

Short Communication

Awareness and use of e-resources in some Sri Lankan University Libraries

K.M. Rani K. Kulatunga^a and Shailendra Kumar^b

^aResearch Scholar, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Delhi, Delhi-110007, Email: kumari.kulatunga@gmail.com

^bAssociate Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Delhi, Delhi-110007, Email: shail3@yahoo.com

A survey of eight librarians from four Sri Lankan university libraries revealed that there are variations with regard to the awareness and usage of the e-resources in the four libraries. Off-campus use of the resources was limited owing to lack of internet facilities among other issues.

Keywords: E- Resources; awareness; use

Introduction

IFLA defines electronic resources as those materials that require computer access whether through a personal computer, main frame, or handheld device. They may either be accessed remotely via the internet or locally. Some of the most frequently encountered e-resources types are: e-journals,

e-books, full-text databases, indexing and abstracting databases, reference databases (bibliographies, dictionaries, directories, encyclopaedias, etc.), numeric and statistical databases, e-images, audio/visual resources.¹

Among the many universities of Sri Lanka, four university libraries viz., University of Peradeniya Library (UOP), University of Colombo Library (UOC), University of Sri Lanka, Uva Wellassa University Library (UWU) and Open University Library of Sri Lanka, (OUSL) were selected for the study. A structured questionnaire was administered to eight librarians in the four selected university libraries to understand the awareness and use of e-resources in the selected university libraries from the librarians' perspective.

Figure 1 reveals that most of the respondents were aware about e-resources by self-search and through library committees. Six of the respondents indicated that they were aware about the e-resources through posters, leaflets and notices. Five respondents replied that they became aware about e-resources through their colleagues. Out of the eight, 03 respondents indicated that they were aware about e-resources through different social networking sites and e-mails.

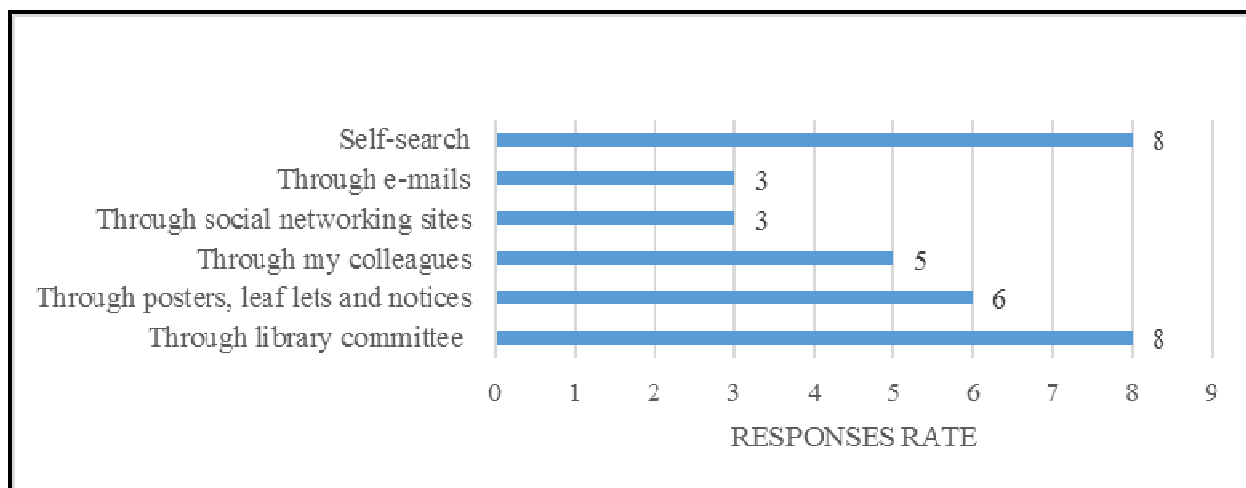


Fig. 1—Awareness of e-resources

Table 1—Frequency of use of e-resources

E-Resources	Frequently		Rarely		Not at all	
	Faculty members	Students	Faculty members	Students	Faculty members	Students
Online Journals	8 (UOP, UOC, UWU, OUSL)	6 (UOP, UWU, OUSL)	-	2 (UOC)	-	-
Online Databases	8 (UOP, UOC, UWU, OUSL)	8 (UOP, UOC, UWU, OUSL)	-	-	-	-
e- Books	4 (UOP, UWU)	6 (UOP, UWU, OUSL)	4 (UOC, OUSL)	2 (UOC)	-	-
e- Articles	6 (UOP, UOC, OUSL)	4 (UOP, OUSL)	-	4 (UOC, UWU)	2 (UWU)	-
Online Newspapers	4 (UOP, OUSL)	4 (UOP, OUSL)	2 (UOC)	2 (UOC)	2 (UWU)	2 (UWU)
e- Dissertations & Thesis	-	6 (UOP, UOC, OUSL)	4 (UOC, OUSL)	-	4 (UOP, UWU)	2 (UWU)
CDs/ DVDs	4 (UOP, UWU)	6 (UOP, UWU, OUSL)	4 (UOC, OUSL)	-	-	2 (UOC)

Table 1 lists seven most used e-resources and their frequency of use by faculty members and students.

According to the responses received it is found that faculty members have frequently used online journals and online databases. UOP and UWU faculty members have used e-books frequently. UOC and OUSL faculty members have used e-books rarely compared to UWU responses. Majority of faculty members have used e-articles frequently, except UWU. Online newspapers frequently used by UOP and OUSL faculty members. e- Dissertations and Thesis and CD/DVDs used rarely by UOC and OUSL faculty members. UOP and UWU faculty members are used CD/DVDs frequently.

All the respondents stated that students frequently used Online Databases. Further, Majority of the respondents Indicated students frequently used Online Journals, e- Books, e- Dissertations, Thesis and CD/DVDs. UOP and OUSL librarians stated that their users have frequently used Online Newspapers

and e- Articles. UOC librarians asserted that their users have rarely used Online Journals, e- books, online Newspapers and e- Articles.

It is seen that though the selected university libraries have desired level of e-resources and users are aware about the availability of the e-resources, they are still in favour of using the print resources. The usage of e-resources is not satisfactory. Information literacy workshops could provide enhance the use of e-resources. It is seen that the university libraries conduct orientation programme to the students at the time enrolment. However, the libraries should interact with users regularly and enable them to make use of the e-resources.

Reference

1. IFLA. Key Issues for e-Resource Collection Development: A Guide for Libraries. Available on <http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/acquisition/collection> (Accessed on 26 October 2013).