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Effect of library training on usage of E-databases by students and teaching faculty in private Higher Educational University.

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Abstract:

Libraries are vital in providing academic and research resources to the students and faculty working in various universities. The benefits of using e- databases are immense as these resources can be easily accessed anywhere on the educational campus or at home. Therefore, most higher academic universities facilitate e- databases and make them centrally available to their scholars. Conducting periodical training programs on the usage of e- databases is found essential. The study's objectives are to assess the effect of a library training program on the use of centrally subscribed online databases. The researcher has adopted a case study design to implement the study. The samples were the teaching staff, undergraduate (3rd and 4th year BSc students), postgraduate, and Ph.D. scholars. About 300 samples were recruited by using a random stratified sampling technique. The user's data was collected from Koha software. A survey research method was executed to gather information regarding the barriers to not using the various E- databases. A structured questionnaire was administered to collect the problems faced by the non-users of databases. Out of 20 e- databases, most of them were subscribed in the year 2015and 2019. Before piloting the training program, some of the databases were never used. Largely 47 % to 58 % of participants have got into only Turnitin and Scopus databases. Following the training program, about 73 % to 92 % of the participants retrieved Scopus and Turnitin databases for their research activities. From the current study, it is manifestly unspoken that periodical library training programs are crucial to making the fresher aware of the usage and availability of databases in the library.

Keywords: Library training; usage of E-databases; Barriers – not using e databases.

1. **Introduction:**

The university plays a crucial role in providing required library resources to the students, scholars, and teaching faculty to enhance the teaching and research activities. The libraries of

universities and concerned institutes provide extensive support to the users in extending knowledge information. These days, the universities render the services as a research center; they are more specific to discovering new knowledge, extending immense efforts to bred the intellectuality and scientific workforce. They believe the success of any university depends on the resources, particularly databases available to the students, faculty, and scholars. The libraries' primary function is to satisfy the users by meeting scientific demands with adequate intellectual information. (F.J. Klaib, 2011)

The library needs to be aware of the demands of the users in pertaining to their knowledge acquisition. Universities spend a lot of budgetary resources to procure various library recourses for the users. But, if the users do not utilize them, those resources will be impractical. The library should conduct periodical training programs for users. Thus it helps them to understand the knowledge requirement of the users. These training programs make the users understand the kind of resources available at the library and the process of accessing them for their academic usage. (A. Jessy, K. Sivananda Bhat,M. Rao 2016)

In traditional days, the main task of the library was to own and store the printed resources and issue this material to the users. However, the various databases are replacing the olden library practice by their easy accessibility and availability to the users. Today, these E- databases play an important role as information resources to the libraries. The databases consist of most indexed and abstracted journals in the form of e- bibliographic catalogs and information repossession systems. Through computers, the users can rapidly reach and retrieve information. (Atarodi, A,Alami,A.& Saeedi, S.J.G.M. 2015)

The universities have realized the benefits of e- databases' usage. The subscription cost for the printed resources was identified as high compared to the price incurred to procure the electronic databases. Thus, today, the Universities part a lot of capital budgetary provision to subscribe E- databases and make them centrally available to the students studying in various institutes or departments of that specific university. However, libraries need to perform periodic surveys to find out the obstacles in accessing these databases. The libraries need to provide training on the usage process of every database available to the users. (Goldman, C., Turnbow, D., Roth, A., Friedman, L., & Heskett, K. 2016).

The researchers noticed that users tend to use only a limited number of electronic databases. It seems to be due to a lack of awareness regarding accessing and availability of databases other than the commonly available resources. The main impediment for inappropriately using databases is a lack of training and information regarding the process of usage of the database. Therefore, the present investigator has surveyed whether the training programs are helped to enhance the awareness among the users in using databases available in the university.

Objectives of the study:

1. To assess the effect of library induction training programs on the usage of centrally subscribed online databases.
2. To find out the commonly used databases by the various categories of the students and faculty
3. To find out the barriers for not using the various E- databases

Research questions:

1. What are the frequently used online databases in the library?
2. What is the effect of library induction training on the usage of online databases?
3. What are the problems experienced by the users for not using the e- databases?

2. **Literature Review:**

Usage of library resources:

These days, the library has become the busy data resourced center, the information is available in prepacked formats for the benefit of the users. These library resources are sufficiently available in-depth, number, excellence, miscellany, and currency to support the curriculum of the institute. Thus, the library of the institute is a crucial academic resource center of seminary formation.

According to Khan (2016), Libraries have transformed into digital and virtual libraries, which has augmented the global dissemination of information. According to Murugan (2019), students and teaching staff use the resources of the library frequently for their speculative and research work.

Effect of a library orientation program to the fresher:

Many studies have highlighted the importance of conducting induction training programs on using library resources available in the institutes. Because of these training programs, there is strong evidence that students and faculty perform quality research and academic work. According to Kline and Rod (1984), the library orientation program bid the newly joined students with library resources and information regarding study skills and the integrity of the academics that makes their scientific pursuit effective. According to Hindagolla (2012), even though universities offer various resources to their users, most of them are not aware of the resources available in the library due to the lack of library induction training programs. Bhatti (2010) stated that library orientation program active connects with naturally learning techniques and lifelong learning. Library orientation is essential to act that plays a crucial role in enhancing the usage of library resources by library users. The library orientation consists of how to use the library resources and guidance on how to use the various tools with demonstration instructional methodology to the students.

Bleidt (2011) mentioned that if the libraries of the institutions conduct the orientation programs regarding the use of online databases, the student's performance in the academics and research area will be improved. In addition to this, Oakleaf (2011) stated that library induction programs help students achieve grade point average (GPA) and gain a good score in their academics.

Omeluzor (2017) opined that the library orientation program aims to provide sufficient information to the user's apropos availability of the resources in the institutional library. It needs to ensure that these resources are used by them effectively. In addition, he mentioned that the libraries in the future not merely digitalize the assortments, but relatively it is just about providing, inspiring, and enacting original kind of education happenstances.

Barriers to not using the various E- databases:

Over the last 20 years, there is no sign of abating in enhancing the technological diversity in accessing the academic data from the e databases. It displays a significant requirement in acquiring computer skills in accessing information from the e-databases. These barriers are associated with availability good number of e – resources, availability of e books and journals, increased cost of books and journals, and the policies drawn by the university in using library resources.

O'Dell, F. & Preston, H. mentioned about the factors associated with non-using library resources by staff working in the hospitals. There is a significant gap noticed between the perception of users apropos the readiness of resources in library and the definitive services provided by the library. Health Libraries Group (2016) opined that every user had problems in accessing information from e-database. A few users had issues in accessing online databases even after receiving some sort of training. Accessing charges were repeatedly found as a primary barrier in obtaining information. Another important barrier was universally cited for not obtaining the information from online databases is insufficient time to learn on how to use the databases.

3. **Research methodology:**

The researcher has adopted a case study design to execute the study in this research. The samples were the teaching staff, undergraduates (3rd year and 4th year BSc students), postgraduate, and Ph.D. scholars. The samples were recruited for the study by using random stratified sampling techniques. The participants were further divided, conferring the student's year of the study. In the current study, the size of the population was 1423, and the sample size was 300. At the beginning of the year, a researcher, with the help of librarians and vendors of various databases, provided special training on the databases mentioned above for ten days in September 2021 to the study participants. The researcher has subsequently collected the data regarding the usage of

various databases for three months (Octo2021, Nov 2021, and Dec 2021). Monthly, the user's data was collected from the Koha software. A survey research method was executed to collect the barriers to not using the various E- databases. A structured questionnaire was administered to collect the problems faced by the non-users of databases.
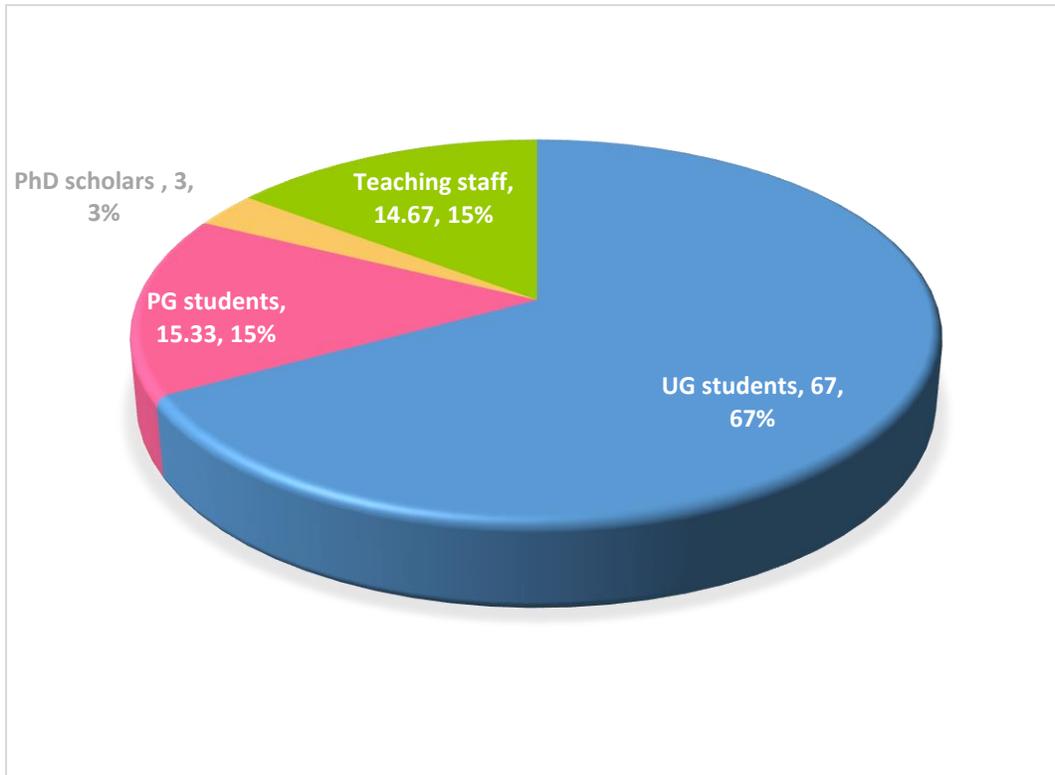
4. **Results:**

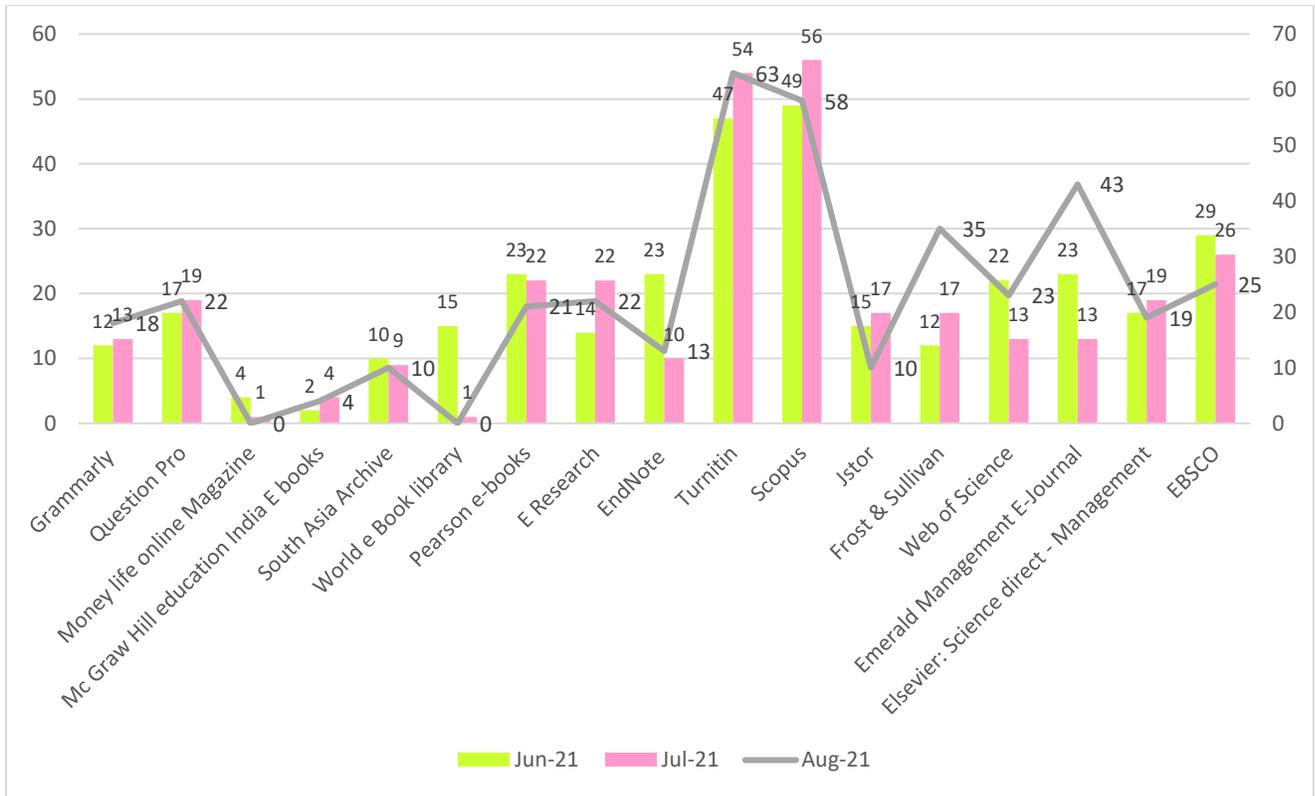**Table 1**: Centrally subscribed E-databases at higher educational deemed university

S.No	No. of e-resources available	Year of the subscription
1.	Grammarly	2018
2.	Nature journal	2017
3.	Videeya	2019
4.	Delnet	2019
5.	Question Pro	2018
6.	Money life online Magazine	2019
7.	Mc Graw Hill education India E books	2019
8.	South Asia Archive	2019
9.	World e Book library	2019
10.	Pearson e-books	2018
11.	E Research	2019
12.	EndNote	2019
13.	Turnitin	2017
14.	Scopus	2015
15.	Jstor	2015
16.	Frost & Sullivan	2015
17.	Web of Science	2019
18.	Emerald Management E-Journal	2015
19.	Elsevier: Science direct - Management	2017
20.	EBSCO	2015

Majority of the databases are subscribed in the year 2015and 2019.

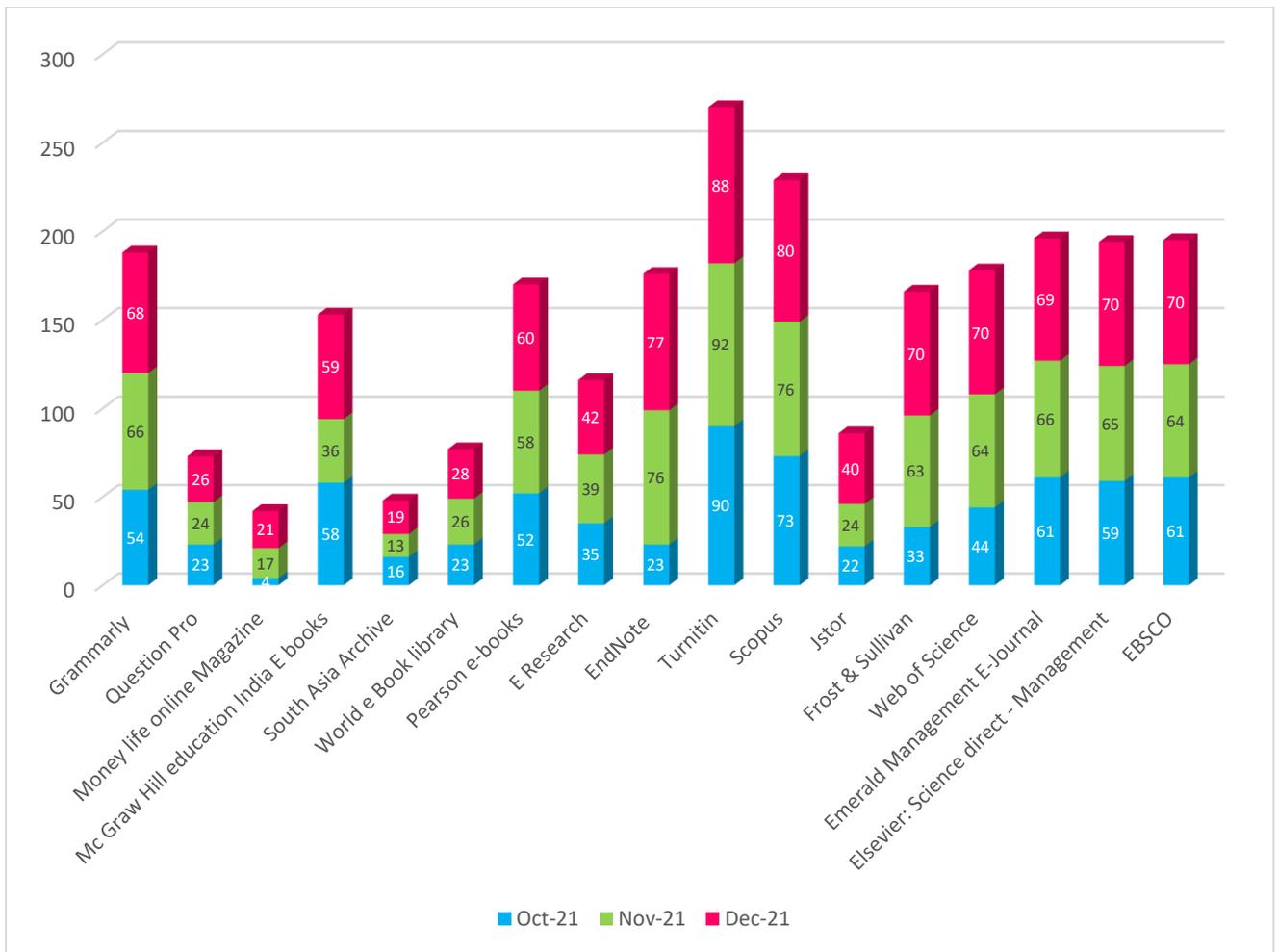**Figure 1 :** Distribution of the samples based on the educational category:

Figure 2 : Usage of E- databases in percentages before training programme :
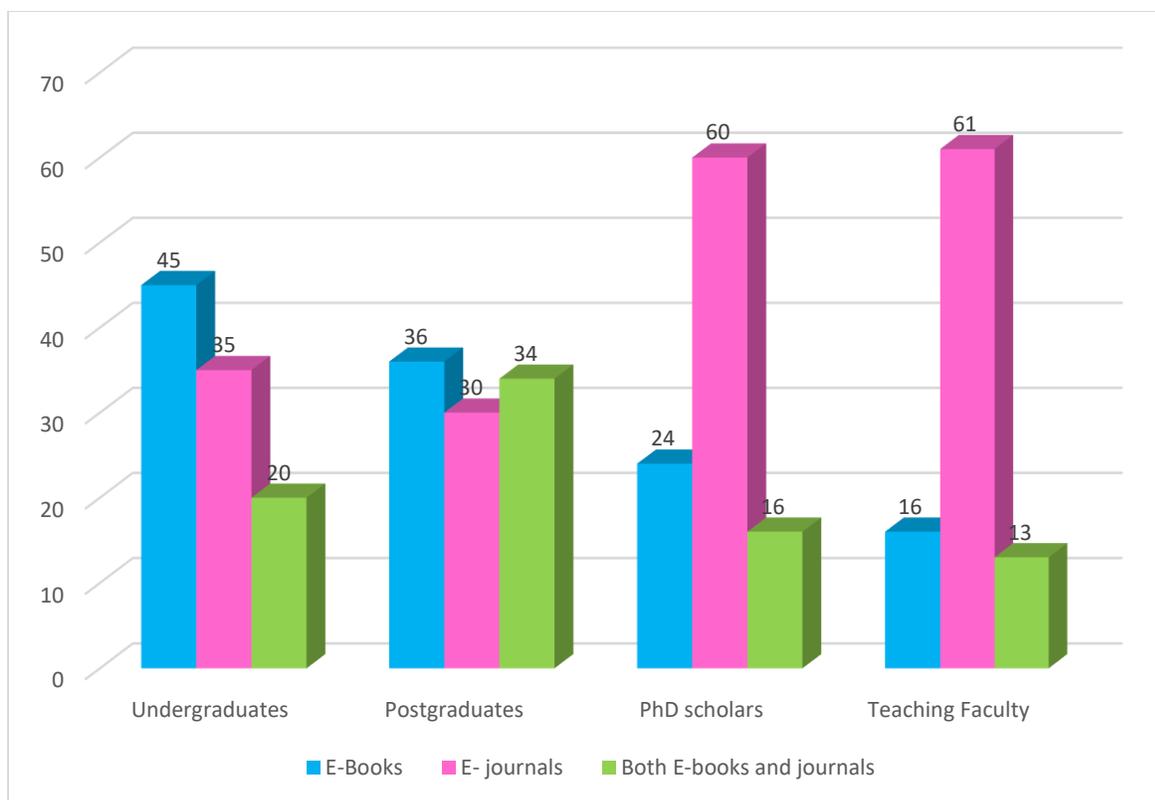
Before piloting the training program, the bulk of the participants had never used some databases, largely 47 % to 58 % of participants have used Turnitin and Scopus databases, followed by emerald management e-journal, which was accessed approximately 13 % to 43 %. The participants did not access the database money life online magazine, Mc Graw hill education India E -books.

Figure 3 : Usage of E databases in percentages after educational training programme :

After appearing training program, a significant variation is observed in refining the use of online databases by the participants. 73 % to 92 % of the participants used the Scopus and Turnitin databases for their research activities. The least number of participants had used the money life online magazine, south Asia archives, and questionPro databases. The current study evidently comprehended that awareness training programs play a vivacious role in civilizing the user's usage of online databases.

Figure 4: Distribution of preferred use of kind of the resources among user groups:

Approximately 60-61 % of respective Ph.D. scholars and teaching faculty started using databases to access the data from e-journals for their research activity. In comparison, 45 % of undergraduates accessed e-books, and around 37 % of the postgraduates accessed the online database to gather the information from the e-journals and e-books.

Table 2 : Barriers for not using the various E- databases in percentages:

Variables	Undergraduates (%)	Postgraduates (%)	PhD scholars (%)	Teaching Faculty (%)
Lack of new information	42	32	12	5
Books and journals are not relevant to the subject	37	45	12	0
Lack of computers available in E- zone	42	44	14	0
Lack of awareness about databases	42	42	10	6

Library staff are incompetent	42	46	0	12
Insufficient bandwidth	56	26	18	0
No updated books and journal	41	53	6	0
Insufficient online journals and books	33	34	33	0
Lack of time	34	34	2	30

About 56 % of the undergraduates reported not having adequate bandwidth to use databases rapidly. In comparison, 42 % of Undergraduates shared their experience that they do not have a sufficient number of computers to use the databases and 42 % of them expressed they have a lack of awareness regarding databases. Teaching faculty and Ph.D. scholars have less number of barriers in using databases

5. **Conclusion:**

From the current study, it is understood that periodical library training programs are significant to make the fresher aware of the usage and availability of databases in the library. The training ensures the students comprehend the typical features of every database. It is noticed that the majority of the institutes customarily conduct library orientation programs to the fresher but essentially, students also prerequisite to be trained about the functions and process of using all databases. Therefore, databases available in the library will be meritoriously utilized by all the students for their academic purpose and help and support the students in enhancing their critical, thoughtful thinking through profound learning.

Recommendation:

- Training on databases must be conducted periodically based on the results of the student's usage of e- databases.
- Recorded videos are essential to be sent to the students through an institutional management system that makes prerequisites accessible all over their course.

- A separate hands-on training program could be arranged so that the students will learn how to search and access resources.

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