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# User perception of Open Access Resources: A Survey of Department of Technology in Shivaji University, Kolhapur

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## Abstract-

*A study was conducted to investigate the accessibility and user perception of open access resources used by the faculty members of The Department of Technology in Shivaji University, Kolhapur. In this paper, an attempt has been made to study the awareness of open access resources. A total of 84 faculties responded to this study. The survey method has been adopted, and for data collection questionnaire tool was used. The data were collected from faculty members of the Department of Technology at Shivaji University. The study reveals that the majority of the respondents 100% of faculties were aware of all Open Access Resources (OAR). The Majority of faculty members have used OAR. The Study also discussed various purposes and reasons for using open-access resources and the satisfaction level of the respondents towards the awareness and use of open access resources.*

**Keywords:** Open Access Resources, user study, free resources, and awareness of OAR, Open Educational Resources.

**Introduction:** Access to knowledge is important and critical to the development of all societies. The expansion of R&D activity brought exponential growth in the number of publications over the years. Research and academic institutions around the world since then have been grappling with the related problems and issues in the scientific and technical communication process. The major problems related to managing information explosion, increasing publishing costs, and delays in publishing and distribution inefficiencies. The Open Access Resources [OAR] are the most valuable in the field of teaching, learning, and research. In the modern era, when the use of terms like learning organization, knowledge economy, and knowledge management is getting popular, OAR plays a vital and most important role in making all the terms functional in their very own way. With an increased focus on research activities, the utilization of OAR is also increased in the field of education. Many research studies have investigated awareness, access, and utilization of OAR in various fields of life.

## Open Access

According to Bjork, Bio – Christer defines, “Open Access (OA) means that a reader of a scientific publication can read it over the internet, print it out, and even further distribute it for non-commercial purposes without any payments or restrictions”. Suber (2012) defines Open Access as “Open Access literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions”.

## **Open Access Resources**

Open access resources are one of the useful resources for the academic community and the research scholars. The Open access contributions include original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, source materials, digital representations of pictorial and graphical materials, and scholarly multimedia materials. These resources are not limited only to open access journals but they may be varied in forms such as open e-books, videos, audios, personal websites, discussion forums, open-access databases, institutional websites, personal blogs, open access repositories, and institutional repositories and open source software.

## **Review of Literature**

**Peekhaus (2017)** investigated Canadian Library Information Science Faculty's attitudes and experience towards open access. The investigator collected data using an electronic questionnaire survey method. The findings of the study revealed that the maximum number of respondents 82% expresses their level of knowledge about open access comparatively high. While assessing the perceptions of respondents about open access publishing, a large portion of respondents 67% are think that open access offers fundamental benefits like published faster, offers wider circulation, and are of high quality than subscribed journals. However, the study concludes that LIS faculty and scholars of Canada in particular should join their hand to make their research open by publishing their research output in open access mode and should lead efforts to expand open access among other subject fields as well.

**Khan and Haridasan (2015)** conducted a study on the use of online databases in the faculty of arts at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and the University of Delhi (DU). The study revealed that 100% of faculty members and research scholars of AMU were using online databases for teaching and research work respectively, while 93.18% of the PG students use it for preparing notes and assignments. At Delhi University, a majority (94.44%) of the faculty members uses online databases for teaching purposes, 100% of the researcher scholars completely depend on online databases for their research work and 89.18% of the PG students prefer it for preparing notes and assignments.

**Obaje and Amkpa (2013)** carried out a study on the use of open access institutional repository (OAIR) by academic staff of the University of Jos. The study revealed that the majority (75.5%) of the academic staff has not yet uploaded their published articles in the University institutional repository and only 24.5% of respondents have uploaded their articles. The Major reason for not uploading in an institutional repository is due to lack of motivation (32.3%) and twenty nine percent of respondents are because they published articles in subscription-based journals.

In **Tanzania, Dulle (2010)** analyzed OA scholarly communications among faculty members of public universities. The study found that 72 percent of faculty members were aware of OA resources. The study concluded that faculty's general perceptions toward OA resources were very positive. However, poor research conditions and inadequate information search and online publishing skills were cited as the main hindrances for faculty members to use OA resources in scholarly communications.

At the **University of Kashmir, Gul et al. (2010)** conducted a survey study among science and social science faculty members to measure their use of, and perceptions toward, OA

resources. Respondents were asked to determine their use of OA resources through online databases available on the library Web site. Findings showed that 49 per cent of the participants used subscribed databases, while 42 percent relied heavily on OA resources. The majority of the social science students (63 percent) were found to be more dependent on OA resources than the science students (29 percent).

The above literature review indicates that faculty member's attitudes toward OA resources. They use OA resources for learning, teaching, and scientific research. Keeping given these findings, a study was planned to know the awareness and user perception towards open access resources among the faculty members of the Department of Technology in Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

### **Brief Profile: Department of Technology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.**

Shivaji University started the Department of Technology in June 2006 to give opportunities for students to learn in technology education and research of global standards for human resource development. In 2006 four M. Tech courses were started and in 2008 five B. Also in 2012, B. Tech. Civil Engineering program was started and in 2013, B. Tech. in Mechanical Engineering, M. Tech. in Food Technology was started. All Departments focuses on outcome-based teaching-learning process.

### **Brief Profile: Barr. Balasaheb Khardekar Knowledge Resource Center, Shivaji University, Kolhapur**

The University Library started in June 1964 with a collection of only approximately 7,000 books then named after Late Barr. Balasaheb Khardekar as the Barr.Balasaheb Khardekar Library on October 24, 1981. Then after as per the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016, the library's name became the Knowledge Resource Center. University library is enriched with a huge collection of print and non-print reading material, digital online subscribed resources as well as free open education resources. More than 38 departments are using online resources available on the BBKK Resource center. The OAR is freely available for all academic communities. All resources are arranged under each category like Free E-Databases, Free open Thesis, Free Institutional Repositories, Free Digital Library, Free E-Books, E-Learning platforms, etc. The researchers, students, faculties are using the above sources for research, education, and academic purpose.

### **Objectives of the study**

The study aims to explore the ways in Open access resources used in the Department of Technology communities in the Shivaji University; Kolhapur may append an important value to their study by involving with OAR. The specific objectives are:

- To determine the awareness of faculty members in the Department of Technology in the Shivaji University towards open access resources.
- To determine the purpose and reason for using open access resources.
- To find out the satisfaction level of users on using open access resources.

### **Methodology**

The investigator collected data using an electronic questionnaire survey method. The researcher has prepared a well-structured Questionnaire for collecting the data from

the Dept. of Technology of Shivaji University, Kolhapur. A questionnaire has been prepared in Google form and mailed to faculty members of the department. A total number of 130 questionnaires were distributed among the respondents. The investigator received questionnaires from only 84 out of 130 respondents among the questionnaires. This constitutes 64.65 % of the total responses.

### Limitations of the Study

- This study was limited to only Faculty members of the Dept. of Technology in Shivaji University Kolhapur. (Including Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor)

### Data Analysis

A Structured questionnaire was distributed among 130 faculty members including Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor of Dept. of Technology in Shivaji University Kolhapur from that 84 responses were received.

**Table-1: Awareness of Open Access Resource**

Sr. No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Professors	11	13%
2	Associate Professors	27	32%
3	Assistant Professors	46	55%
	Total	84	100%

The above table shows that awareness of OAR. All faculties of the above department i.e. Professors 11(13%), Associate Professors 27(32%), and Assistant Professors 46(55%) are aware of open access resources. It means all faculties of Dept. of Technology in Shivaji University Kolhapur are aware of Open Access Resource.

**Table- 2: Awareness about Types of Open Access Resources**

Sr. No.	Types of Open Access Resources	Professors %	Associate Professors %	Assistant Professors %	Total In Average
1	Open Access Journals	11 100%	20 74%	42 91%	73 87%
2	Open Access Repositories	11 100%	21 77%	44 96%	76 90%
3	Open Access Database	11 100%	19 70%	41 89%	71 85%
4	Open Access e-books	11 100%	22 85%	43 93%	76 90%
5	E-Learning Platforms/Courseware	11 100%	18 66%	43 93%	72 86%
		11	27 (74.4%) Average	46(92.4%) Average	N=84

The above table shows that, the awareness about types of open access resources. All faculties of the Department of Technology i.e. Professors (100%) are aware of all OAR available on Library portal, followed by Associate professors (In an average 74.4%) are aware of various OAR available on the Library Portal, and Assistant Professors(92.4%) were aware of various OAR available on Library Portal.

Overall, all 90% of faculties have aware about Open Access Repositories and Open Access E-books. Along with other type Resources also known in an average 85%. It means that all Faculties have been known various Types of Resources available on Library Portal.

**Table- 3: Purpose of using Open Access Resources**

Sr. No.	Purpose of Using OAR	Professors	Associate Professors	Assistant Professors
1	Preparing Seminars/Conferences	10(90%)	22(81%)	41(89%)
2	To Update knowledge	11(100%)	27(100%)	43 (93%)
3	Write up Articles	11(100%)	27(100%)	42(91%)
4	For Research	11(100%)	27(100%)	44(96%)

The above table shows that, the purpose of using open access resources among the faculties. All Professors and Associate professors are using OAR to update knowledge; write up articles and for research. Further data shows that Assistant professors (90-96%) are using OAR for preparing seminars/conferences, update knowledge, and write up articles and for research.

In a nutshell, All Professors and Associate Professors of the Department of Technology are using all the resources for their research work, write up articles, and updating knowledge for preparing seminars and workshops.

**Table- 4: Use of Open Access Resources**

Sr. No.	Use of OAR	Professors	%	Associate Professors	%	Assistant Professors	%
1	DOAJ	11	100%	26	96%	45	98%
2	Citation Database	11	100%	26	96%	45	98%
3	ERIC	11	100%	26	96%	45	98%
4	Swayam	11	100%	26	96%	45	98%
5	NPTEL	11	100%	26	96%	45	98%
6	Shodhganga	11	100%	26	96%	45	98%
7	Free Institutional Repositories	11	100%	26	96%	45	98%
8	E-Learning Platforms	11	100%	26	96%	45	98%
9	Plagiarism Detection Tools	11	100%	26	96%	45	98%

The above table Shows, that, All Professors (100%), All Associate professors (96%), and Assistant professors (98%) uses all OAR available on Library Portal i.e. DOAJ, Citation Database, ERIC, Swayam, NPTEL, Free Institutional Repositories, E-Learning Platforms, Plagiarism Detection Tools. It Means that, all Resources are useful and Relevant for the Department of Technology.

**Table-5: User satisfaction on the use of Open Access Resources**

Sr. No.	User satisfaction on OAR	Professors	Associate Professors	Assistant Professors	Percentage
1	Fully Satisfied	10(12 %)	23(27%)	40 (48%)	73(87%)
2	Satisfied	1(1%)	4 (5%)	6 (7%)	11(13%)
		11	27	46	84(100%)

The above table shows that, faculty's satisfaction level for the availability of OAR in the Library Portal. In all above faculties i.e. Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors are fully satisfied at 73(87%) and followed by only 13% faculties mentioned that satisfied about availability of OAR.

It Means that all OAR Resources available on Library Portal were Relevant and need-based for the faculty members of Department of Technology, Shivaji University.

### Findings

- All faculties of Dept. of Technology in Shivaji University Kolhapur are aware of Open Access Resources which are available on Shivaji University Library Portal.
- Overall 90% of faculties have known about Open Access Repositories and Open Access E-books along with other type Resources.
- It is observed that all Faculty members have aware and using of various types of Resources available on Library Portal.
- All Professors and Associate Professors of the Department of Technology were using all the resources for their research work; write up articles, and to updating knowledge for preparing seminars and workshops.
- All Professors (100%), Associate professors (96%), and Assistant professors (98%) from the Department of Technology use all OAR available on Library Portal i.e. DOAJ, Citation Database, ERIC, Swayam, NPTEL, Free Institutional Repositories, E-Learning Platforms, Plagiarism Detection Tools, etc.
- It is examined that 73(87%) faculties i.e. Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors are fully satisfied followed by only 13% of faculties who mentioned that satisfied with the availability of OAR.

### Conclusion

The study provides a panoramic view of the impact of open access resources among the Department of Technology in Shivaji University Kolhapur.

All faculties are aware of open access resources in the Department of Technology in Shivaji University Kolhapur. The awareness and use of open access resources in any higher educational institutions have usual in now a days. The plenty of open access resources like DOAJ, Citation Database, ERIC, Swayam, NPTEL, Free Institutional Repositories, E-Learning Platforms are freely available on the Internet on various open-access platform. It means that all OAR Resources available on Library Portal were Relevant and need-based for Department of Technology Faculties. It provides more benefits to the academic community in the higher education system for quality education. Even the open-access resources would help the organizations, which cannot afford to subscribe or purchase expensive databases or e-resources.

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