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# **Open Access Scholarly Resources: Awareness and Use among Research Scholars**

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## **Abstract**

This study analyses the awareness and use of open access scholarly resources by research scholars of Bangalore University. A total 97 research scholars are selected from Bangalore University. A structure Questionnaire used as tool to collect the primary data. The results show that most research scholars 92.7% are aware and use of open access scholarly resources. The study also revealed that majority of the research scholars 61.85% used OA journals. Comparatively less percentage of research scholars used E-books 46.39% , The study also found that 47.42% of research scholars used open access resources Daily and 30.92% respondent used open access resources weekly. The study results revealed that majority of research scholars 67.01% used open access scholarly resources for research work, whereas 62.88% of them used it to publish articles.it clear from the study that the usage of open access journals is high among the various types of open access scholarly resources by the research scholars of Bangalore University.

**Keywords:** Open Access scholarly resources, Research scholars, Awareness

## **Introduction**

Open Access Resources (OARs) have proved to be a boon for the researchers and academicians in this era when the libraries are undergoing a financial crunch. Moreover, the prices of the resources are also increasing day by day. Oren (2008) jotted down that the system of scholarly publishing is not sustainable; consequently, the libraries are not able to keep up with the annual price increments. However, the university libraries are not able to procure most of the important contents for their users which especially affect the researchers as the research is based on the investigations already done or published. Though, this is a point of consideration whether the open access resources fulfil the requirements of the researchers or the plethora of information distracts them from their target research. According to Suber(2007) Open Access removes “price barriers and permission barriers to royalty-free literature making them available with “minimal use restrictions .

Open Access Resources are available in various forms and types such as e- journals, e-books, Electronic Theses & Dissertations, Directories, e-print archives, digital repositories, open education resources, search engines and blogs etc. All these resources are scholarly and useful to support of academic and research work. Open Access Resources are research materials have been made available to the general public, free of charge: data and datasets, books and articles, including scholarly research articles. The present study has been taken to know the use of open access scholarly resources by research scholars of Bangalore University.

## **Review of Literature**

Bala (2018) conducted a survey in Punjab agriculture university, Ludhiana on open access resources awareness among researchers. the study found that half of the(50.60%) respondent used e-newspapers', while (36.14%) of the respondents used theses. only (25.30%) used e-books and research reports. the study noticed that (39.76) respondent were used e-books and research work.34.94% used open access resources to update their knowledge and 9.64% used for other educational purposes. 25.30% respondents came to know about open access from the internet and 13.25% from the library staff, 7.23% respondents were aware from conference, / seminar, workshop.

Sumadevi S (2019) this study explore the awareness and use of open access scholarly publications by faculty members of Karnataka State university in India. A total 556 faculty members are selected from 11 Universities in Karnataka state. The result indicated that most science faculty members 98.56% are aware and use of open access scholarly publications. The study also revealed that majority of the science faculty members 62.95% used OA journals, the study results revealed that the majority of faculty members 56.47% used OA for research work.it clear from the study that the usage of open access journals is high among the various types of open access scholarly publications by the science faculty members irrespective of their age and designation in the various universities Karnataka state.

Kerala Ashraf (2017) conducted a study on scholarly use of open access resources among research scholars in University of Calicut. The result of the survey revealed that most the research scholars in science discipline were aware of Open Access concept, while research scholars in Social science 97.23% are aware of it. Majority 87.1% of Humanities and Language research scholars were aware of Open Access concept. Majority 90.3% of research scholars were aware of open access scholarly communication. open access search engine. whereas 89% of research scholars used OA resources.

Kaba and Said (2015) in their study found that faculty members possess a good knowledge and a positive perception of OA resources. They frequently use OA resources for teaching, learning and research activities. Faculty members with a high level of awareness or use are found to have a highly positive perception of OA resources.

Botswana and Nsala (2015) in a study entitled 'The Awareness of Academic Librarians towards Open Access Resources to Support Reference Services: A case of private institutions of higher learning in Gaborone, Botswana' reported that out of 12 academic librarians, only 4 were aware of the open access sources. About 50% respondents updated their awareness on open access by reading current professional literature. Authors recommended that Botswana Library Association and Botswana Consortium can improve academic librarian's awareness and knowledge of open access through continuous advocacy programs and training

## **Objectives**

- To know the awareness and use of open access scholarly resources among research scholars of Bangalore university
- To know the use of various types of open access scholarly resources among research scholars of Bangalore university
- Find out the frequency of use of open access resources among research scholars

- To ascertain the purpose and benefits of using open access scholarly resources by research scholars of Bangalore university

## Methodology

To collect the data for the study, survey methodology is used. For collection of the data structured questionnaire was distributed among the research scholars of Bangalore university. The questionnaire was distributed to the registered research scholars (full time). the questionnaire was distributed to all the research scholars. Out of 110 research scholars, 97 have responded. The total responses received for the study is 88.1%.

### Population size

No. of Questionnaire distributed	Total No. of filled-in questionnaire received	Percentage of responses (%)
110	97	88.1

## Analysis and Interpretation of Data

**Table 2 Gender wise distribution of respondents**

Sl. No	Gender	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Male	62	63.9
2	Female	35	36.0
	Total	100	100

The data summarized in the table 2 presents the Gender wise distribution of respondents.it shows that 63.9% of the respondents are male and 36 % of the respondents are female.

**Table 3 Awareness and use of open access scholarly resources**

Responses	Frequency	percentage
Aware and use	90	92.7
Aware but not used	7	5.83
Total	97	100

Table 3 shows that most of the research scholars 92.7% are aware and used open access scholarly resources. However, 5,83% only of research scholars are aware of open access scholarly resources but they have not used them.

**Table 4 Usage of various types of Open Access scholarly Resources**

Open Access scholarly resources(n=97)	Always	Often	Some times	Rarely	Never
Journal Articles	60 (61.85%)	13 (13.40%)	10 (10.30%)	9 (9.27%)	5 (5.15%)
E-books	45 (46.39%)	21 (21.64%)	16 (16.49%)	8 (8.24%)	7 (7.21%)
Research reports	55 (56.70%)	15 (15.46%)	12 (12.37%)	9 (9.27%)	6 (6.18%)
Thesis and Dissertations	47	18	13	10	9

	(48.45%)	(18.55%)	(13.40%)	(10.30%)	(9.27%)
Conference proceedings	40 (43.95%)	13 (13.40%)	25 (25.77%)	10 (10.30%)	9 (9.27%)
Audio/video lectures	38 (39.17%)	15 (15.46%)	27 (27.83%)	6 (6.18%)	11 (11.34%)
E-newspapers	43 (44.32%)	12 (12.37%)	24 (24.74%)	15 (15.46%)	3 (3.09%)

Table 4 shows that use of Open Access scholarly resources among research scholars. It evident that majority of the research scholars 61.85% used Open Access Journals. Comparatively less percentage of research scholars used E-books 46.39%, followed by 55.70% research reports, 48.45% thesis and dissertations, 43.95% conference proceedings, 39.17% Audio/ video lectures, 44.32% E-newspapers, It also found that 3% of research scholars never used E-newspapers.

**Table 5 Frequency of usage of the Open access scholarly resources**

Frequency (n=97)	Frequency	percentage
Daily	46	47.42
Weekly	30	30.92
Once in a month	10	10.30
Occasionally	7	7.21
Never	4	4.12

Table 5 shows that 47.42% of the respondents used Open Access scholarly resources Daily. Followed 30,92% respondent used Weekly, 10.30% respondents used once in a month, 7.21% respondent used Occasionally and 4.12 % respondents never used open access scholarly resources.

**Table 6 Purpose of Using Open Access scholarly Resources**

Purpose	Always	Often	Some times	Rarely	Never
For course work	55 (56.70%)	15 (15.46%)	13 (13.40%)	9 (9.27%)	5 (5.15%)
Research work	65 (67.01%)	11 (11.34%)	14 (14.43%)	4 (4.12%)	3 (3.09%)
Publishing articles	61(62.88%)	13(13.40%)	11(11.34%)	9(9.27%)	3(3.09%)
For conference /seminar presentation	45 (46.39%)	17 (17.52%)	15 (15.46%)	16 (16.49%)	4 (4.12%)
Updating subject knowledge	50 (51.54%)	20 (20.61%)	11 (11.34%)	9 (9.27%)	7 (7.21%)
Other academic activities	47 (48.45%)	14 (14.43%)	20 (20.61%)	6 (6.18%)	10 (10.30%)

The data presented in the Table -6 indicated that the purpose of using open access scholarly resources by research scholars. The study revealed that the majority of research scholars 67.01% used Open access for research work., whereas 62.88% respondents used open access to published articles, followed by 56.70% respondents used open access resources to for course

work, 51.54% respondents used open access resources for updating subject knowledge, 46.39% respondents used for conference /seminar presentations and 48.45% respondents used open access resources for other academic activities. The study revealed that majority of the research scholars used open access resources for research work, and to publish articles.

**Table 8 Benefits of Using Open Access scholarly Resources**

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
Available Free of cost	70 (72.16%)	10 (10.30%)	9 (9.27%)	5 (5.15%)	3 (3.09%)
Saves time	77 (79.38%)	8 (8.24%)	7 (7.21%)	3 (3.09%)	2 (2.06%)
Ease of access	80 (82.47%)	10 (10.30%)	5 (5.15%)	0	2 (2.06%)
Able to get all information at one place	72 (74.22%)	15 (15.95%)	7 (7.21%)	2 (2.06%)	1 (1.03%)

Table 8 shows that 82.47% research scholars used open access resources for ease of access, followed by 79.38% respondents used open access resource for saves time, 72.16% respondents used open access resources for available free of cost and 74.22% respondents used open access resources for able to get all information at one place.

### **Findings of the Study**

- The study explored that most of the research scholars 92.7% aware and used open access scholarly resources, whereas only 5.83% are not used the open access scholarly resources.
- Among the various types of open access scholarly resources majority 61.85% of the research scholars used open access journals. Comparatively less percentage of research scholars used open access e-books, conference proceedings, thesis /dissertations, reports, e-newspapers.
- The study found that 47.42% of research scholars used open access resources Daily and 30.92% respondent used open access resources weekly.
- The study also found that majority of research scholars 67.01% used open access scholarly resources for research work, whereas 62.88% of them used it to publish articles.
- The study also found that majority of research scholars 82.47 % used open access scholarly resources for ease of access, whereas 74.22% respondents used open access scholarly resources for able to get all information at one place.

### **Suggestions**

Based on the above findings it is recommendations that University libraries need to encourage their users to use open access resources. Librarians may promote open access among its users through organizations various programmes on open access. To conducting Open Access Week every year during 24-30 November.

## **Conclusion**

The use of open access resources is boosting up due to the easy availability and convenience on the part of the users. In today's networked environment ICTs are playing a vital role in acquiring, processing, storing, retrieving and disseminating of information and it has influenced libraries to equip themselves with techno trend along with user's approaches and their requirements, to achieve the ultimate objectives of the libraries by providing right information to the right readers at the right time. The present study has evidenced that, there is need for user training program to educate its users to use and access the open access information resources which are available in the internet platform for free of cost.

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