

# Use of E-resources by the Students of CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur

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**Abstract.** *This paper describes the awareness, access and use of electronic resources available in CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur. The usages of electronic journals and electronic books have been increased rapidly. The study focused on the use of different types of electronic information resources, awareness of users, access and use of digital resources freely available by the Students, This study evaluate the role of Internet in access of e-resources through different search engines (e.g. Google, AltaVista, Msn, Yahoo, etc.), and offline databases in CD/DVD formats that can be accessed without the help of internet.*

**Keywords:** Information, Digital Resources, CeRA, E-books, Access, E-Resources

## Introduction

Journals play a vital role in the research and development activities and undisputedly are considered primary channel of information dissemination. The university libraries spend major part of their budget on the subscription of journals. With the advent of information technology a paradigm shift from print journals to e-journals has evolved and finds a prime place. The developments in information technology have brought e-journals as a boon to research community. The last few years have seen a huge growth in the range and number of electronic journals available for use. E-Journal is a journal which is available in electronic or computerized form on the Internet. Electronic Journals are often referred to interchangeably as “Electronic Serials”, “Online

Journals”, “Paperless Journals”, “Virtual Journals”, “CD-ROM Journals”, and “Electronic Journals” are popularly known as e-journals. Any journal that is available over Internet can be called an e-journal. The e-journal offers researchers the opportunity to consult more information sources than ever before.

**According to Harrods’s Librarians’ Glossary** “A journal for which the full end product is available on optical disc, over a network or in any other electronic form is called an e-journal”. Strictly, a journal in which all aspects of preparation, refereeing, assembly and distribution are carried out electronically is e-journal.

**According to Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science,** “A digital version of a print journal or a journal-like electronic publication with no print counterpart, made available via the Web, e-mail, or other means of Internet access is called electronic journal”

## CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur

Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya (Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya in June, 2001) was established on 1st November, 1978. The College of Agriculture (established in May, 1966) formed the nucleus of the new farm University. It is ICAR accredited and ISO 9001:2008 certified institution. The university has been given the

mandate for making provision for imparting education in agriculture and other allied branches of learning, furthering the advancement extension of such sciences, especially to the rural people of Himachal Pradesh. Over the years, this University has contributed significantly in transforming the farm scenario of Himachal Pradesh. Today, the State has earned its name for hill agricultural diversification and the farming community has imposed its faith in the University.

### University library

The university library is the centralized source of information. The university library provides the online public access Catalogue (WebOPAC) CD ROM Searching on LAN, Access to Full-Text on-line journals through CeRa (Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture) and J-gate on-line Journal Portals. The university library as one of the member of NARS also provides IP based, campus vide access to the full text of theses of all the SAUs and NARS Libraries under KrishiPrabha- Indian Agricultural Doctoral Dissertation Repository. The following important Data Bases are available in the library.

### Data Bases in the library.

- CAB Abstracts
- AGRICOLA
- AGRIS
- FSTA
- MEDLINE
- CeRa (Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture) (On-Line Access)
- KrishiPrabha (Full text to Ph.D.theses of NARS Libraries)
- Indian Science Abstracts
- Forestry Database in CD- ROM (FRI, Dehradun) NUCSSI
- FAOSTAT(World- wide statistical information )

### Research Methodology

Survey method was used as a data collection instrument for this study. A questionnaire was designed to collect the data on use of e-resources, frequency of use of e-resources, purpose of using e-resources; problems faced by the users while using e-resources. Total 400 questionnaires were distributed among the users to collect the primary data out of which only 384 returned back. The collected data was analyzed by percentage method.

### Objectives of the study

The specific objectives of the study were:

- To know the frequency of use of e-resources.
- To understand purpose of use e-resources by students
- To identify the major source for the use of e-resources
- To determine the Most Preferred Type of E-Resources
- To know the satisfaction level of the users

### Review of Literature

**Ishappa Bandi & Ramakrishnegowda (2015)** conducted a study entitled "Social Science Faculty Information Seeking Pattern by using the Internet sources and services at Mumbai University". They found that Data analysis reveals that 51 (98%) respondents have the Computer operating skills, in which 43 (83%) have learnt computer operating skills by own/self method. Location of their internet usage is 100% at their home and 98% at their respective University Departments. Frequency of Internet usage is daily 47 (90%) and 38 (73%) are started using the internet since more than 5 years. Purpose of using internet was mainly for their academic purpose 51 (98%) followed by e-mail communication 50 (96%). All the respondents are using search engine 52 (100%) to search the information, Google is the most used search engine 51 (98%) followed by Yahoo 31 (60%). The primary difficulties while accessing the Internet are; slow internet speed 31 (60%), Access permission issues 22 (42%) then followed by difficulty in finding relevant information in internet 17 (33%). Among the Internet sources and services usage, email 49 (94%), e-journals 47 (90%), e-books 45 (87%). Accessible to Campus Wide Network is 52 (100%) at their Departments and only 18 (35%) at their respective homes. Preference to the information sources is highest for Both the Print and online resources 49(94%). Attending Conference/Workshops 52 (100%) and browsing Internet 52 (100%) were the preferred sources for seeking their information. Approximate time spent in a week in accessing the internet to gather the information was 22 (42%) more than 15 hrs

**Okorie and Agboola (2012)** conducted a study on the availability and use of Electronic Resources in Agricultural University Libraries. Conclude that the advantages of e-resources as a means of easily and rapidly accessing of books, journals, magazines, thesis and

images of various types are now widely recognized. Traditional tools are limited by storage and space. But the e-resources have the potential to store much more information at low cost. An important advantage of e-resources to academics is the increase accessibility of information sources that are current and relevant to research, learning and studying at 24 hours a day. For University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike and University of Agriculture, Makurdi, the e-resources has helped to solve the problem of non-availability of information resources in printed format.

**Thanuskodi (2011)** examined "Usage of Electronic Resources at Dr T.P.M. Library, Madurai Kamaraj University: A Case Study" "There are various problems associated with the access of e-resources by users. Realizing its importance, the study attempted to which indicates the category-wise respondents' problems in accessing e-resources. It can be assessed with the help of 7 factors on a 5- point rating scale. These includes power failure, slow accessibility, lack of IT knowledge, limited access to computers, lack of time, virus problem and poor personal assistance. The PG student respondents took the first position in their overall problems in accessing e-resources as their secured mean score was 3.56 on a 5-point rating scale. The M.Phil scholar respondents occupied the second position with means score was 3.39 on a 5-point rating scale. The PhD scholar respondents ranked the last position as their secured mean score was 2.86 on a 5- point rating scale. And recommended in his study the LIS professionals of the Central Library have to spread more awareness on e-resources. In this context the website of library and newsletter of the Institution should highlight the available e-resources in the library regularly.

**Sujatha, Mudhol and Mahesh (2008)** study examined use of electronic information sources at the college of fisheries, Mangalore, India. Study elaborated the various aspects of EIS use such as purpose and frequency of EIS use, benefits of EIS use, methods of learning to use EIS, frequently used EIS, constraints faced in the use of EIS and the satisfaction level of users in the use of EIS.

**Agboola, Idayat Odunola (2009)** studied the use of print and electronic resources by Agricultural Science students in Nigerian universities. The study revealed that agricultural science students mostly prefer to the use textbooks (i.e.42.1 %). The study also revealed that The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library

(TEEAL) was the most preferred among e-resources available in their libraries (52.2%). Major problems faced by the agricultural science students include inadequate access to full internet connectivity and lack of skills on their part to use available electronic databases.

**Heterick (2002)** studied the faculty attitude towards the electronic resources. The study revealed that more than 60% of the faculties are familiar with the electronic journals. His study also reflects that 62% believe that they will be highly depended on e-journals in coming future. More than 70% of the faculties think that the library catalogue id one the very important source for their research.

### Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data collected by different methods were analyzed and interpreted and are presented here in tables

**Table 1: Demographic Factors**

	Variables	Factors	Frequency	%
1.	Gender	Male	104	27.08
		Femae	280	72.92
		<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100</b>
2.	Age	18-21	24	6.24
		21-24	114	29.69
		24-27	163	42.45
		27-30	52	13.55
		Above 30	31	8.07
		<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100</b>
3.	Educational Qualifications	Degree	50	13.02
		PG	239	62.24
		M.Phil	35	9.11
		PhD	36	9.37
		Other	24	6.26
		<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100</b>

Table- 1 indicates the gender distribution of respondents. It could be noted that out of the total 384 respondents, majority of the respondents (72.92%) belong to the female group and the rest of them (27.08%) are males. It is concluded that female respondents constitute more in number than male respondents. It could be noted that out of the total 384 respondents, 6.24% of them belong to the age group of 18-21 years and 29.69% of them come under the age group of 21-24 years. In this Study,

42.45% of the respondents' age is in the range of 24-27 years and 13.55% they come under 27-30. 8.07% of them are found in the age group of above 30 years.

**Table 2: Frequency of Use of e-Resources**

Sr. No	Source	Frequency	%
1.	Very Often	155	40.36
2.	Occasionally	174	45.31
3.	When Necessary	55	14.33
	<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100</b>

Table- 2 shows that more than 14.33% respondents use different e- resources when necessary, 45.31% occasionally and rest of them 40.36% very often.

**Table 3: Major Source of e-resources**

Sr. No	Source	Frequency	%
1.	CeRA	56	14.59
2.	Google	98	25.53
3.	Online databases	105	27.35
4.	DOAJ	81	21.09
5.	Others	44	11.44
	<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100</b>

Table -3 shows the online databases (27.35%) and Google (25.53%) are the major sources of electronic resources. DOAJ -Directory of Open Access Journals [DOAJ is website that lists open access journals and is maintained by Infrastructure Services for Open Access] comes in third position (21.09%) and CeRA (14.59%) in fourth place.

**Table 4: Main Purpose of Using E-Resources**

Sr. No	Purpose	Frequency	%
1.	For Study	73	19.11
	ForClass Assignments	43	11.19
2.	For Research	105	27.25
3.	ToUpdate Knowledge	18	4.69
4.	For Projects	100	26.04
5.	ForGeneral Information	45	11.72
	<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100</b>

Table -4 highlights that 27.25% of students main purpose of using e-resources for research Purpose, 26.04% for Projects preparation, 19.11% for study purpose and 11.72% for Collecting general information.

**1.1 Table 5: Most Preferred Type of E-Resources**

Sr. No	Satisfaction Level	Frequency	%
1.	Very Satisfied	100	26.04
	Satisfied	192	50
2.	Not Satisfied	92	23.96
	<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100</b>

Table- 5 shows that the majority of the students (30.22%) prefer to use e-journals. Second highest preference is CD ROM Databases (17.87%) includes blogs, wikis, informative WebPages etc and 12.25%.use of E-Theses as the most preferred type of e resources. 17.87% choose e-Books and 5.14% most preferred sources is e-newspapers

**Table 6: Satisfaction Level -Currently available E- Resources**

Sr. No	Type	Frequency	%
1.	CDROM Databases	47	12.25
	CDs/DVDs	48	12.06
2.	E Journals	116	30.22
3.	E Books	59	15.37
4.	E Theses	69	17.87
5.	E-Newspaper	30	7.72
6.	Others	15	3.91
	<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100</b>

Table -6 shows that 26.04% are very satisfied about the currently available e-resources in University Campus and 50% are satisfied but 23.96% of 384 respondents are not satisfied about the currently available e-resources

## CONCLUSION

Study found that more than 14.33% students use different e-resources when necessary, 45.31% occasionally and rest of them 40.36% very often. Online databases 27.35% and UGC Info- net 25.53% are the major sources of e resources .DOAJ Directory of Open Access Journals comes in third position 21.09% and WWW Sources 14.59% in fourth place. 27.25% of students main purpose of using e-resources for research purpose , 26.04% for Projects preparation , 19.11% for study purpose and 11.72% for collecting general information .Majority of the students 30.22% prefer to use e-journals. Second highest preference is www 12.25% includes blogs, wikis, informative web pages etc and 17.87%. Use of e-theses as the most preferred type of e resources.11.82% chooses e-books and 7.72% most preferred sources are newspapers. 26.04% are very satisfied about.

The currently available e-resources in CSKHPKV University, Campus, Palampur and 50% are satisfied but 23.96 of 384 respondents are not satisfied about the currently available e-resources. The significance of the use of e-resources itself reflects through data analysis in the study. Study shows the use of e-resources is very common among the university and majority of the students are dependent on e- resources to get the desired and relevant information.

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