

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Spring 5-1-2021

Awareness and use of Online Databases by the Research Scholars in Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati: A Study

Dr. SADU RANGANADHAM

Department of Library and Information Science, saduranganadhamph.d@gmail.com

Ranganadham Sadu Dr

Sri Venkateswara University, saduranganadhamph.d@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

RANGANADHAM, Dr. SADU and Sadu, Ranganadham Dr, "Awareness and use of Online Databases by the Research Scholars in Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati: A Study" (2021). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 5502.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5502>

Awareness and use of Online Databases by the Research Scholars in Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati: A Study

Dr. SADU RANGANADHAM

Academic Consultant, Department of Library and Information Science
Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati-517 502. A.P.
Email: saduranganadhamph.d@gmail.com

Abstract

The study deals with the awareness and use of online databases by the research scholars in Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.. The survey method was used in this study. Questionnaire tool was used to collect data from the research scholars. Seventy five questionnaires were distributed to the research scholars following accidental sampling method. The researcher received 175 filled in questionnaires out of 200. Most of the research scholars (88.0%) are using of online databases. Majority of the respondents (703.7%) are aware of online databases through friends. Most of them (90.9%) use online databases for their research work. Most of them (82.3%) are using 'Science Direct' online database. A high percentage of them (88.8%) search and access online databases for links through search engines. Majority of the respondents (76.6%) think that training on access to online databases is necessary for location of required information. Most of them (69.1%) replied that their authorities didn't provide training programmes on access to online databases in the library. Above half of the respondents (57.1%) replied that they are satisfied with the infrastructure to support the accessing of online databases.

Keywords: *Awareness and Use, Online Database, Research Scholars, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, User study, User Surveys.*

1. Introduction

Developments in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have drastically changed every sphere of activity in University Libraries and availability of Electronic resources are playing a major role. The new technologies have not only transformed the shape of libraries but also created many exciting possibilities and opportunities. Electronic resources have become more important source of information in University Libraries. Academic community has gone through a rapid change with the

influence of technology driven applications. The Electronic resources available in different formats can be used simultaneously by more number of users with easy access and they excel in furnishing information of current value and interest to the academic community. University Libraries started subscribing to electronic resources to support the teaching and research work.

The proliferations of electronic resources, along with network, computer technology and technologies have facilitated rapid changes. Electronic resources refer to those materials that require computer access that may either be locally mounted or accessed remotely via the internet. Electronic information may be broadly defined as the information stored in a medium, which require an electronic device to read and access its content. Information stored in different electronic media such as Floppies, Magnetic including Online, Journals, etc. Constitute electronic information. In the present electronic age, various new technologies are emerging to facilitate information storage, process and transfer much faster than the traditional print media. Information stored in electronic form (such as in CD-ROMs Computer Databases) can break all the physical and geographical barriers and reach the remotest corner of the world. The study endeavours to find out the level of awareness and use of online databases by the researchers in the Sri Venkateswara University (SVU).

1.1. Definition of online databases

A database is a collection of information that is organised so that it can be easily accessed, managed, and updated. Databases can contain several types of content: bibliographics, full-text, numeric, and images. This is most commonly done in a table because of its easy to read data, its ability to compare and find data.

An online database is a database that is accessed from a network, the most common example of this is on the internet, and unlike if it were a local database held on a computer only connected to an internal network or a computer.

1.2. Different types of online databases

Online Databases may be divided into two large families:

1. Reference Databases; and
2. Source Databases.

1. Reference Databases

- **Bibliographic Databases:** MLA International Bibliography, BIOSIS, CA Search, INSPEC, Medline.
- **Referral or Directory Databases:** Chemsearch, D&B's Electronic Yellow Pages, Software Directory.

2. Source Databases

- **Numeric and Textual-Numeric Databases:** Population Demographics, PTS US Time Series, S&P's Corporate Descriptions.
- **Full Text Databases:** LEXIS, Globe and Mail, Harvard Business Review.

1.3. Types of online databases available in S.V.U. Library

- Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) (<http://isid.org.in/>)
- JGate Plus (JCCC) (<http://jgateplus.com/search>)
- MathSciNet (<http://www.ams.org/mathscinet>)
- Web of Science (<http://www.webofknowledge.com/>)
- ProQuest Management Collection
- ProQuest Engineering/Technology Collection

The study endeavours to find out the level of awareness and use of online databases by the researchers in the Sri Venkateswara University (SVU).

2. Review of related literature

Pramod and Jitendra¹ (2019) studied the awareness and usage of online information resources among faculty members, research scholars and post graduate students in private engineering colleges of affiliated to RGPV, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. It is very important for effective use of library resources by the users. This paper gives an overview of the awareness of online information resources among library users. An attempt is made to find out the status of e-resources in engineering college libraries. The analysis of the study reveals that purpose of using online resources and extent of users' satisfactions towards online resources.

Sapna² (2016) carried out the level of awareness and use of online databases by the postgraduate (PG) students and their satisfaction level with the infrastructure that support the accessing of online databases in the Central Science Library (CSL). A well structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the PG students to carry out the study and analysed the data regarding the awareness and use of online databases. The survey shows that

most of them are well aware of the online databases and largely use them for their research work and to update their subject knowledge. It is also found that the main problems faced by them in using online databases are lack of information on online databases subscribed by university on their subjects/researches. It is also noticed that nearly 80 % of users are satisfied with the infrastructure that support accessing online databases in the Central Science Library.

Kwadzo³ (2015) described in his study the Awareness and usage of electronic databases by Geography and Resource Development Information Studies Graduate Students in the University of Ghana. The focus was on graduate students of Departments of Geography and Development Resource and Information Studies. Questionnaire was used to collect the data. The findings were that students were very much aware of the databases available to them as indicated by 96.9% and 93.8% indicated to use them. The studies has also established that majority of students know about the databases from their lecturers and most of them accessed from the central science library. Despite the claimed usage level, databases they focused on were few and many of them were not familiar with those in their discipline of study. Further, the limited number of the databases they knew about, they were satisfied with them and claimed the databases have impacted on their learning and research activities. In light of these findings it is recommended that librarians especially subject librarians should highlight the publicity of the databases and the research guides to both students and faculty so that they would become familiar with the databases and use them more and effectively.

Khan and Haridasan⁴ (2015) carried out a study on use of online databases in the Faculty of Arts at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and University of Delhi (DU). For this study, survey method was used to find out the level of use, level of satisfaction, problems and training needed for accessing the online databases. A total number of 467 and 1772 questionnaires were distributed among the Faculty members, Research scholars and Postgraduates in Faculty of Arts in AMU and DU respectively. Out of them 389 and 1463 were completed and returned back by respondents, showing overall response rate of 83.29% and 82.56% from AMU and DU respectively. The result reveals that the user groups of DU are more aware and use online databases more than the users of AMU. The study further reveals that the majority of the users access the online databases for retrieving information

mainly for teaching and research purposes. Annual Review and JSTOR are the most widely used databases in Faculty of Arts. The study concludes with some suggestions for better utilization of online database among users in Faculty of Arts in AMU and DU.

Vartharaman⁵ (2014) carried out a study on the use of online databases by faculty and research scholars at University of Hyderabad (UOH) and Osmania University (OU). The findings indicate that the user community of both the universities uses the online databases for their research work without visiting the library for their research and the important databases are Science Direct, SCOPUS, Scifinder, American Chemical Society, Biological Abstracts etc. But the variations in their use are depicted and it is tested with statistical ANOVA one way test to know the mean ranking and also to know about the consistency in their use. It is observed that most of the cases, UOH users are more consistent in their usage than OU users. When the variation in their mean ranking is merged co-efficient of variance is worked out wherein the actual ranking is known.

Anil Kumar and Pulla Reddy⁶ (2014) conducted a study on the use of e-Journals by research scholars in University Libraries in Andhra Pradesh. The e-journals available in University libraries of Andhra Pradesh are UGC-INFONET journals, open access journals and the journals subscribed by the libraries on their own. The present study is aimed to study the use of e-journals by the research scholars in the libraries of Sri Venkateswara University (SVU), Andhra University (AU) and University of Hyderabad (UH). It is intended to assess the type of e-journals used, purpose for which they are used, amount of time spent in using them, problems in accessing e-journals, search methods used in accessing them, satisfaction with print and e-journals, adequacy of e-journals and training obtained in accessing them.

3. Objectives

The specific objectives of the present study are:

1. To know the frequency and places of accessing online database by the research scholars of Sri Venkateswara University;
2. To find out the use of online databases among research scholars of Sri Venkateswara University;
3. To assess the purpose and using the online databases by respondents;
4. To find out the method of search and access of online databases by respondents;

5. To ascertain satisfaction of the respondents with the infrastructure to support the accessing of online databases in the Sri Venkateswara University campus.
6. To find out the training needs of user orientation programmes.

4. Methodology of the study

The following methodology is used for the present study:

The survey method was used in this study. Questionnaire tool was used to collect data from the research scholars. Two hundred questionnaires were distributed to the research scholars following accidental sampling method. The researcher received 175 filled-on questionnaires out of 200. After collecting data, the data was analysed and interpreted in the form of tables and graphs. Data is obtained on the awareness and use of online databases.

5. Analysis and interpretation of data

The collected data is analysed and interpreted in the following paragraphs.

5.1. Frequency of library visit

In order to know the frequency of library visit, a question has been put to the research scholars. Their respondents are show in Table-5.1.

Table-5.1
Frequency of library visit

Frequency	Respondents	
	No.	%
Daily	40	22.9%
Twice a week	31	17.7%
Once in a week	37	21.1%
Once in a month	18	10.3%
Occasionally	49	28%
Total	175	100

It is clear from Table-5.1 shows that above one third of the respondents (28%) visit library occasionally followed by daily (22.9%), once in a weak (21.1%), twice in a week (17.7%) and once in a month (10.3%).

5.2. Access to Online Databases

In order to know the access to the online databases, a question has been put to the research scholars. Their respondents are show in Table-5.2.

Table-5.2
Access to online databases

Reply	Respondents	
	No.	%
Yes	160	91.4%
No	15	8.6%
Total	175	100

Table-5.2 shows that most of the respondents (91.4%) accessed to online databases and remaining of them (8.6%) didn't access to online databases.

5.3. Place of use of online databases

In order to know the place of use of online databases, a question has been put to the research scholars. Their respondents are show in Table-5.3.

Table-5.3
Place of use of online databases

Place	Respondents	
	No.	%
Library	99	56.6%
Departments	155	88.6%
Internet Centres	65	37.1%
Home	41	23.4%

(Respondents are permitted to tick more than one answer)

Table-5.3 reveals that most of the respondents (88.6%) use online databases in Departments followed by central library (56.6%), Internet centres (37.1%) and home (23.4%).

5.4. Awareness on online databases

In order to know the awareness on online databases, a question has been put to the research scholars. Their respondents are show in Table-5.4.

Table-5.4
Awareness on online databases

Awareness	Respondents	
	No.	%
Through Friends	129	73.7%
Through Library Website	77	44.0%

Through Librarians	36	20.5%
--------------------	----	-------

(Respondents are permitted to tick more than one answer)

It is noticed from the Table-5.4 that majority of respondents (73.7%) have awareness on online databases through friends followed by library website (44.0%) and librarians (20.5).

5.5. Purpose and use of online databases

In order to know the purpose and use of online databases, a question has been put to the research scholars. Their respondents are show in Table-5.5.

Table-5.5
Purpose and use of online databases

Purpose	Respondents	
	No.	%
Research work	159	90.9%
For carrier Development	45	25.7%
Update Subject knowledge	88	50.3%
Know about	15	8.6%

(Respondents are permitted to tick more than one answer)

It is evident from Table-5.5 that most of the respondents (90.9%) essentially use online databases for their research work followed by update subject knowledge (50.3%), for career development (25.7%) for knowing about (8.6%).

5.6. Use of online databases

In order to know the use of online databases, a question has been put to the research scholars. Their respondents are show in Table-5.6.

Table-5.6
Use of online databases

Use	Respondents	
	No.	%
Science Direct	144	82.3%
Web of Science	77	44.0%
Compendex	0	0.0%
Medline	42	24.0%

Biological Abstracts	66	37.7%
J-gate	36	20.6%
SciFinder Scholar	74	42.3%
INSPEC	9	5.1%
Math SciNet	15	8.6%
EBSO Databases	18	10.3%
Any other	17	9.7%

(Respondents are permitted to tick more than one answer)

It is evident from Table-5.6 that the most of the respondents (82.3%) use Science Direct databases followed by Web of Science (44.0%), SciFinder Scholar (42.3%), Bibliographical Abstracts (37.7%), Medline (24.0%), J-gate (20.6%), EBSO Databases (10.3%), Math SciNet (8.6%), INSPEC (5.1%) and other online databases (9.7%).

5.7. Method of search and Access of online Database

In order to know the method of search and access online databases, a question has been put to the research scholars. Their respondents are show in Table-5.7.

Table-5.7
Search and access of Online Databases

Search Method	Respondents	
	No.	%
Links through library websites	56	32%
Links through publishers website	130	74.3%
Links through search engines	154	88.0%
Direct links through online databases	116	66.3%

(Respondents are permitted to tick more than one answer)

Table-5.7 elucidates, a high percentage of the respondents (88.0%) replied that they search and access to online databases for links through search engines followed by links through Publisher Websites (74.3%), direct links through online databases (66.3%) and links through library website (32.0%).

5.8. Training on necessity of access to online databases for location of information

In order to know the training on necessity of access to online databases for location information, a question has been put to the research scholars. Their respondents are show in Table-5.8.

Table-5.8
Training on access to online databases for location information

Reply	Respondents	
	No.	%
Yes	134	76.6%
No	41	23.4%
Total	175	100%

It is clear from Table-5.8 majority of the respondents (76.6%) think that training on access to online databases is essential for location of required information and the remaining of them (23.4%) thinks negatively in this regards.

5.9. Provision of training programme on access to online databases in the library

Table-5.9
Provision of training programmes on access to online databases in the library

Reply	Respondents	
	No.	%
Yes	54	30.9%
No	121	69.1%
Total	175	100%

It is evident from Table-5.9 majority of the respondents (69.1%) replied that the authorities didn't provide training programmes on access to online databases in the library and the remaining of them (30.9%) replied positively in this regard.

5.10. Satisfaction with the infrastructure to support accessing online databases

Table-5.10
Satisfaction with the infrastructure to support accessing online databases

Level of Satisfaction	Respondents	
	No.	%
Highly Satisfied	04	2.3%
Satisfied	100	57.1%
Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	44	25.1%
Dissatisfied	18	10.3%

Highly Dissatisfied	09	5.1%
Total	175	100

It is apparent from Table-5.10 that majority of the respondents (57.1%) are satisfied with infrastructure to support accessing online databases followed by neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (25.1%), dissatisfied (10.3%), highly dissatisfied (5.1%) and highly satisfied (2.3%).

6. Findings of the study

The major findings of the study are:

1. Over a fourth of the respondents (28.0%) visit library occasionally.
2. Most of the respondents (91.4%) replied that they have access to online databases.
3. Most of the respondents (88.0%) use online databases in Departments.
4. Majority of the respondents (73.7%) are aware of online databases through friends.
5. Most of the respondents (90.9%) use online databases for their research work.
6. Most of the respondents (82.3%) are using 'Science Direct' online database.
7. A high percentage of the respondents (88.8%) replied that they search and access online databases for links through search engines.
8. Majority of them (76.6%) think that training on accessing of online databases is necessary to locate the required information.
9. Most of the respondents (76.6%) replied that the authorities didn't provide training programmes on accessing of online databases in the library.
10. Above half of the respondents (57.1%) replied that they are satisfied with the infrastructure to support the accessing of online databases.

7. Suggestions

- User should motivate the use of electronic database, because libraries are spending lakhs of rupees on purchasing the databases.
- Continue the role of libraries in use of electronic information resources.
- Users should create awareness and acquaintance with the electronic resources which is a healthy sign towards seeking information utilizing e-resources.
- Frequent training facilities may be provided to the users to keep themselves abreast of the latest information and technologies.

- Orientation programmes for the new users may be provided at the beginning of every year.

REFERENCES

1. Pramod Kumar Sharma and Jitendra Srivastava (2019). Awareness and Usage of Online Information Resources In Engineering College Affiliated to RGPV, Bhopal. *International Journal of Information, Library & Society*, 8(1), 11-15.
2. Sapna Verma (2016). Use of Online Databases in Central Science Library, University of Delhi: A Survey. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, 36(2), 104-107.
3. Kwadzo, Gladys Mrs. (2015). Awareness And Usage Of Electronic Databases By Geography And Resource Development Information Studies Graduate Students In The University Of Ghana. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, 1-29. Retrieved from <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1210>
4. Khan, S., & Haridasan, S. (2015). Use of online databases in the faculty of Arts at Aligarh Muslim University and University of Delhi. *International Research: Journal of Library & Information Science*, 5(1), 1-16.
5. Vartharaman, Uma. (2014). Use of Online Databases by Faculty and Research Scholars at University of Hyderabad (UOH) and Osmania University (OU): A Survey. *KELPRO Bulletin*, 18(1), 1-22.
6. Anil Kumar, Makkini and Pulla Reddy, V. (2014). Use of E-Journals by Research Scholars in University Libraries in Andhra Pradesh. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 1-32. Retrieved from <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1086>