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Seema Parmar

seemaparmar9@gmail.com

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UTILIZATION OF E-RESOURCES AND DATABASES IN AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY UNIVERSITIES OF HISAR, HARYANA

Dr. Seema Parmar
Asstt Librarian,
Nehru Library, CCSHAU, Hisar

Abstract

The present study is conducted in two universities of different nature viz. CCS Haryana Agricultural University and Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and animal Sciences. The main aim of the study is to assess the awareness and use of subscription based, consortia based, open access and other kind of e-resources and databases available and accessible to mark their utility. The data was collected through the questionnaire technique whereas random sample of 40 PG students from each university was taken for the study. The study reveals the status of e-resources and databases in both the universities and level of awareness & use of the same among PG students. Problems in access of e-contents are also explained.

1. Introduction

In this era of IT, use of e-resources is in its full swing. At present scenario user has a lot of informational material to read on web but still the libraries are subscribing a lot of print as well as e-resources. The need of the time is to know and assess the preferences and demand of users for different type of informational documents. To know and assess the demand or preference of users, survey studies are considered as essential tools using what status on awareness, use, preferences, and problems for informational documents is collected and analyzed.

2. Objectives

- To know purpose of visiting Library by PG students of CCSHAU and LUVAS
- To assess the perception of users about Library resources.
- To make out the awareness and Use of e-resources and databases.
- To identify the preference for print and e-resources.
- To recognize the problems faced by users while using e-resources.

3. Research Methodology

- Scope: Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar and Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS), Hisar.
- Collection of Data: Through Questionnaire.
- Sample Size: Total 60 PG students (30 from each University) by Random Sampling method.

- Analysis: Tabulation and graphical presentation of data in Excel, Percentage method was applied to draw analysis.

4. Review of Related Literature

Several studies have been conducted to know the user awareness of e-resources. Singh & Satija in their study described journals as the most used resources while dissertations/thesis as least used resources by ICAR and PAU scientists,. Sankaranarayanan & Nagarajan reported that faculty preferred e-journals the most than the online databases and e-books. Parmar mentioned that access to e-journals through CeRA (97.87 %) was preferred the most than search engines, publisher's websites, e-databases and other CDROM databases. Problems while using e-journals were slow speed and response of network, lack of trained staff etc. Kaur and Kathuria revealed that 72 % users were aware about e-resources and friends and colleagues are the major source of information, most preferred e-resources were e-journals than e-books, e-dissertations and e-databases. Pateria in his study revealed that 92.9 % users and 86.3 % faculty were aware of e-resources out of which most of the users got aware through libraries. The widely used e-resources were e-journals by each category and slow downloading was found the major problem for users while using e-resources. Bhat and Ganaie after analyzing use of electronic information resources reported that highly used e-database was CeRA(94.23 %) among other e-databases AGRIS , CABI , J-gate Agriculture and Biological, FSTA, AGRICOLA and BIOSIS while the least used were INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortium. e-books were least used. Both print and e-format were preferred but in case of e- formats, online mode of access was preferred.

5. Data Analysis

5.1. **Users' Purpose of visiting library:** Every users visit a library with a special purpose Table 1 represents the various purposes bringing what a user visit the library. Many a users have multiple purposes for visiting library. In case of HAU users the most preferred purpose of visiting library was 'Reading my own books and notes' (80% users' response) followed by 'To attend PGS 501 Class, 53 % users visited library to consult the print documents and issue return the documents while 47% users visited to access e-resources, to

make assignments given in class and for reading in night Reading Hall . On the other hand most of the users (60%) visited library to consult the print documents, 43 % users visited library for Reading my own books and notes and To make assignments given in class while 33 % users to attend PGS 501 Class. Rest below 30% users visited library with other purposes.

Table.1 Purpose of visit

Sr. No	Purpose	HAU (N=30)	Percentage	LUVAS (N=30)	Percentage
1.	For Reading my own books and notes	24	80 %	13	43 %
2.	To attend PGS 501 Class	20	67 %	10	33%
3.	To consult the print documents	16	53 %	18	60%
4.	To issue and return the documents	16	53 %	8	27 %
5.	To access e-resources	14	47 %	13	43 %
6.	To make assignments given in class	14	47 %	7	23 %
7.	For reading in night Reading Hall	14	47 %	6	20 %

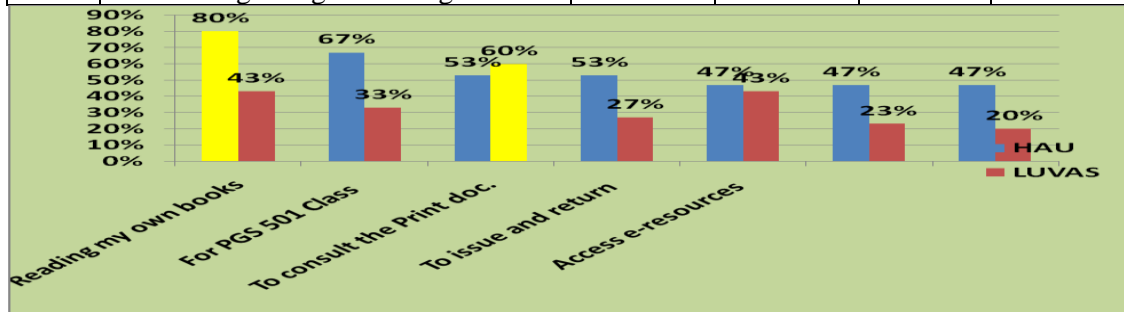


Fig.1

5.2. Perception of the importance of library resource: Perception means the way in which something is regarded, understood, or interpreted. Table 2 reflects the perception of users regarding the need of library in academic scenario. Majority of HAU users (67percent) consider role of library in academics as very important, 27 percent consider libraries’ essential role while only 7 percent users told them as important unit in academics. On the other hand half of LUVAS users considered libraries as essential services for academics and 40 percent asked them as very important. Only small portions said it as important in academics.

Table 2: Perception of Users

<u>Perception</u>	HAU (N=30)	Percentage	LUVAS (N=30)	Percentage
Essential	8	27%	15	50%
Very Important	20	67%	12	40%
Important	2	7%	3	10%

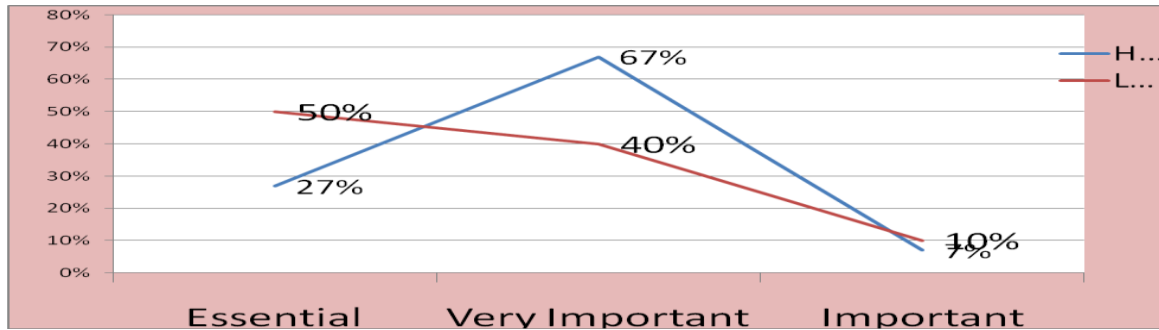


Fig.2

5.3. Preference between print and e-resources: Users of both the universities were asked regarding their preference for type of informational resources. It was found that majority of HAU users (66) preferred for both type of resources- print and e-resources equally. Out of rest 33 percent users, more users (20percent) preferred Print sources than e-resources (13 percent users.) In case of LUVAS users also majority of users (67percent) preferred for both type of resources- print and e-resources equally like HAU users but out of rest of users more number of users (21percent) preferred e-resources than Print sources (13percent).

Table 3: Preference between print and e-resources

Preference	HAU (N=30)	Percentage	LUVAS (N=24)	Percentage
Print Resource	6	20%	3	13%
Electronic Resource	4	13%	5	21%
Both equally	20	66%	16	67%

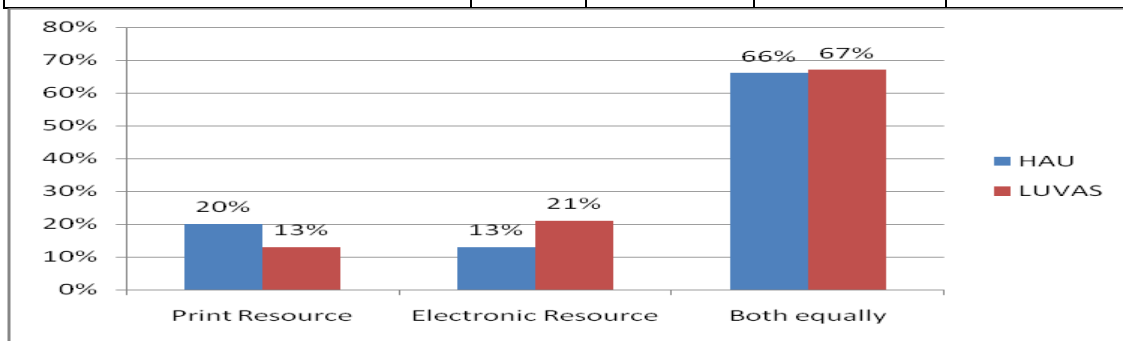


Fig.3

5.4. Awareness and Use of e-Resource: Efforts were made to know about awareness level and use of only e-resources by conducting the present survey of both university users. The collected data from both the universities reflects that in HAU, all the users were aware of e-

resources but out of that only 80 percent users were found making use of them. In LUVAS 90 percent respondents were aware of e-resources and only 70 percent users were found making use of them. It is very apparent from the table that HAU make more use of e-resources than LUVAS users.

Table 4: Awareness and Use of e-Resource

Response	Awareness (N=30)	Percentage	Use (N=30)	Percentage
HAU	30	100%	24	80%
LUVAS	27	90%	21	70%

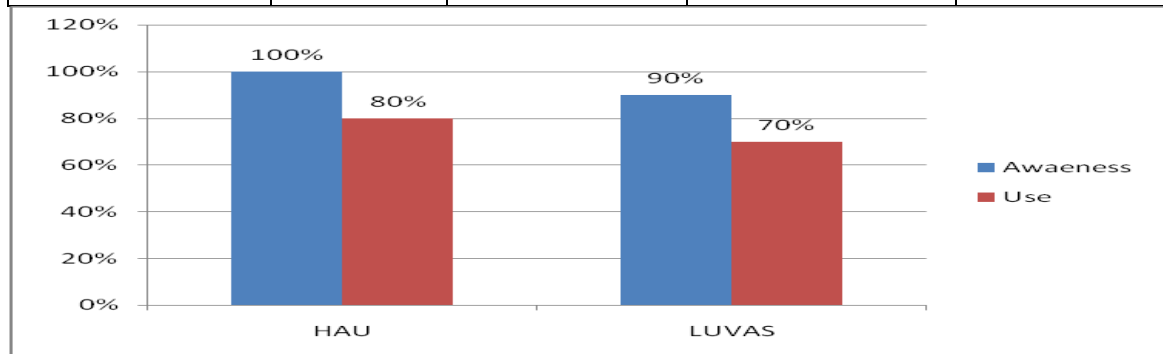


Fig.4

5.5. Types of e-resource used through library: Different type of e-resources was accessible to HAU and LUVAS users. Almost all e-resources except CDROM databases were found accessible on within the campus. Table 5 shows the quantum of use of different type of e-resources by users of both the universities through library. Majority of users in HAU (54percent) and PAU (48percent) used e-books through library. More than 30 percent HAU users used Krishikosh Repository resources (33percent) and CeRA journals(33percent), more than 20 percent users used subscribed e-journals while more than 15percent users used and indiastat.com (17percent) and e-newspaper. One database i.e Scopus database was found least used e-resource as only 12 percent of students found using this e-resource. On the other hand In LUVAS, More than 20 percent users used Krishikosh Repository resources (24percent), CeRA Journals (24percent) and Subscribed e-Journals (28percent). Nearly 20percent users used indiastat.com (19percent) while only 5percent used Scopus database. Scopus database is a very costly affair but the use was found very less, the reason behind least use of Scopus database was found due to recent subscription of this database and less awareness of the database.

Table 5: E-resource used through library

e-Resources	HAU (N=24)	Percentage	LUVAS (N=21)	Percentage
E-books	13	54%	10	48%
Subscribed E-Journals	5	21%	6	28%
CeRA journals	8	33%	5	24%
Krishikosh Repository resources	8	33%	5	24%
E-News Papers	4	17%	4	19%
Indiastat.com	4	17%	1	5%
Scopus Database	3	12%	1	5%

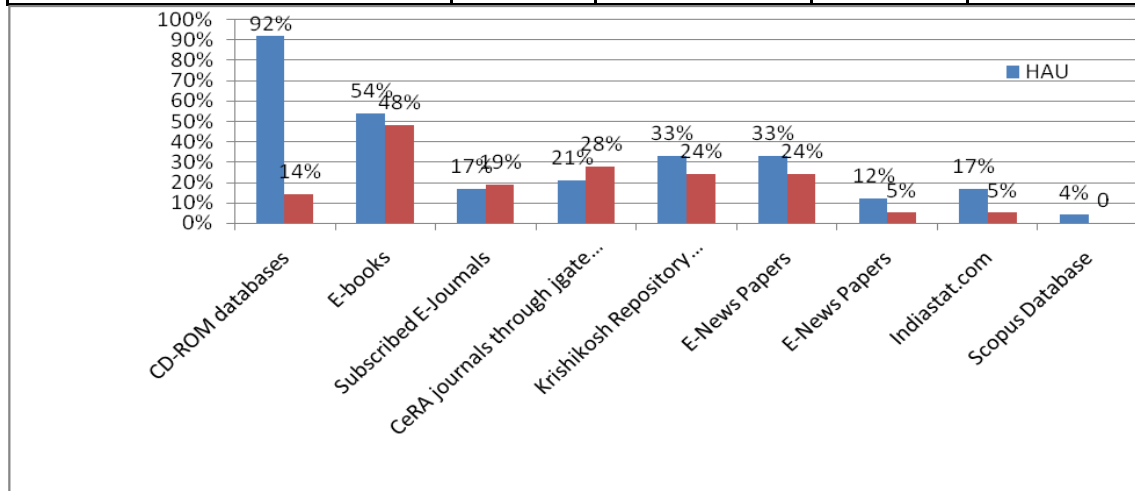


Fig.5

5.6. **Preferred place for using e-resources:** Users of both the universities under study were asked to tell their preferred place for using e-resources. It is very clear from table 6 that majority of 67percent users of HAU and 81percent users of LUVAS users considered Library as the suitable place to use e-resources. Home or hostel were considered suitable place to use e-resources by 21percent users and from department only 12 percent showed preferences. Same number of LUVAS users' i.e. 9 percent considered home, hostel and department as suitable place to use e-resources.

Table 6: Preferred place for using e-resources

Place of Use	HAU (N=24)	Percentage	LUVAS (N=21)	Percentage
Home/Hostel	5	21%	2	9%
Department	3	12%	2	9%
Library	16	67%	17	81%
Any Other	0	0	0	0

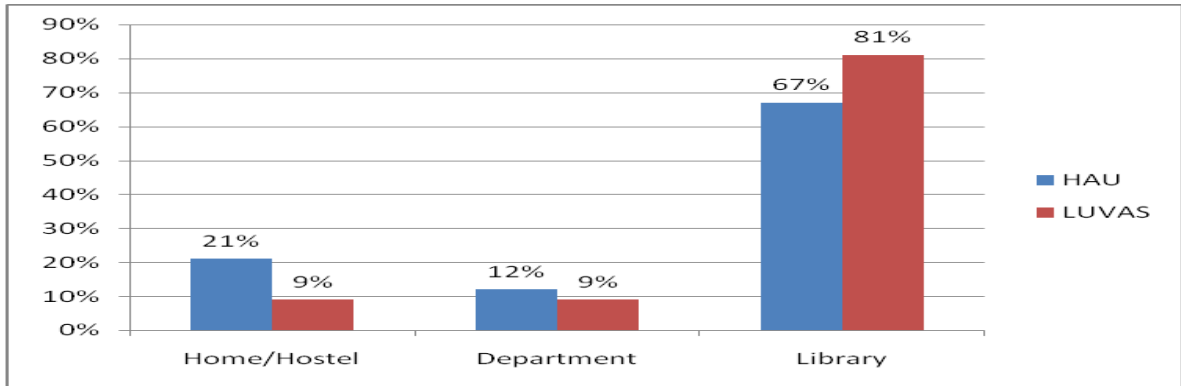


Fig.6

5.7 Purpose of using e-resources: Users of both the universities used e-resources with different purposes. It is apparent from table 7 that majority of users in both universities (100 percent in HAU an 90 percent in LUVAS) used e-resources for updating their knowledge, distantly followed by preparation of notes for exams (37 percent in HAU an 43 percent in LUVAS) , preparation for class assignments (29 percent in HAU an 33 percent in LUVAS) , necessary for studies (29 percent in HAU an 33 percent in LUVAS) and For career development (21 percent in HAU an 24 percent in LUVAS). Very least users i.e 4% in HAU and 5 % in LUVAS used e-resources due to motivation received from seniors/friends and teachers. It is very nice finding that almost every user of both the universities are using e-resources for updating their knowledge and not found bound by anyone or under pressure to use these resources for their academics.

Table 7: Purpose of using e-resources

Purpose	HAU (N=24)	Percentage	LUVAS (N=21)	Percentage
To update your knowledge	24	100%	19	90%
For preparing good notes for exams	9	37 %	9	43%
To prepare your class assignments	7	29%	7	33%
For career development	5	21%	5	24%
Motivated by Teachers	3	12%	3	14%
Motivated by seniors/friends	1	4%	1	5%
Motivated by Library teachers	1	4%	1	5%
Due to your interest in new things available	3	12%	3	14%
Necessary for your studies	7	29%	7	33%

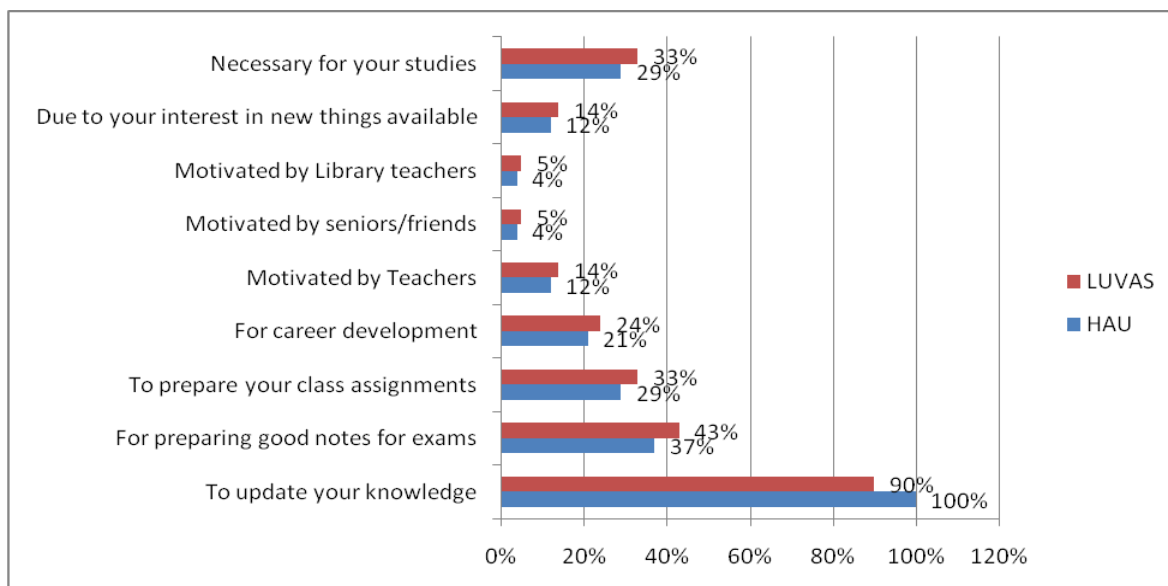


Fig.7

5.8 Problems in accessing e-resources: When users of both universities were asked about the problems while using e-resources. Table 8 reflects that only one fourth of users of HAU and a little more than half of users of LUVAS were found facing problems while using e-resources. Majority of users in HAU (83 percent) and LUVAS (92 percent) faced problem while using e-resources was ‘Too much Information retrieved’. A few other problems like Numbers of PCs in Library are insufficient, Lack of training, irrelevant material and Lack of knowledge of using e-resources were faced by a very few users in HAU i.e 17 percent for each problem. In case of LUVAS problems faced by users were Numbers of PCs in Library are insufficient (25 percent), poor connectivity (8 percent), Slow speed (8 percent) Lack of training (50 percent), irrelevant material (33 percent) and Lack of knowledge of using e-resources (75 percent).

Table 8: Problems in using e-resources

Response	HAU (N=24)	Percentage	LUVAS (N=21)	Percentage
Yes	6	25%	12	57%
No	18	75%	9	43%
Type of problems				
	(N=6)		(N=12)	
Number of PCs in Library are insufficient	1	17%	3	25%
Poor Internet connectivity	0	0	1	8%
Slow Speed	0	0	1	8%
Too much Information retrieved	5	83%	11	92%
Lack of training	1	17%	6	50%
Irrelevant material	1	17%	4	33%

Library staff is not supportive	0	0	0	0
Lack of knowledge of using e-resources	1	17%	9	75%

CONCLUSION

Agricultural and Veterinary Universities are research oriented institutions and their libraries under the umbrella of ICT, acquire, process, preserve and disseminating knowledge to facilitate teaching and research. CCSHAU and LUVAS are also among the reputed universities in India and many researches are undergone in these universities for what a good number of print as well as e-resources are being subscribed by the libraries. But still the utilization of e-resources is not found as per expectations. There may be many reasons behind it. A few recommendations to increase the utilization may be many more awareness workshops are required for students of both the universities. A few interesting lectures may be organized by libraries to increase the visibility of library resources and footfall can be increased, Competitive activities related to resources may be organized by libraries and personal interaction may be made with users, etc. Teachers must be advised also to increase their frequency of visiting and using library resources and guide their students to use useful resources for their studies.

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