

# Usage of E-Resources by the Research Scholars in Mizoram University

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## Abstract

*Electronic resources become the most vital sources in the new millennium. The importance of these resources is well accepted by the academicians in every institution. Electronic resource deals with all type of resources which can be accessed on an electronic or digital device. The author understanding the situation carried out study on the usage and knowledge of electronic resources by the research scholars in Mizoram University. The paper is a case study of School of Education & Humanities, Mizoram University with a total population of 136 research scholars.*

**Keywords:** Electronic Resources, ICT, Digital Literacy, Library Resources

## 1. Introduction

Information at present comes in various forms, whether it is from print documents or non-print documents, the most suitable or accepted form for the information seekers is the most crucial point. The electronic resources could be of any non-print materials like, CDs, DVDs, audio-visual films, digital files which can be accessed through radio, television, internet, computer etc. Though we are connected by these electronic resources in our everyday life, it is impractical for those electronic illiterate people. Therefore, one must have the knowledge on how to access the electronic resources. Electronic resource is a very broad terms which includes with many components like online databases, sources from web pages, OPACs, e-journal articles, e-books, e-reports, e-databases, internet sources, print-on-demand (POD), electronic personal papers, e-mail, electronic theses and dissertations, etc. The librarian in present environment is expected to concern by implementing

the same for the library users in the library by developing skills, services and competencies (Mishra,2017).

### 1.1 Mizoram University: A Brief Outline

Mizoram University came into existence in the year 2000 by an Act of Parliament and it starts functioning in 2001 to disseminate the higher education and knowledge in the state. The university at present is functioning with 33 departments under 8 schools.

## 2. Review of Literature

Various literatures with relating to the title of paper have been reviewed for the study.

Singh and Sharma (2002) in their paper 'Electronic Information Resources in Academic Libraries: Some Key Issues' stressed on use of electronic resources which are gaining motivation among the scholars as cost-effective. They discussed that these are having an edge over the print sources. The authors addressed some key issues related to the collection development of electronic information sources in an academic library environment.



Bhatt and Madhusudhan (2004) on 'University Libraries in India and Electronic Journals: The Role of Consortia-based Subscription of E-journals for the Effective Use of Financial Resources Electronic Journal' mentioned about the role of higher education which plays a key role for the development of society because it not only emphasize on the need of creating the enlightened citizenry for the country but also establishes itself as a potential instrument of social and national reconstruction. Libraries function as an essential integral component in the higher education system.

Sanjeev and Sharma (2010) on 'Use of Electronic Resources at Punjab Agricultural University Library: A Study' revealed that Information Technology has revolutionized the field of library and information science. They mentioned that modern library collections are not restricted to print media only but add e-resources to their collections. They viewed that, with the increasing cost of print publications, most of the information seekers opted e-resources as, it not only changed the information seeking and dissemination patterns but also it is essential in view of providing most recent, relevant and authentic information.

Sharma and Sharma (2010) on 'Perception and preferences of e-resources among faculty members of national institute of technology (NIT) Kurukshetra' found that, e-resources are the essential part of any university and research library in the era of e-learning.

Daulat (2014) in the paper on 'Trends in acquisition and usage of electronic resources at Indian Institutes of Technology libraries' found that, the users of IIT libraries are more prone to the e-resources as it has become the most demanding

form of information sources and there is a stupendous growth of users who make use of e-resources.

Baladhandayutham and Ramamaheswari (2014) on 'The Impact of Information Technology Innovations on Information Resources and Services: A Study with Special Reference to Women's Colleges in Madurai discussed the importance of information technology in the present days for the effective and efficient use of the library resources. They pointed out that, in the modern society, it is more preferable to use IT and other electronic materials than those documentary sources for getting the required information.

### 3. Significance and Scope of the Study

The information and communication technology (ICT) plays an indomitable role in the present environment. So, to utilize the latest trends and technology, the students, research scholars, faculty must be electronic or computer literate. Without the knowledge of ICT, the latest electronic equipment and materials in the library are of no use. Therefore, it is very essential to know the depth of the research scholars competencies regarding usage of electronic resources and library resources. Keeping in view this, the present study covers the total population of 136 research scholars under School of Education and Humanities in Mizoram University.

### 4. Objectives of the Study

The following are the objectives for the present study:

- ❖ To find out the resources use in the Central Library

- ❖ To ascertain the knowledge of the research scholars in e-resources
- ❖ To carry out the most frequent used of e-resources

### 5. Research Methodology:

A structured questionnaire was framed and distributed to the total population size of 136 research scholars and interview method was also conducted to obtain data from the population. A total of 102 filled-in questionnaire was received which comprises of 75% of the total population. The response rate is not that satisfactory but is sufficient enough to represent the data.

## 6. Data Analysis and Findings

### 6.1 Analysis of Respondents

As mentioned earlier, the response rate from the total population is 75%. Education department got the highest response rate and percentage of sample representation in particular which is 79% and 41% respectively, followed by English department which is 75% response rate and 24% of sample representation. Mizo department got the least response rate which is 70% while Hindi got the least percentage of sample representation which comes to 15%.

### 6.2 Usage of Library Resources

The library in any institution provides adequate information to its users so as to meet their requirements.

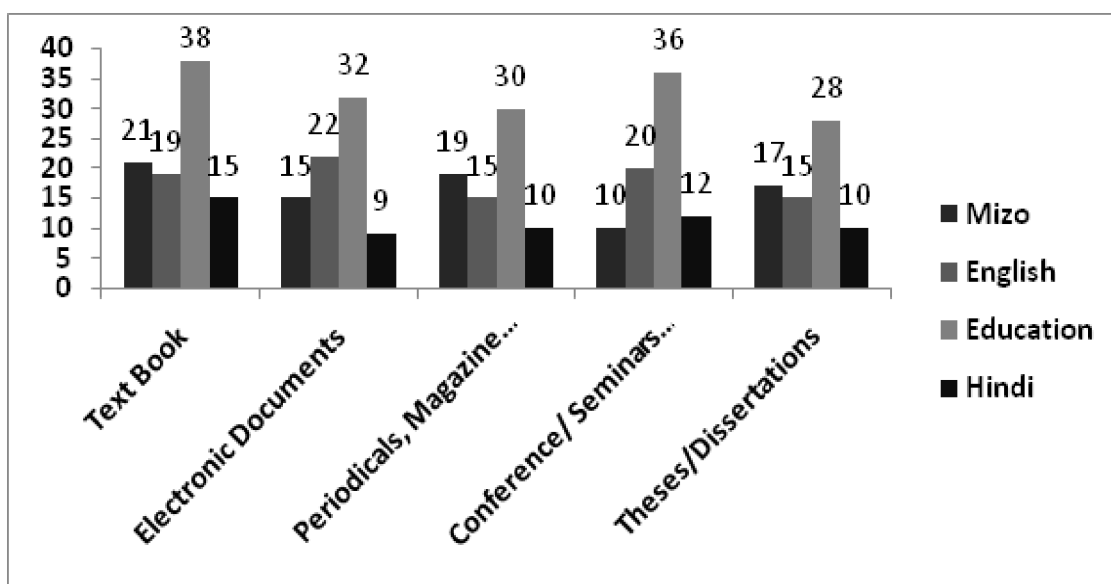


Figure 1: Usage of Library Resources

Data displayed the detail usage of library resources by the research scholar in Mizoram University Central Library. In Mizo department all the respondents used text book which comes to 26% of sample representation which is followed by Periodicals and conference proceedings are the least used. In English department, maximum respondents i.e. 22 used electronic documents followed by conference proceedings. In Education department, majority of the research scholars are using text book which comes to 23% followed by conference proceedings i.e. 22%. In Hindi department, most of them are using text book which is 27% sample representation followed by 21% of conference proceedings.

It is found that a large number of respondents from Mizo, Education and Hindi department are heavily rely on text book while English department heavily use electronic documents.

**6.3 Preference of Information Sources**

Information Sources in the least form can be of two types viz. print and non-print sources. The research scholars were asked to opt type of sources they preferred for getting their required information which

also shows their awareness in non-print sources i.e. e-resources. Data shows that among the entire academic department under study, majority of the respondents in Mizo department preferred to use a print source which is 15 (71%) and 6 (29%) preferred to use non-print sources. In English department 16 (67%) preferred non-print while 8 (33%) preferred print sources. In Education department 26 (62%) preferred non-print while the rest 16 (38%) preferred print sources. In Hindi department, 8 (53%) preferred to non-print while the remaining 7 (47%) preferred to use print sources.

Further analysis shows that, the research scholars under study are aware of electronic resources i.e. non-print sources but due to unavailability of particular information while accessing electronic resources, most of the research scholars of Mizo department preferred to use print sources over non-print material.

**6.4 Use of E-resources**

There are several kinds of electronic resources which the users can access in the library. To discover the most preferred used of e-resources by the research scholars, a questionnaire was designed and distributed to the study area.

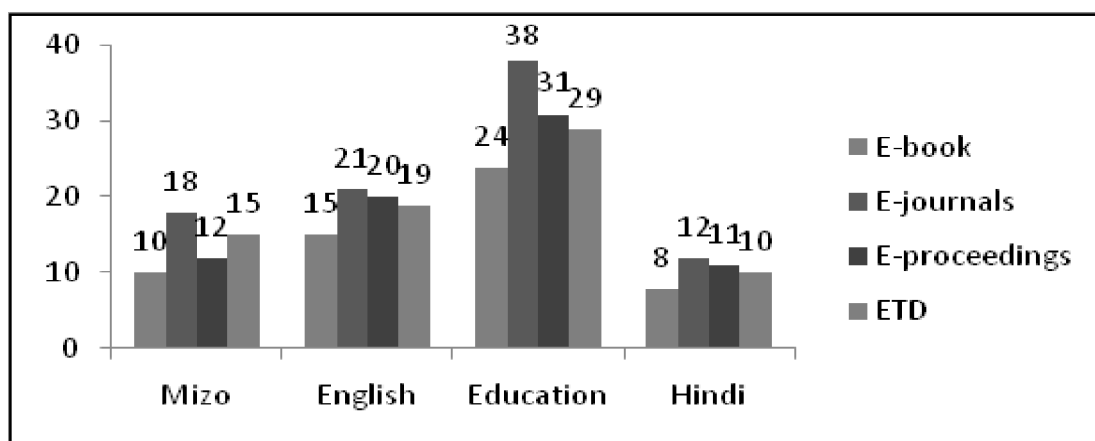


Figure 2: Use of E-resources

From the data it could be seen that the total number of respondents have increased comparing to the total population size, this is due to that the respondents have opted more than one sources. In Mizo department, majority of the respondents i.e. 18 (32%) use e-journals followed by 15 (26%) who are using e-theses & dissertation. In English department, 21 (28%) and 20 (27%) used e-journals and e-proceedings respectively which is the highest response and e-book got the least used by the research scholars i.e. 15 (20%). In Education department, maximum of them i.e. 38 (31%) used e-journals followed by e-proceedings which comes to 31 (25%). In Hindi department, the most used e-resource is e-journal which is used by 12 (29%) respondents followed by e-proceedings i.e. 11 (27%).

It could be further analyze that e-book got the less consult while accessing electronic resources by the research scholars under study.

## 7. Findings

- ❖ Education department got the highest response rate and highest percentage of sample representation with 79% and 41% respectively.
- ❖ Mizo department got the least response rate with 70% while Hindi department got the least percentage of sample representation with 15%
- ❖ English department heavily used electronic resources.
- ❖ Mizo, Education and Hindi departments are using textbook more than electronic resources.
- ❖ Research scholars under study are aware with electronic resources and majority of them preferred e-resources over printed sources

- ❖ Among the type of e-resources, e-journals are most used and e-books are least used by the research scholars.

## 8. Conclusion

The resources in the library should be organized by the library professionals to meet the level of user satisfaction by the way of ease of access, ease of retrieval and user friendliness with regards to the interfacing software as well as manpower. The facilities provided by the library may not be accessible by the library users due to the unawareness or lack of knowledge on how to access that material, therefore, the library must organize a training course or orientation course to its users so as to make the users aware.

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**Note:**

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