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Suneel Kumar Bhat
suneelmier@gmail.com

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Usage of Electronic Resources by Teacher Trainees during Covid-19 pandemic: A Case Study.

Suneel Kumar Bhat

Research Scholar, Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS), University of Jammu,

email: suneelmier@gmail.com

And

Prof. Sangita Gupta

Head of Department (HOD), DLIS, University of Jammu, Jammu,

email: sangitauniv@gmail.com

Abstract

Electronic resources generally known as e-resources are materials in digital format accessible electronically. It consists electronic journals (e-journal), electronic books (e-book), online databases, online databases in varied digital formats. These resources play an indispensable role during Covid-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation has posed unprecedented challenges requiring teachers to adapt to teaching online. Until March 2020, the typical teaching situation at colleges of education was characterised by teacher trainees who convened in classrooms according to their timetables and teachers who covered their subjects' syllabus, frequently through formal lecturing. Teacher trainees were required to listen to their teachers in a formal way.

The college lockdown confronted teachers, students, and parents with an entirely new situation. Teaching and learning during pandemic period is only possible through alternative means of education. Teachers need to use various digital tools and resources to solve problems and implement new approaches to teaching and learning process. In this present prevailing situation of Covid-19, libraries are more concerned with electronic resources as these provide accurate information with the latest data to fulfill their needs. The teacher trainees consult the electronic resources for their teaching learning process. This article focuses on various aspects of electronic resources and their subscription in colleges of education and usage by teacher trainees.

Key Words: *Teacher trainees, e-resources, satisfaction level, ICT.*

1. Introduction

Present era is an era of technology and among the technology; Information Communication Technology (ICT) is the most important one. It is playing critical and important role in all aspect of human life. It has integrated the world and changed the entire global economic, social, political and educational scenario. Now-a-days all types of libraries especially college of education libraries are providing a large number of electronic resources for the users (Teacher trainees). Colleges of education are meant for imparting education to B.Ed. Students (Teacher trainees rather future teachers. Electronic resources are becoming more popular amongst the library users in comparison to the printed resources. Teacher trainees of a college are also using electronic resources and feel more comfortable in the information and communication technology (ICT) environment. Teacher trainees are more concerned with the latest knowledge and research in their area of interest. In this present prevailing situation of Covid-19, libraries are more concerned with electronic resources as these provide accurate information with the latest data to fulfill their needs. The teacher trainees consult the electronic resources for their teaching learning process.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation has posed extraordinary challenges requiring teachers to adapt to teaching online. Until March 2020, the typical teaching situation at school was characterised by students who convened in classrooms according to their timetables based on curriculum and teachers who covered their subjects' content, frequently through formal lecturing. Students were required to listen to their teachers, work individually or in groups, and predominantly reproduce knowledge in assessments (Lipowsky, 2015).

The school lockdown confronted teachers, students, and parents with an entirely new situation (Huber and Helm 2020). Continued teaching and learning was only possible through alternative means of schooling. Teachers had to change to online teaching, requiring them to use various digital tools and resources to solve problems and implement new approaches to teaching and learning (Eickelmann and Gerick 2020). Colleges of education especially meant for imparting education to B.Ed. Students (Teacher trainees) are also confronted the challenge of Covid-19.

This study covers the teacher trainees of Govt. College of Education, Jammu, to use electronic resources and different aspects of their usage.

2. Govt. College of Education, Jammu.

The Government College of Education Jammu established in 1954, has been constantly moving forward. It is the only government educational institution imparting teacher education in Jammu region. The college offers B.Ed and M.Ed (02 year) courses with the intake capacity of 200 and 29 respectively. Three year B.Ed-M.Ed integrated course after P.G has been started this year.

Right from its inception the college has been a hub of academic, socio-cultural and intellectual activities. It always stood strong and high to prepare its stakeholders to embrace broad educational outlook and is striving hard towards excellence both in human resource development and infrastructure. The college as a team consists of staff and students along with other stakeholders. It upholds itself as a model to impart social values besides teaching learning process. It is rendering excellent service to the cause of student's community in general and the cause of women empowerment in particular by marking its presence on the boards of merit in the university examination results, co-curricular activities and sports. Now, it is a constituent college of Cluster University Jammu. The college provides ample opportunities to its students to identify and explore their talents in the areas of interest through in house competitions and also in other institutions. The students are encouraged to become members of various clubs and students bodies. The J&K state with its diversities of all shades and colours, considers the requirement of the students and thus provides platform for constant interaction between the students and the faculty working in various colleges and universities for growth of higher education. The college encourages sharing of facilities and infrastructure to other organisation viz. University examinations, IGNOU, BOPEE, PSC, UPSC, SSC, RRB, Bank and other examinations conducted by the government agencies. It also facilitates the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes, provides trainings and thereby enriches the fiduciary relationship between teacher and taught leading to growth of the society. (<http://www.gcoedu.in/>,2021).

2.1 Govt. College of Education , Library

The History of B.Ed. college library dates back to 1954 with the inception of Teacher Training School which now is renamed as "Govt. College of Education". Society can develop and move in the right direction to become a knowledge society when teachers are provided with the quality content for imparting it to others. The five laws of library science put forth by Shri. S.R. Ranga Nathan, (father of library science) for information dissemination is justified when these are compiled:

1. Information is for use.
2. Every user his or her information.
3. Every piece of information its user.
4. Save the time of the information user.
5. The universe of information is ever growing.

The college library has educational as well as general collection pertaining to disciplines such as, Social Science, Science, Art of Teaching, Technology, Literature, History and Geography. It has a good collection of Reference books such as, Encyclopedias, Biographies, Yearbooks,

Gazetteers, Directories, Atlases, Journals, Proceedings, Lectures and Dictionaries. The library has local as well as National Newspapers, Magazines, Dissertations and Teaching Aids. The Library has also setup a Career Corner & has procured books related to Competitive exams for the students who wish to appear in various Competitive examinations. The Library is subscribing to various magazines and daily newspapers. In this electronic era the library has also subscribed e-journals through N-List (National library and information services infrastructure of scholarly content) project of INFLIBNET, Ahmadabad, an Initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Under the NME-ICT now funded by UGC, as college component under UGCINFONET Digital Library Consortium. Under this project the college faculty has been provided the username and password to access the e-journals on database of N-List project. (<https://www.gcoedu.in/lib.php,2021>)

2.2 Electronic Journals and Electronic Books service

The Library provides the service of electronic resources for the teacher trainees. Library is annually subscribing 6,000 e-journals and 135,000 e-books through INFLIBNET under N-List Program. The college library is subscribing to the following e-resources for the teacher trainees. Library has distributed Users ID and passwords among the teacher trainees to access all e-journals and e-books from the library computer or any computer/laptop/mobile/ipad outside the library.

3. Review of Literature

Review of literature is important as it shows the originality and relevance of any research problem. It is imperative for every research topic to have a sound review of literature related the research topic. The studies which are related to the present study are as under:

Amritpal Kaur (2006) conducted a study about use of e-resources at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Results of the survey revealed that the respondents use e-resources mostly for their research/project work. The problem faced by most of the respondents is slow speed of internet for accessing e-resources. The survey shows that e-resources are preferred due to various parameters of the qualities like, 'time saving', 'easy to use', 'more informative', and 'more useful'.

A survey was conducted by Khan and Ahmad (2009) at the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), they examined the level of awareness and use of e-journals by the researchers of. The survey revealed that most of the research scholars are aware

about the availability of e-journals and largely use them for reference purposes in their research work. The respondents fully agree that with the use of e-journals, the quality of research work improved at large extent. Researchers also found that lack of training is the obstacle in the proper and optimum utilization of e-journals.

An e-survey was conducted by Gupta (2010) on the use pattern of print and electronic journals at the Kurukshetra University. The e-survey revealed that the respondents are more attracted towards e-journals than printed journals. However, they depend more on open-source materials than those available through UGC-Infonet. Respondents also identify the need of training in use of e-resources and retrieve information from them from time-to-time.

Ansari (2010) found that majority of users use both electronic and printed resources, or only printed resources but electronic resources are used for research and for preparation of lectures. Nearly all respondents were satisfied or quite satisfied with the available resources but they consider them as less reliable due to lack of knowledge and training facilities for using electronic resources.

Salahudheen, Shibu and Anas (2011) stated in their study that majority of the respondents are aware of e-journals for different purposes like study, updating knowledge, thesis and dissertation works. The medical college library in AMU subscribes a large number of e-journals and provides access facilities to their users. The awareness of respondents about e-journals is quite impressive but their awareness regarding e-journal/ consortia pertaining to medical field is comparatively not up to the mark.

Bhatia (2011) revealed in his study that the internet has attracted the attention of the users as an easy source for accessing information and e-resources as is evident from her study. However, she also verified that only a sizeable number of users could frequently seek information from e-resources. Most of the users access e-resources for updating their knowledge on their respective subjects and for academic assignments. He suggested that college library should organise awareness-cum-training programmes to educate the users on seeking information from e-resources and to maximize the use of library resources and services.

A user survey was conducted by Gill (2012) at Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) libraries in Delhi. The survey reveals that e-journals play a major role in information dissemination process. The survey examined that almost all the users of ICMR libraries are well aware of the available e-journals at their institutional library and they are using e-journals for their research needs.

Habiba and Chowdhury (2012) confirmed in his study that a large number of e-resources are made available in Dhaka University Library (DUL), but lacks infrastructure facilities & trained professionals. Therefore, DUL should arrange more training programmes for users, appoint trained professionals with ICT skills and accommodated users opinions on subscribing new e-journals.

Adeniran (2013), study reveals that the use of electronic resources had great impact on the academic performance of the undergraduate students of Redeemer's University. However, there was a need for the users to acquire more computer based skills in the use of electronic resources.

A study was conducted by Parveen (2014) at university of Lucknow, the study shows that UGC INFONET Consortium having a positive impact and the study enable the respondents to express their satisfaction level and their aspiration for further improvements. The findings revealed that the authorities of University of Lucknow need to ensure that the user awareness and training programmes at departmental level should be conducted on regular intervals.

Padma (2014) conducted the study to trace out the awareness and use of various social networking sites by the teacher trainees and postgraduate students of Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. The study reveals that 86% of the students are aware of Facebook, followed by Twitter. Most of the respondents use internet browsing centers to access social networking sites.

Okite-Amughoro, Makgahlela and Bopape (2014) conducted a study, they mentioned in their study that despite the availability of electronic information resources (EIR), the postgraduate (PG) students at Delta State University, Araka, lacked training on how to use EIR efficiently and effectively for their research. Furthermore, the authors stated that user Education programmes, orientation and training on the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and how to access the various e-resources/databases should be extended to newly- registered students (as cited in Imsong and Kharbudon, 2016)

A study was conducted by Ravinder (2015) at the Sri Krishnadevaraya University library. The study highlights the problems encountered in accessing the UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium by the research scholars. This study reveals that the major problems faced by the users in accessing e-consortium is lack of training and proper orientation. The investigator suggested that orientation programmes be conducted from time to time by the university to provide training in the use of e-journals and the infrastructure facilities be enhanced for the best utilization of UGC-Infonet e-journals.

Lallaisangzuali (2015) conducted a study at Mizoram University, Aizawal. Study aims to explore the status of information literacy of postgraduate students and teacher trainees and their information-seeking skills and ability to acquire and use information effectively. The finding reveals that the majority of the postgraduate students and teacher trainees used library catalogue materials. All the respondents prefer to get their information both in print and electronic form.

A study was conducted by Akussah, Asante and Adu-Sarkodee (2015) the study reveals that all the four constructs (satisfaction level, preferred database, time & frequency, and level of awareness) of the electronic resources indicated a significant positive relationship with usage among the users. The authors recommended that the institution should adopt more dynamic marketing strategies in order to inform and create awareness of existing electronic resources, which can include fresh student's orientation, faculty seminars, mailing list to users, circulars, selective dissemination of information (SDI) services for their users.

Phuapan et.al (2016) conducted a study on information literacy skills among Thai University Seniors. The researchers sought to determine which digital skills were most important in using digital technology, communications tools and networks to access, control, merge, assess, generate and communicate. It was determined that the ability to evaluate was the most important skill indicator in the development of information literacy.

Adeleke and Emeahara (2016) conducted a study in University of Ibadan, the study revealed that the low level of usage of e-resources, among postgraduate (PG) students need to be more competent in using communication technologies, including computers and associated skills such as desktop publishing, database management, programming, and web page design to navigate in an electronic environment. Significant relationship between information literacy skills and use of electronic information resources was established from result of the findings. It is evident that PG students need to acquire information literacy skills and improve the quality of their academic and research work.

4. Objectives of the study

The study aims to achieve the following objectives with respect to the teacher trainees:

- To know the awareness of ICT among teacher trainees.
- To find out the users preference of different modes of information resources.
- To find out importance & accessibility of e-resources for teacher trainees.
- To know the satisfaction level of teacher trainees regarding e-resources.

- To know about the formal training aspects for teacher trainees to use of electronic resources.

5. Scope of the Study

The present study will cover the teacher trainees of the Govt. College of Education, Jammu, and will focus on their satisfaction and usage aspects about e-resources provided by the college library.

6. Research Methodology

In this study, the questionnaire method was used for data collection. The study covers different aspects of the teacher trainees while using electronic resources provided by the college library. A self-constructed questionnaire was prepared and distributed among 180 teacher trainees. Out of 180 questionnaires 148 questionnaires were received back for evaluation. The response is visible in the table mentioned below.

User Status	Questionnaires Distribution among Teacher Trainees	Questionnaires Received back from Teacher Trainees	Response percentage (%)
Number of Teacher Trainees	180	148	82.22 %

7. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data collected through the questionnaires shows how many teacher trainees of Govt. College of Education actually use e-resources and are satisfied in different aspects of the e-resource services provided by the college library.

Table 1: Awareness of ICT

Awareness	Teacher Trainees	Percentage
Fully Aware	48	32.44
Aware	86	58.10
Partially Aware	14	9.46
Not Aware	0	0
Total	148	100%

Table 1 shows that 58.10% teacher trainees are fully aware about ICT, 32.44% are aware about ICT, while there are no members who are not aware about ICT.

Table 2: Usage Preference

Preference	Teacher Trainees	Percentage
Online Resources	22	14.87
Printed Resource	40	27.02
Both online & Printed	74	50.00
Verbal	12	8.11
Gesture	0	0
Total	148	100%

Table 2 shows that 14.87% of the teacher trainees prefer online sources and 27.02% prefers Printed resources, while 50 % prefer both print and online sources and only 8.11 % prefers verbal lectures.

Table 3: Preference of sources

Accessibility	Teacher Trainees	Percentage
Teacher	24	16.21
Friend	14	9.46
Library	22	14.88
Family	06	4.05
Internet	82	55.40
Total	148	100%

Table 3 shows that majority of 55.40% teacher trainees prefer to get information from internet, While 16.21 % prefer teachers, 14.88% prefer library, 9.46 % prefer friends and only 4.05 % prefer family members.

Table 4: Accessibility of e-resources (24x7).

Accessibility	Teacher Trainees	Percentage
Yes	112	75.68
No	36	24.32
Total	148	100%

Table 4 shows that 75.68% teacher trainees enjoying 24 x 7 accessibility to the e-resources while 24.32 % not agreed with 24x7 accessibility of e-resources.

Table 5: Importance of e-resources

Importance	Teacher Trainees	Percentage
Very Important	64	43.24
Important	72	48.64
Not Important	02	1.35
Not Very Important	10	6.77
Total	148	100%

Table 5 shows that 48.64% teacher trainees consider e-resources very important part of their learning process, 43.24% admit important, 1.35 0% consider e-resources not important and 6.77% consider it not very important.

Table 6: Interest in e-resources

Area of Interest	Teacher Trainees	Percentage
Yes	136	91.89
No	12	8.11
Total	148	100%

Table 6 shows that 91.89% teacher trainees show their interest in e-resources while only 8.11% do not show interest in using e-resources.

Table 7: Formal training to access e-resources.

Received formal training	Teacher Trainees	Percentage
Strongly Agree	58	39.19
Agree	75	50.68
Undecided	12	8.10
Disagree	03	2.03
Strongly disagree	00	0
Total	148	100%

Table 7 shows that 50.68% of teacher trainees strongly agree for receiving formal training to access e-resources, while 39.19 agree for the same. 8.10% of teacher trainees undecided for receiving formal training to access e-resources, while 2.03 disagree for receiving formal training to access e-resources.

Table 8: Availability of e-resources subscribed by college library.

Quantity	Teacher Trainees	Percentage
Very Highly Satisfied	32	21.62
Highly Satisfied	44	29.74
Satisfied	62	41.89
Low	8	5.40
Dissatisfied	02	1.35
Total	148	100%

Table 8 shows that 21.62% teacher trainees are very highly satisfied with the quantity of available e-resources subscribed by college library, 29.74% highly satisfied , 41.89% are satisfied with the quantity of available e-resources subscribed by college library , while 5.40 % are low satisfied and 1.35 % are dissatisfied with the quantity of available e-resources subscribed by college library.

Table 9 : Multi-search approaches.

Satisfied with Search Approach	Teacher Trainees	Percentage
Yes	114	77.03
No	34	22.97
Total	148	100%

Table 9 shows that 77.03% of teacher trainees are satisfied with the multi-search approach are availability to access e-resources relevant to their query, while 22.97% are not satisfied.

Table 10: Requirement of training to use e-resources .

Training is Required	Teacher Trainees	Percentage
Strongly Agree	141	95.27
Agree	7	4.73
Undecided	0	0

Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	148	100%

Table 10 shows 95.27% of teacher trainees are strongly agreed that training is required to use e-resources, while 4.73% are agree for requirement of training to use e-resources.

Table 11: Quality of material in e-resources.

High Quality Material in e-resources.	Teacher Trainees	Percentage
Yes	116	78.38
No	32	21.62
Total	148	100%

Table 11 shows that 78.38% teacher trainees admit that the usage of e-resources provide high quality material, while 21.62% admit that there are no high quality material available through e-resources.

8. Findings of the Study.

- This study shows that majority of teacher trainees are aware about e-resources available in the library.
- Majority of teacher trainees prefer both online & printed resources for their teaching learning process.
- Majority of teacher trainees prefer both online & printed resources for their teaching learning process.
- Teacher trainees are satisfy with 24×7 accessibility to e-resources.
- Teacher trainees feel that e-resources play very important part for their teaching learning process.
- Majority of teacher trainees are satisfied with e-resources availability/subscribed by college library.
- Teacher trainees want to get proper guidance or training to use e-resources frequently.

9. Conclusion

The Govt. College of Education, Library is providing a large number of e-resources for the teacher trainees that are very important for their teaching and learning process. Teacher trainees feel that e-resources are beneficial for their teaching learning process and they get relevant quality material from various e-resources. Teacher trainees need proper training to use e-resources adequately, therefore library should assure their demands put before the authorities and fruitful results will be come out, so that students can easily access e-resources 24X7 at any geographical location during the Covid-19 period.

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