is clear that IIT Roorkee University, Himgiri University, Graphic Era University, SGRR and LBS are more conscious capable and in ideal position at present.

About learning methods of e-resources shows that Kumaon university and IIT Roorkee University are having learning methods while others have not given answers of this, from the users satisfaction point of view only few universities and colleges are satisfied. Responses also shows that government universities are not very serious to provide e-resource facilities to their users besides this, all others are giving excellent services for their users i.e. IIT Roorkee University, Graphic Era University and LBS Mussoorie.

The data prevails that the problem faced while using e-resources most of surveyed libraries have problem like slow downloading, limited access to computers and finding irrelevant information, lack of funding problems have been also indicated. Maximum libraries and their users has shown their preferences to search engines Google first, Yahoo second followed by Altavista as e-resource search engine. The advantage of using different types of e-resources and behavior of the staff clears that some universities, colleges are getting all types of resources but Doon University is failing in time management. The behavior of the library staff for providing e-resources services are found excellent in IIT Roorkee University and Doon University, it also clears that Kumaon University, IIT Roorkee university, Himgiri University, Doon University, Graphic Era University, and SGRR are using maximum type of e-resources.

The data also shows that the impact of reading articles on academic efficiency, Kumaon University, IIT Roorkee, University, Doon University SGRR, and LBS are fully affected by access of e-resources

7. Findings

- ▶ It is found that all types of libraries in Uttarakhand have do not have access to all types of electronic resources.

- ▶▶ It is also found that only six universities have higher standards electronic resources but these good practices are being followed by IIT Roorkee University and LBS Mussoorie special library.
- ▶▶ Google search engine has the higher number of responses that the best search engine at present in Uttarakhand while Yahoo is a second choice for accessing needed information.
- ▶▶ It is also seen that the maximum academic libraries of Uttarakhand are full of information resources but proper utilization with requisite training of their resources is not found.
- ▶▶ There is no library cooperation among the all libraries of the Uttarakhand state some libraries have documentation services, translation services but it is not being provided to outside users while they can share the half of e-resources.
- ▶▶ Maximum users wants to use internet for their day to day information at their reading place if this facilities is available in the library in this regard the IIT Roorkee University ,Doon University, and LBS library have excellent e-resources services for their users

Due to hilly nature of this state, slow access, speed are the major problems while accessing the e-resources through internet.

8. Suggestions and Conclusion

Most of all library authorities, universities, colleges, institutions invest heavy amount for the maintenance, procurements, creation of e- resources and setting of e-learning environment that suits the best to their users. In this regard the Uttarakhand state is in poor condition although there have been several facilities and services provision from conventional

to present digital scenario the awareness, impact and e-learning trends as reflected in the survey is not quite satisfactory. Indeed some of the faculty members and students in their conversations surveyors opined that that electric research are extremely useful for the research work, teaching and extension work as they can provide first hand information on latest research.

Some valuable suggestions are very worthy to implement at present for the welfare of library users and library professionals are as follows.

- ▶▶ E-resources environment and learning opportunities should be made available to each student, users and library professionals with proper e-resources training.
- ▶▶ Training on use of e-resources for the new comers should be given
- ▶▶ The authority of libraries must develop adequate standard e-resources infrastructures and allocate sufficient fund for procurement of standard e-resources in Uttarakhand state.
- ▶▶ 24 x 7 high bandwidth internet facility should be provided by library authority, university and college management.
- ▶▶ E-library and users should be connected to each user, departments, library staff, college, university and other government libraries so frequent communication can be sent about new arrivals, table of contents of current articles etc. through e-mail alert services.

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