

E-RESOURCES: The Ubiquitous Source of Knowledge

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ABSTRACT

E-resources are online materials that can be accessed any time and from anywhere. They are readily available resources that are less time and money-consuming. The advantages of e-resources over actual documents are making them popular and widely used. Technology is known to facilitate. With growing technology, humans have found a way to access material even without its actual presence. These advantages of e-resources are fast replacing the libraries and using true copies of documents. The time is not far when people will completely switch to the online material, and libraries will be rarely visited. This paper examines E-Resources, including their various forms, types, applications, advantages, and sources. This paper aims to provide basic knowledge on multiple aspects of e-resources and the importance of e-resources in the modern day.

KEYWORDS: E-resources, Database, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Types of E-Resources and Open-sources e-resources.

INTRODUCTION

It has been observed that the relevance of E-resources was noticed when people across the world started working from the private sphere, i.e., Work from home. During the difficult times of COVID- 19, e-resources have proven to be a constant and reliable source of knowledge. The shifting of learning from offline to online mode has marked the actual beginning of the Digital World. "A mind needs book as a sword needs a whetstone if it is to keep its edge"-George R.R. Martin, when libraries were shut down, and the whole world was in fear, the electronic database was somehow able to provide a weapon to people to conquer their fear. It needs not to be mentioned that books have served as fuel in the growth of humans and technology. They are the basic necessity of growth and development. Making the books accessible to everyone has always been the requirement, especially when the virus became deadly and easy access to the library became a question of great importance. The world is becoming more advanced every day, and so are we. It was quite a challenging task to buy every single book one wanted to read; thus, the library acted as an interface between us and knowledge by providing us books, journals, magazines, and autobiographies free of cost. Nevertheless, this was not enough; people wanted the same but were in their comfort

zone [5]. Though a library provides the opportunity to read a book free of cost, one must sit there and maintain discipline.

Moreover, distance can also be a problem as it is impossible to have a library every next street. The E-Resources solved this problem by providing the material to everyone who uses the internet. All the information is just a click away, and one can comfortably sit at their home while using it [12].

2. OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To understand the concept of e-resources and provide basic knowledge on various aspects of e-resources.
- ✓ To investigate the importance of e-resources in the present times.
- ✓ To create awareness about the e-resources and assist people in learning new skills.

3. TYPES

E-resources (including E-books and e-journals) are essential for every library collection. The abstracting database is a reference source that provides bibliographic information about the journal, including abstracts of the article. E-database collects information about a particular subject or a multidisciplinary area in an organised form. It allows the user to search and retrieve the information electronically. On the other hand, a statistical database mainly contains numerical data in the form of stats which is helpful for the mass community. The multimedia database includes images, videos, and files, an interactive way of communicating the information. The e-thesis has the PhD thesis, whereas, in the e-patent, the government grants access to make use of an intervention [2, 3].

4. OPEN ACCESS E-RESOURCES



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In today's world, whenever we need any information about any topic, we directly search it on the internet, but the data may not be accurate every time. Internet may provide us with false data, whereas books are considered reliable. So, for authentic content, E-libraries are accessed. Though E-resources are fruitful to the readers, they would have gained more attention if they were accessible to all, and the open access e-resources have brought this into existence. Since it is freely accessible and readers do not need to take any subscription, its craze increases with each passing day.

Open-access e-resources are electronic resources, including articles, journals, and books, freely available to readers. The readers have the full right to copy, distribute, share and modify for any purpose, and it contains accurate and authentic information [1, 4].

5. ADVANTAGES OF OPEN ACCESS E-RESOURCES

- People who could not access the E-books because of their subscriptions can access them.
- Open access helps us extend the new and innovative ideas to a wide range of people, encouraging recent research studies and acting as a source and mediator for knowledge.
- The reports and the statistics prove that publishing something in open source has caused a tremendous impact on people because of its free access to all.
- Open access information also helps the businesses access recent research, which allows them to make further decisions and boost their business.
- Open access software has low hardware costs as Linux and other open-source software require less hardware power and low software costs as there are no licensing and maintenance fees.

6. LIFECYCLE OF E-RESOURCES





7. ADVANTAGES

None of us is unaware of the benefits of e-resources. The digital presence allows the world to grow; all people widely use it. It is a source of subject books for college and school students and at the same time serves as entertainment to others by providing them with the various exciting genre of books, autobiographies, and documentaries. The advantages of a digital library are as follows [2]-

8. FROM THE USER'S POINT OF VIEW

- It can be easily accessed by a person who uses the internet. There are many books which are difficult to find or usually are unavailable at stores. In this case, the digital copy of the book can be read by downloading it.
- One does not have to step out of his comfort zone and go to a library; the books can be opened on any device and read anywhere.
- The reader neither has to buy the book nor travel to a library or shop. Thus, it saves money and time. Furthermore, there is more than one site to download an e-resource, so one can look for it on another even if the resource is unavailable in a particular area.

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- Some digital books include videos and animation, which was impossible if the book was in non-digital, text form. Thus, it makes the book look interactive and enhances children's concentration.
- Digital books can easily be downloaded by the reader and saved for future use or take screenshots of the valuable content. Moreover, one can read the latest version of a book, whereas a library may lack the updated version of many readers as it is pretty challenging to replace the old version books with a new one now and then.
- Books in libraries are old, and one may face difficulty reading the content as the printed content gets erased gradually with time. In addition, the book we read in a library may have torn pages or highlights over the content as some people tend to highlight the range when they read, and some are not careful enough to keep the pages of the book safe.
- The book can be searched by entering a keyword or name of the book, unlike a library where finding a book is a difficult task [11].
- The books and articles often get uploaded online before the printed press releases them. Thus, readers may get early access to the resources.

9. ADVANTAGES FOR LIBRARY

- ✓ There are limited copies of a book in a library; thus, only a few people can read a particular book at a time, whereas the same book can be read by any number of readers simultaneously.
- ✓ The space in the library is limited. Thus, it makes it impossible for many readers to fit in. On the other hand, the e-resources provide an opportunity to read a source from anywhere and at any time, unlike a virtual library with a set of working hours.
- ✓ There are countless books in the world, and a library cannot keep every book; thus, a person might not get the book he desires to read. Nevertheless, on the other hand, a digital library can have unlimited books without any space problem.
- ✓ It is not easy to maintain records of everyone in a library, which may result in missing books. Therefore, a digital library gives the website owner the statistic (which book is often read by users, which age group is interested in a specific text) [6].
- ✓ It is easy to add or delete a book, and the users can not destroy the pages or write on the book, which mostly happens when people read a book in actuality.

10. DISADVANTAGES

Digital libraries have catered to a wide range of readers worldwide, but as we all know, everything has two faces; the same is with this digital library. The disadvantages follow the advantages.

- It sometimes violates copyright law because one author's publications and written material are transmitted freely without their knowledge and permission.
- Much money needs to be devoted to the digital library's initial building, i.e., the hardware and the software required.
- The speed of access reduces as the excess of computers are connected.
- There is a requirement of high bandwidth to transfer the content containing multimedia files at high speed.

- A massive volume of data is fed, so finding the accurate material in time is also a task.
- Digital libraries cannot recreate the environment of the original library.
- Due to the digital library, screen time increases rapidly, affecting the eyes, mainly harmful to students. Also, the device's radiation may affect the health of the reader.
- Many people find it more comfortable reading with a physical book than online material. There is a different pleasure in reading the original text rather than the online version.
- Many websites run advertisements to earn money which appears as a popup and divert the reader's attention.
- Students are not able to mark or highlight their essential points. They could only capture the screenshot, which is also not readable sometimes.
- Internet is full of malware and viruses, so there is a chance that the reader may receive a virus while downloading the file.
- Books are available in digital libraries, but one may need to take a subscription to access them, which may not be affordable for some and serves as a barrier for the students.
- Many users may be restricted from using the e-libraries because of the poor internet connection.
- Reading a book on the phone might be distracting because of other apps notifications, and it gets more disturbing when the reader is a child.
- Reading an online material may require downloading it, and less storage availability could be an issue to some.
- Reading a book from a mobile phone could be challenging as the phone screen is smaller than a book.
- Accessing online material could be a problem for those living in an area mostly subjected to bad weather conditions and network issues.
- Although e-resources are advantageous to colleges and students, it brings the business of book stores to a loss.
- Downloading books and saving them generates carbon footprints which is a problem.

11. IMPACT ON THE WORLD

E-resources are playing an essential role in the growth and development of the world, especially in education. For the last two years, we are all sitting at home, attending online classes on zoom, Google-meet and other websites where the teachers share their screen and show the pages of a textbook while explaining. It requires capturing all the pages in image form, but it is very tough for a person to click the photo of every single page of a book; this is where e-resources save their time and storage. As almost all the books are available in e-libraries thus, they can be downloaded and used in place of images. Moreover, students also benefit from studying the same topic from texts of various authors without even buying or issuing the actual book [8]. Even the school libraries are now uploading books on their websites [7]. E-resources have proven to be more beneficial for those who cannot afford a book or live in a remote area where libraries are not yet installed. It is a fact that a good book can provide knowledge equivalent to a person's whole life experience; it enhances the intellect and reasoning power of the reader and allows him to be more creative and imaginative. There is no age of reading; therefore, it enables people of all ages to gain knowledge and entertain themselves [9]. The quality can be altered like most books can be downloaded in both high and low quality. An e-book may involve animations videos that a textbook does not support. Once

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downloaded, e-resources can be accessed without the internet, and sharing becomes easy. Therefore an e-book is much more interactive and easy to handle than an actual book, and it makes a topic easy to understand and entertain. Materials like e-journals and e-newspapers provide helpful information in scientists' business and research activities [10]. It allows a person to read textbooks, government publications, company studies, and online journals, thus providing the reader with much-needed information. E-resources are equally helpful in almost all the sectors, be it education, research, trading, or business. It extensively contributes to the advancement of technology and the human mind by making material wealth universally accessible.

WHY USE E-

RESOURCES



CONCLUSION

The e-resources serve as a boon for many people who crave reading and benefit those who need reliable information. Even when the libraries are closed, e-resources assure that the work must go on.

People prefer things that are easily accessible, less time-consuming, and require less energy. E-books have all these advantages over an actual book. Many institutions and colleges are using their self-created e-libraries to allow the students to access the books when they could not access the library. Companies are using open-source resources to boost their business. So, this infers that whatever the situation be, our work should not come to a standstill, and the process must go on alternately, as it is accompanied by the e-resources when the physical access of the resources ceases.

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