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USABILITY OF E-RESOURCES AMONG LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE STUDENTS IN PATNA UNIVERSITY, BIHAR: A STUDY

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Abstract- *The research aims into library science students at Patna University in Bihar's understanding and use of electronic resources and many other relevant topics. In this investigation, the researcher adopted a descriptive strategy. The main objective of the paper is to get an understanding of the use of electronic resources by the library user. Overall, 90 questionnaires were distributed, whereas only 72 were filled and returned as a sample. To collect data from the users, a systematic questionnaire was constructed. The study aimed to determine the users' requirements and level of consciousness and use of electronic resources. According to data, many users were satisfied with infrastructure facilities, required information, or other reasons for using e-resources and services. However, some users could not use the e-resources due to the lack of user education and awareness campaigns, language difficulties, and IT skills and understanding. As a result, libraries should actively launch well-planned user awareness and education initiatives, expand infrastructure, and subscribe to more e-resources.*

Keywords: E-resources, Patna University, Library Science, Technology, Digital Library, Usability.

1. INTRODUCTION

Electronic resources are becoming an increasingly significant part of libraries' collection development efforts. Materials that require computer access, whether via a personal computer, mainframe, or handheld mobile device, are referred to as "electronic resources." An electronic resource is defined as a commercially available resource that requires computer access or any electronic product that gives a collection of data, whether it's text (complete textbases, electronic journals, image collections, and other multimedia goods), numerical, graphical, or a combination of the two, or time-based. In remote regions, electronic resources are readily available. E-resources tackle storage issues and so help to control the deluge of data. We are now living in the Information Age. Information is a never-ending and dynamic resource that impacts all disciplines and walks of life. Electronic resources have become increasingly important components of academic library collections over the last decade. E-resources on magnetic and optical media have a massive impact on university library holdings. These are more useful because of intrinsic capabilities for manipulation and looking out, enabling information access is cheaper to exploit information resources, savings in storage and maintenance, and so forth. Typically, the electronic form is the only alternative. The proliferation of electronic resources has significantly impacted how the education system uses, stores, and preserves information. To meet the growing demand from users for remote access to information, educational libraries now subscribe to electronic information resources including e-books, full-text e-journals, and online list information, to accommodate these resources in their written formats.

WHAT IS AN E-RESOURCE?

An electronic resource is defined as a resource that requires computer access or any electronic product that supplies a bunch of data, be it text bearing on complete textbases, electronic journals, image collections, alternative transmission items, and numerical,

graphical, or time based. These could be transmitted on CD, tape, the internet, and so forth.

ABOUT THE PATNA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Patna University Library was established on September 24, 1919, with a few textbooks purchased with a special grant of Rs. 8000/- from the Lieutenant Governor of Bihar and Orissa. The Patna University Library is currently housed in a three-story structure with 53,250 sq ft entirely dedicated to library activities. Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, the then-chairman of the University Grants Commission in New Delhi, launched the new library building on December 17, 1958. It provides a big reading area for postgraduate and undergraduate students, as well as author, title, and subject periodicals cabinets. Books on Philosophy, Religion, Social Science, Humanities, and Law can be found in the Stack room. The Bachelor of Library & Information Science (BLIS) programme has been offered at this institute since 1981, while the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) programme began in 2012. In addition, the library features a Research Section with about 25000 PhDs. Thesis and dissertations, UNESCO Centre, Acquisition section, and Stack of books on Science themes and bound volumes of periodical works of literature several silver coins dating from the 13th to 14th centuries A.D. have been found. The manuscripts are in good condition and usually draw tourists to Patna University Library. Manuscripts and rare antiquities are a gold mine of information for researchers inside and outside India. The Patna University Library serves approximately 300 people every day. It remains at the heart of academic study and other endeavours. It is now going toward modernization, digitization, and automation.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Anupam Mitra (2020) outlines the findings of a study conducted during COVID-19 to identify E-resources' Challenges and Opportunities. The study discusses the various obstacles that e-resource users encounter and the edutech options available locally and worldwide in a universal library. Due to the worldwide COVID-19 epidemic in 2020, e-resources will be heavily exploited. All stakeholders have understood the obstacles and

promising future potential accessible in this subject in e-resources. Users will have to cope with the new growing digital world and devise the best possible ways and methods for managing these resources efficiently and effectively for enhanced availability and accessibility, providing convenient and comfortable use while overcoming all obstacles.

Saman Girakaduwa (2019) evaluates and analyses the usage of electronic resources, services, and challenges library users face in the University of the Visual and performing arts (VPA), Sri Lanka. In light of these findings, it proposed that librarians heighten e-resources and services, infrastructure facilities, user education and user awareness programs, communication skills, IT skills and knowledge. Accordingly, the library should play an active role by commencing well-planned user awareness programs and more user education programs, developing infrastructure facilities and subscribing to more e-resources.

J.Kavithanjali (2019) investigated the information about e-resources: their importance, types, issues and challenges: an analysis. The purpose of this research paper is to obviously and effectively divulge the extent, types, problems and difficulties of E-Resources. They were ruling over the modern digital library system, which is triumphantly holding a grip and control over library users enjoying almost absolute freedom in terms of accessibility and adaptability through the types and uses of e-resources.

Dr M. Palaniappan, C. Vinoth Kumar & S. Duraisekar (2018) This paper clarifies the exploitation of e-resources through students at Periyar University, Salem's biosciences institution. Periyar University's survey technique for information collection. The study was limited to M.Phil. and PhD students in life-sciences colleges, and only the most pressing challenges they faced in accessing online resources were mentioned. The study's findings revealed that students are dissatisfied with the existing state of university-sponsored online services. The researchers viewed restricted computer access and sluggish data transfer speeds as essential difficulties.

Franklin, Florence & Dzokotoe (2017) this article is based on university libraries' awareness of and use of electronic resources. This study aimed to investigate how

teachers at Ghana's University for development studies utilized electronic resources. A survey was designed to collect primary data from 80 lecturers, then analyzed using a binary logistic regression model. According to findings, 88.8% of respondents used the library and 65 per cent were aware that e-resources were available at the library. However, this indicates that while awareness is high, usage is low. As a result, the study suggests that initiatives to improve the use of the library's e-resources should include strategies to raise user awareness, training/workshops for users and staff, and reacting to the difficulties that users and staff experience.

Ramdas (2016) In Parbhani, a survey of faculty members' perceptions of the usability of electronic resources was conducted. According to the study, 69.72 per cent of survey respondents use electronic resources daily. The majority of faculty members have access to electronic resources through their department. 73.39 per cent of respondents said they communicate with professionals via electronic resources to solve challenges in their subject areas or **disciplines**. Because of the widespread use of electronic resources, libraries should take the lead in developing a training programme to improve faculty information literacy abilities.

Nirupama (2015) the primary goal of this study is to provide the findings of an electronic resource usage survey done at Punjab University Library. A survey was conducted using a questionnaire among postgraduates and research researchers at Punjab University Library to obtain the necessary information. A whopping 75% of people responded. The majority of users know that e-resources are available to assist all of the campus's established disciplines. However, the absence of suitable infrastructure to utilize these resources is a significant challenge that users are facing. They use e-resources to complete their daily tasks, such as teaching, researching, entertaining and communicating. Slow internet speed, difficulty retrieving contents, and a poorly designed webpage are some of the significant issues that the respondent has.

H. Fakrudhin & V. Syamala (2014) conducted a study on to use of electronic resources in select engineering college Chittoor district libraries. A survey was done using a questionnaire distributed to 150 users of the Sri Vidyaniketan and Sreenivasa Institute libraries. The majority of users (61.73 per cent) said they have access to online journals through the library. However, less than half of students (43.21 per cent) use online

journals, with 22.83 per cent reporting great satisfaction, 16.05 per cent reporting neither satisfaction nor dissatisfaction, and 17.91 per cent reporting discontentment. The main issues users experience when utilizing online journals are "no appropriate guidance for using online journals," "poor Internet access," and "insufficient numbers of computers." Numerous suggestions have been provided to promote e-resources at the Sri Vidyaniketan and Sreenivasa Institute libraries.

Lakshmikant & Dr. Jyoti (2014) In university libraries, ICT resources and services were investigated. They describe the importance of ICT resources to libraries in achieving their goals for information management, effective services, and the expansion of borders beyond the four walls to the globe. They provide access to books in every format and form imaginable. The introduction of digital computer improvements in telecommunications and audiovisual technologies has opened up new avenues for gathering, organizing, and sharing scientific and technological data.

2. OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

The following are the objectives of the study:-

1. To determine the student's age about the research.
2. To determine whether the students are male or female.
3. To learn about the educational qualifications of the research students.
4. To get an understanding of how to use electronic resources.
5. To learn about the preferred location for people to seek electronic resources.
6. To find out how fast the library's internet connection is.
7. To have a better understanding of the purpose of e-resources for users.
8. To determine whether users' perceptions of e-resources adequately provide needed information.

3.1 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Exclusively PATNA UNIVERSITY Library and Information Science students are eligible to participate in this study, which also collected data on the usability of e-resources. The analysis was conducted entirely based on the responses provided by the students.

3. METHODOLOGY

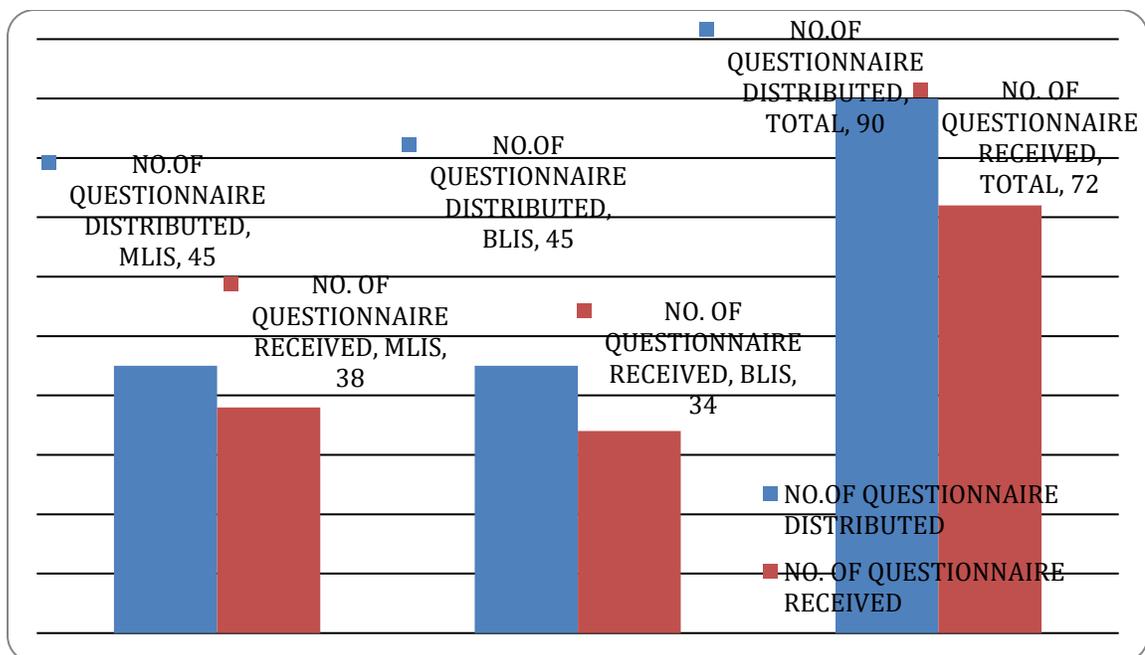
To explore the "Usability of E-Resources among Library and Information Science Students at Patna University" PATNA, BIHAR: A study", A survey was carried out using questionnaires. The research scholar picked up the completed questionnaires in person.

4.1 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

Students in the Library and Information Science field at Patna University were hand-picked for this study. As a result, 90 individual questionnaires were distributed. Seventy-two questionnaires were received from respondents, with the remaining 18 questionnaires being rejected due to incompleteness or the respondent's inability to complete the questionnaire.

TABLE.1 CLASSE WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

S.NO	STUDENTS OF LIS IN PATNA UNIVERSITY	NO.OF QUESTIONNAIRE DISTRIBUTED	NO.OF QUESTIONNAIRE RECEIVED
1.	MLIS	45	38(52.77%)
2.	BLIS	45	34 (47.22%)
	TOTAL	90	72 (100%)

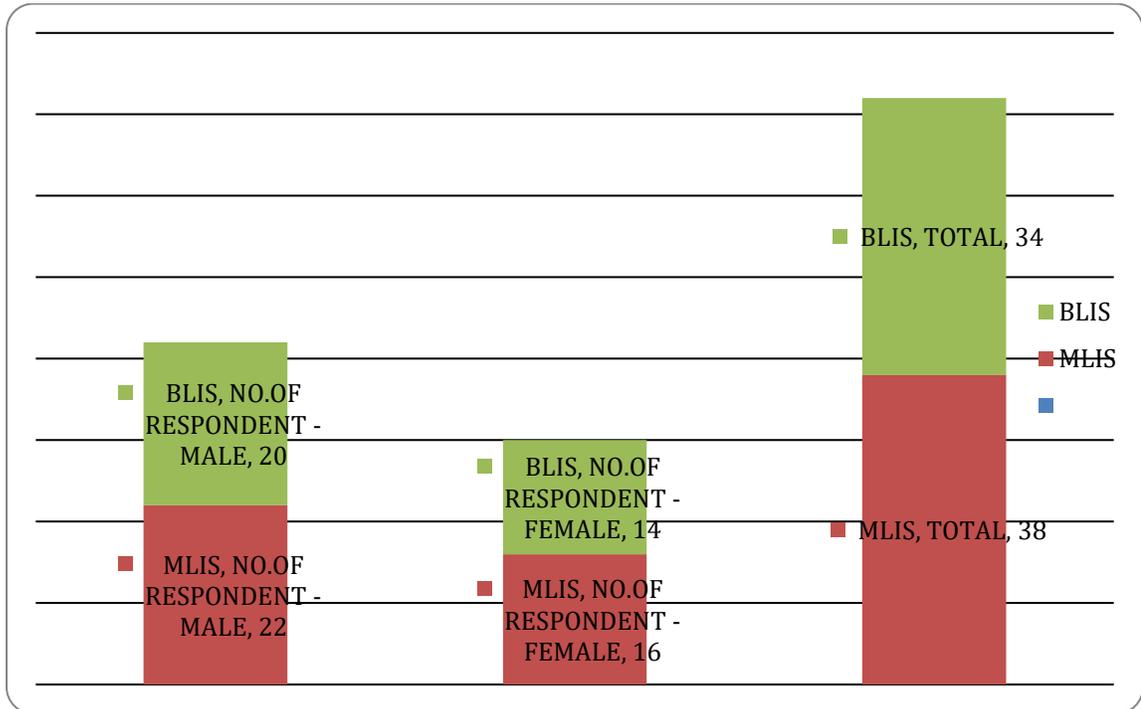


4. DATA ANALYSIS

TABLE.2 Gender and Class wise Distribution of Respondents

S.NO	CLASSES	NO.OF RESPONDENTS		TOTAL
		MALE	FEMALE	
1	MLIS	22 (57.89%)	16 (42.10%)	38 (52.77%)
2	BLIS	20 (58.83%)	14 (41.17%)	34 (47.22%)
TOTAL		42	30	72 (100%)

Figure 2 showing Gender and Classes wise Distribution of Respondents



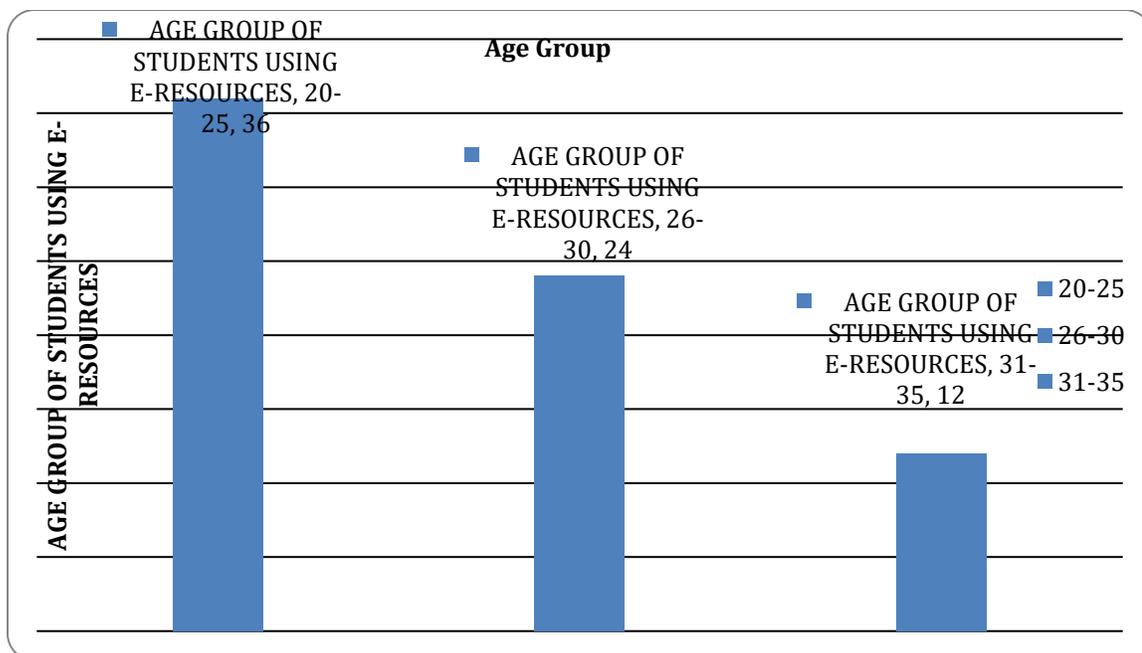
INTERPRETATION

Table 2 shows the gender and classes wise respondents. Among 42 male respondents, 22 (57.89%) respondents belong to MLIS (Master in library and information science), and 20 (58.83%) respondents belong to BLIS (Bachelor in Library and Information Science). Among 30 female respondents, 16 (42.10%) respondents belong to MLIS (Master in library and information science), and 14 (41.17%) belong to BLIS (Bachelor in Library and Information Science).

Maximum age group using of electronic resources

The details of the age group of students are presented in Table 3.

S.NO	AGE GROUP	AGE GROUP OF STUDENTS USING E-RESOURCES
1	20-25	36 (50.00%)
2	26-30	24 (33.33%)
3	31-35	12 (16.66%)
TOTAL		72 (100.00%)



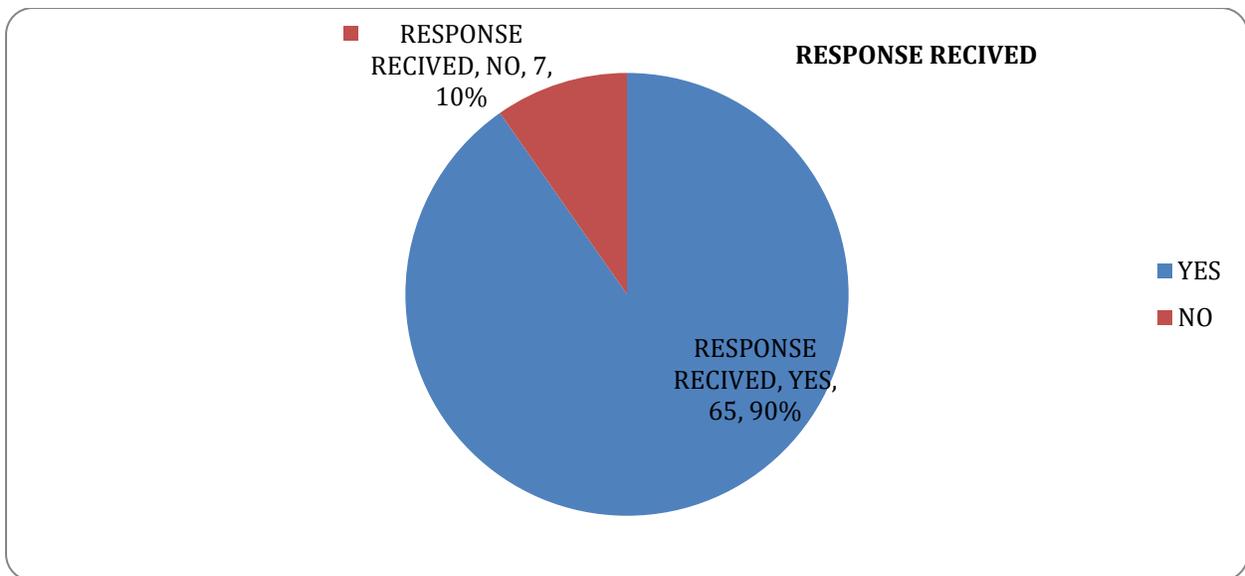
INTERPRETATION

It can be observed from Table 3 that most of the student's age group is 20-25 (50.00%) number of total student's age group is 36 maximum using the e-resources. 26-30 age group only 24(33.3%) students using e-resources. Minimum age group using e-resources 31-35 number of students only 12 (16.66%).

KNOWLEDGE AMONG STUDENTS OF E-RESOURCES

Table 4 shows knowledge among students of e-resources.

RESPONSE	RESPONSE RECEIVED	PERCENTAGE
YES	65	90.27%
NO	7	09.72%

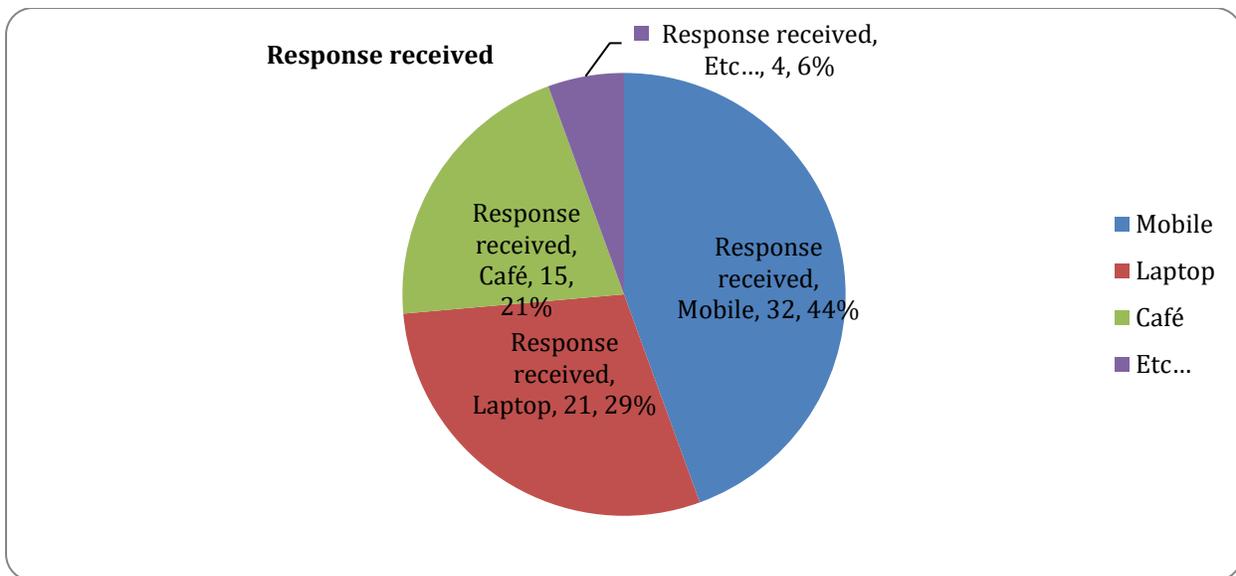


The respondents were asked to indicate their knowledge of e-resources in Table 4. It revealed that 90.27% of respondents are aware of e-resources. 09.27% of respondents do not know how to use e-resources,

SOURCES OF ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

Table 5 shows the sources of accessing e-resources by students

Sources	Response received	percentage
Mobile	32	44.44%
Laptop	21	29.16%
Café	15	20.83%
Etc...	4	05.55%

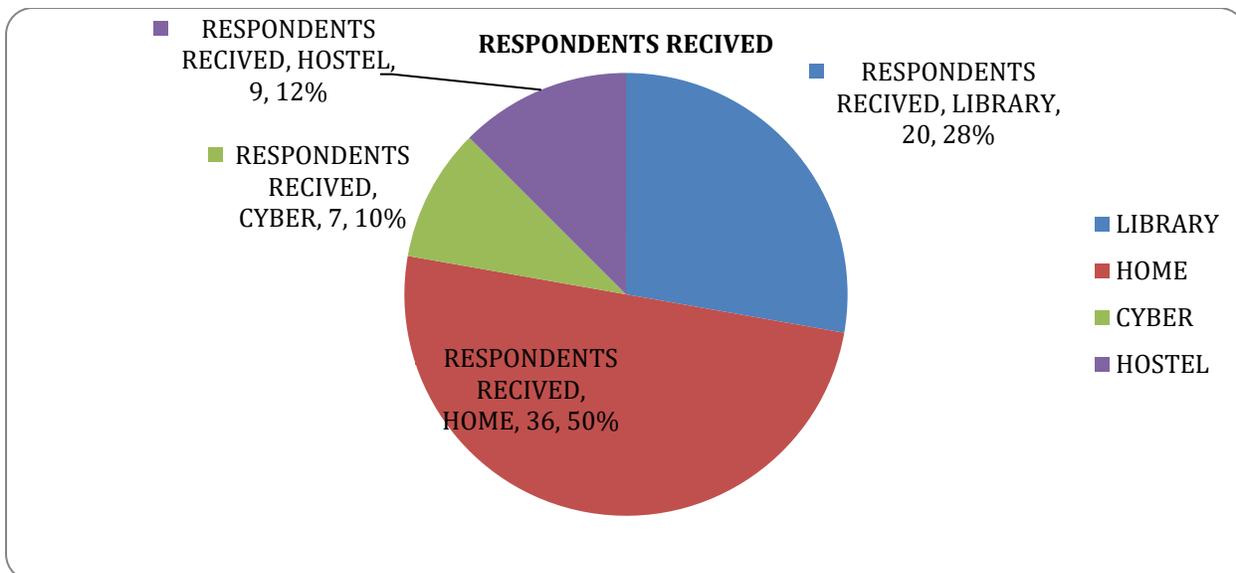


The analysis is shown in table 5 about the sources of accessing e-resources. Only 44.44% of respondents found using mobile for accessing e-resources, by laptop 29.16%, by café 20.83% and other sources using for accessing e-resources 05.55%.

Place prefer to search electronic resources.

Table 6 shows the student's data which they prefer to search electronic resources.

S.NO	PLACE	RESPONDENTS RECEIVED	PERCENTAGE
1	LIBRARY	20	27.77%
2	HOME	36	44.44%
3	CYBERCAFE	7	09.72%
4	HOSTEL	9	12.5%



The analysis is shown in Table 6 about the students who prefer to search for electronic resources. It is evident that 44.44% of respondents 'Home' search e-resources, 27.77% 'Library' prefer to search e-resources, 12.5% 'Hostel' prefer to search e-resources, and 09.72% 'Cyber' prefer to search e-resources.

SPEED OF INTERNET IS ADEQUATE TO ACCESS E-RESOURCES IN LIBRARY

Table 7 shows the speed of the internet in library adequate for access to e-resources.

RESPONSE	RESPONSE RECEIVED	PERCENTAGE
YES	56	77.77%
NO	16	22.22%

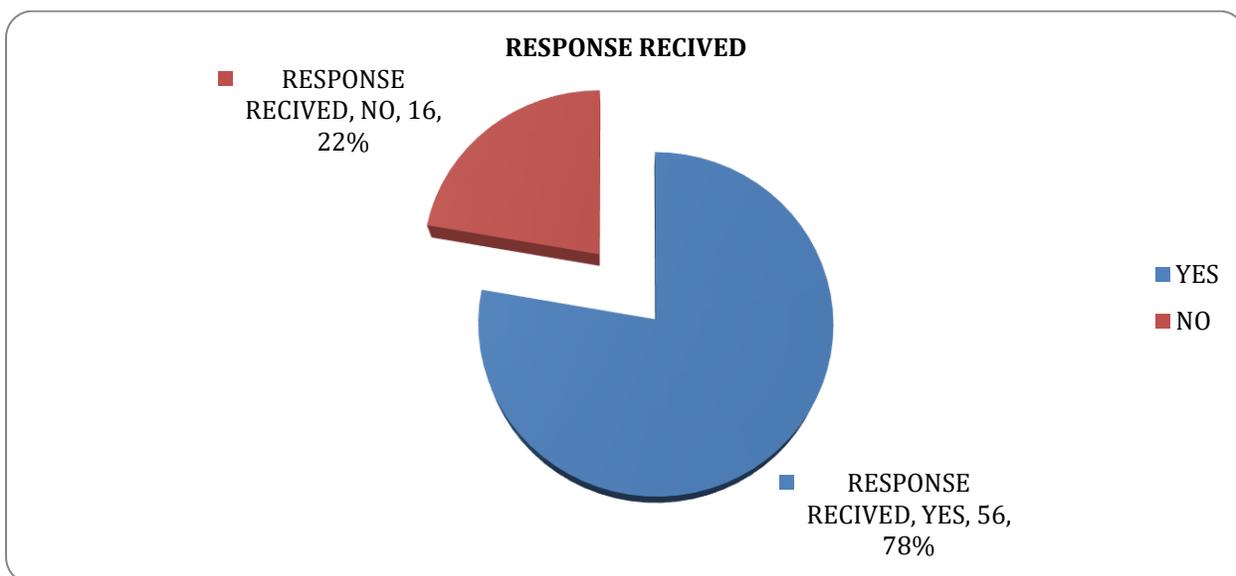
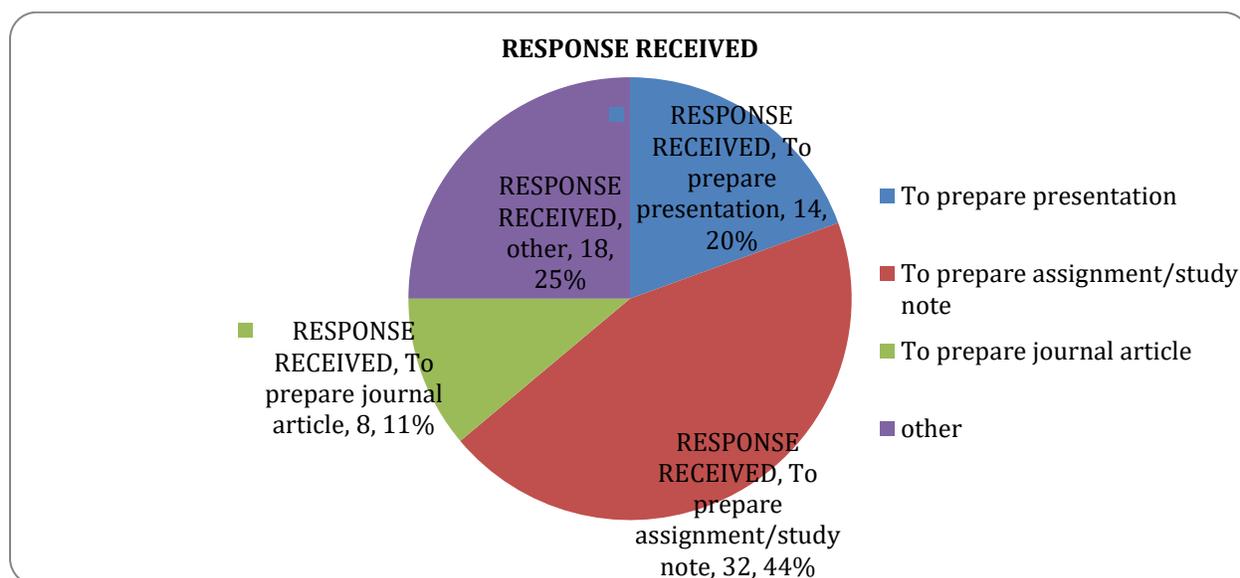


Table 7 gives the information about library speed of internet is adequate for accessing electronic resources 77.77% giving respondents the library fair access e-resources and 22.22% not satisfied speed of internet in the library.

PURPOSES OF USING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Table 8 shows the purposes of using e-resources

PURPOSE	RESPONSE RECEIVED	PERCENTAGE
To prepare presentation	14	19.44%
To compose assignment/study note	32	44.44%
To prepare a journal article	08	11.11%
other	18	25.00%

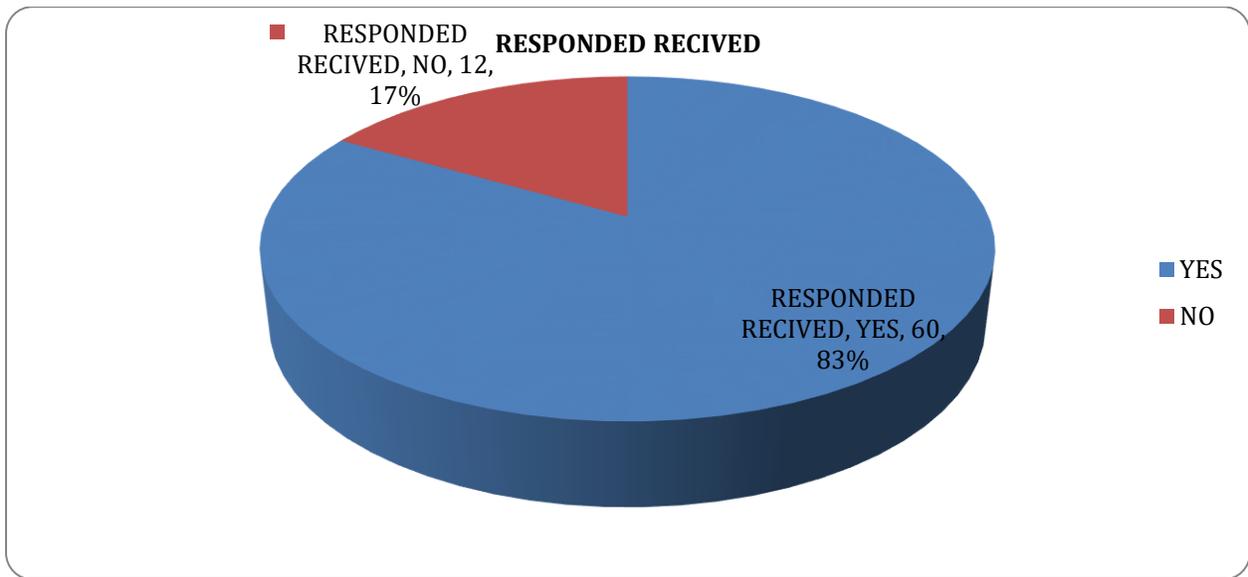


purposes, 19.44% use e-resources for preparing presentations and 11.11% to prepare journal articles. The respondents were asked to indicate their purpose for using e-resources. Table 8 presents the analysis of the responses. It is seen from table 8 that 44.44% use it to prepare assignments/study notes, whereas 25.00% using for other

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES ARE ADEQUATE IN PROVIDING DESIRED INFORMATION

Table 9 shows the electronic resources providing the desired information

RESPONSE	RESPONDED RECEIVED	PERCENTAGE
YES	60	83.33%
NO	12	16.66%



The data shows that 83.33% of respondents gave desired information to e-resources, and 16.66% did not give desired information to e-resources.

6. SUGGESTIONS

To reinforce the uses and facilities for effective use of e-resources, within Patna University, a range of suggestions are thought about, such as:

- Libraries should provide advanced user training for advanced use of e-resources, as users frequently seek out a source to learn about electronic literature.
- New techniques such as controlled vocabulary and advanced search methods, which can make electronic search methods much faster and easier, should be brought to the attention of e-resources users.
- The institution should implement new procedures to provide adequate funding for e-resource subscriptions.
- In addition, adequate efforts should be made to address all of the difficulties raised by users while obtaining sufficient data. They're dealing with issues such as 'lack of IT data and skills to efficiently use services,' 'too much data is obtained 'and' restricted access to computer.' To combat the problem, the number of terminals and printers will be increased, and the library will conduct data achievement coaching programmes.

If such suggestions are considered and implemented swiftly, the situation regarding electronic resources data at Patna University will significantly improve.

6.2 CONCLUSION

This study has found that library users are less satisfied with their e-resources provided by the University. Few recommendations have been given to improve the e-resources factors like digitization, automation, internet services etc. Department of Library and Information Science of the University should take the appropriate steps to make LIS curriculum more practical oriented rather than theoretical so that the students would get more information on their needs. Library professionals should take a keen interest in acquiring the desirable ICT skills and knowledge. The study also reveals that the absence of proper infrastructure facilities to harness these resources is a major drawback mentioned by the users. Hence, every department apart from Library and Information Science in all the Universities should work on the e-resources infrastructural facility to disseminate the information to the users, especially during situations like a pandemic.

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