Role of Open Access Digital Repositories (OADR) on Information Seeking Behavior among Research Scholars: A study

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Abstract
The main purpose of the study is to examine the role of Open Access Digital Repositories on Information Seeking Behavior among Research Scholars. The study adopted a questionnaire-based survey research design, 220 questionnaires were distributed among research scholars at Mangalore University, out of which 200 filled questionnaires were received after duly filled for analysis. The result of the revealed that 116(56.6%) of respondents prefer to seeking information through Open Access Digital Repositories , 68(34.30%) of the respondents believed that the use of Open Access Digital Repositories while seeking information has increased their academic activities made easy and free access.

Keywords: Open Access Digital Repositories, Information Seeking, Research Scholars, Mangalore University

Introduction
Information is the vital thing of any type of research activities. Information is an essential resource which is necessary for continued existence in nowadays competitive world (Sen and Taylor, 2007). The information accessing, processing, storage have undergone revolutionizes due to the advancement in information and communication technology in all over the world (Tiwari, Tiwari, and Sharma, 2015). The large amount information is now easily and immediately accessible via internet (Hornby,2004).With the technological advancement and e-publishing access to information on a local, regional, nationwide and worldwide basis(UNESCO,1996), numerous scholarly literatures in the form of full-text academic journal papers, books, reports, etc., are published in electronic medium(Velmurugan,2013). At the moment web-based electronic information resources have become most popular instrument in academic research to provide updated current information to support teaching, learning and research activities (Priyadharshini, Janakiraman, and Subramanian, 2015). But the main difficulty for researchers is the lack of access to up to date information in their subject, a lot of current information printed in journals that have high annually subscription charges (Karanjkar, 2010) and so are faraway too costly for several libraries To overcome these difficulty the open access digital repositories facilitating the research scholars to barrier free access to current literature for study and research purpose all over world (Krishnamurthy, 2008). Permit the research scholars to read, download, copy, share out, print, search or use the information without monetary, permissible or technical barriers(Ahmed and Rather, 2007) .The emergence open access digital repository has surprisingly altered the information gathering habits of research scholars. Due to raising the information needs of research scholars open access digital repositories as tremendous instrument of electronic information (Varatharajan and Chandrashekara, 2007).

About Digital Repository

A digital repository is defined as a mechanism for storing, managing, re-use and curate digital materials created by college, university or group of universities for the managing and distribution of research materials in electronic format. Digital Repositories are also commonly referred to as 'institutional repositories' or 'digital archives'(Semple, 2006).

According to Lynch, Clifford (2003)"a university-based digital repository is a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially an organizational commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials, including long-term preservation where appropriate, as well as organization and access or distribution.".

About Information Seeking Behaviour

Information seeking is the action of ability to find information, Information seeking behavior means the technique individuals search for and make use of information to satisfy some goals. They seek information through information channels such as information centers, Internet, Libraries, or some other persons (Wikipedia, 2015).

Wilson (1999) states that information-seeking behavior is a "consequence of a need perceived by an information user, who, in order to satisfy that need, makes demands upon formal or informal information sources or services, which result in success or failure to find relevant information".

Review Literature

Kadli AND Hanchinal (2015)reported that all (100 %) respondents use information sources 'to keep their knowledge up-to-date, 45.24 % of students use computers for '2-3 hours in a day, 73.01 % from GJALC and 79.41 % from LLRCL spend their time on 'e-mail alerts and correspondence' respectively. The study revealed that the law students use IT-based library sources and facilities more frequently along with printed sources. It was recommended that the law librarians require to work in cooperation with the teaching faculty to influence learners' information seeking behaviour by re-evaluating the collection development policy, instructional programmes, services and facilities based on the needs of the current users.

Saravanan AND Esmail (2015)highlights that majority of respondent ((98.55%) respondents accessing e-resources, (99.05%) respondents satisfying the services of e-resources.(97.17%) respondents are aware about e-resources. and also found that e-resources were very dominate role to provide information to users community,(85.07%) access from college library, 49.22% access e-resources at duration of minimum 1 hour and maximum 2 hours, 33.33% respondents stated keyword search is most used commonly for access e-resources, 228(44.19%) more respondent are access IEEE online journals.

Mahmood and Saeed (2014)carried out a survey to examine the digital information seeking behaviour of research fellows (M.Phil. / Ph.D.) of private universities in Karachi.The study highlights that majority of Research fellows use digital information to work on assignments and respondents often use computer to get access to digital information.It was found that majority of Research fellows agreed that they have skillful to information search using subject heading, title and author search, they agreed that have knowledge of information searching using symbols, using phrase searching, using Boolean search techniques, advance

searching techniques, using e-journals search, online databases searching, using online theses/ dissertation, OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue), using websites.

Manikandan and others (2013)highlights that majority 82.35% of the students, research scholars and teaching staff preferred both print and electronic copy of journal articles / reference materials for their academic need,84.71% of the students, research scholars and teachings staff stated as the computer, telecommunication and its facilities, internet and digitalization are very useful for their information seeking in the electronic environment, 100 % of teaching staff and majority of research scholar and students are agreed that information technology affected their information seeking habitsThe study concluded that that most of students, research scholars and teaching staff are impacted by new information technology in their information seeking and gathering behaviour.

Kumar and Shukla (2013) studied the information seeking pattern in electronic environment of sciences and arts researchers iat Banaras Hindu University, India. The survey was conducted by means of a structured questionnaire method distributed among research scholars of faculty of arts and faculty of science.It was found that the scholars of science used to spend more than twenty hours a week gazing for information on electronic resources, it is seen that science researcher used to use electronic resource for information seeking in majority of cases while arts researcher even rely on print resources.

Laura and others 2010)conducted a study to investigate the information-seeking behaviors of basic science researchers to inform the development of customized library services.The study used structured interview methodology provided rich data concerning the information-seeking behavior of basic science faculty and research scholars.It was found that majority of researchers, library resources must be accessible via departmental websites.The study recommended that the library to create new information resources and services such as institutional repositories.

About Mangalore University

Mangalore University was set up on September 10, 1980,situated at Mangalagangothri campus, located about 20 km to the south-east of the historic coastal town of Mangalore. The university imparts higher education in field of arts, commerce, science, law and management. The University campus is a self-contained facility that provides all the essential facilities and infrastructure for the pursuit of excellence in higher education. The University has taken steps to establish contacts through exchange of scholars and students with universities in USA, UK, Finland, Japan, Norway, Germany, Spain and other countries. The University has computerized its administrative offices in order to speed up the administrative process. All postgraduate departments have been provided with Computers, Internet facility and Centrax telephones. The University has received major grants from the UGC, DST, Govt. of Karnataka, Department of Ocean Development, Department of Electronics, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Space, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Atomic Energy and other nodal agencies. All these have given to the University a national and international visibility.

Objectives

The specific objective of the study is;

- To identify the awareness about Open access Digital Repositories among research scholars
- To find out the purpose of information seeking through Open access digital Repositories
- To explore the benefits of seeking information through open access digital Repositories
- To examine the drawbacks while seeking information through Open Access Digital Repositories

Methodology

A survey research design was adopted for this work and a well structured questionnaire was used for data collection. The target population was research scholars of Mangalore University. 220 questionnaires were distributed out of which 200 duly filled in questionnaires were received back. The data collected is tabulated and analyzed.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Tale :1.Gender wise distribution of respondents

Gender	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Male	112	56.00%
Female	88	44.00
Total	200	100.00%

Table 1 shows gender-wise distribution of respondents, it was found that maximum 112(56.00%) of respondents were Male, followed by 88(44.00%) were Female respondents.

Table :2 .Awareness of Open Access Digital Repositories

Awareness	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Through Internet	61	29.8%
Through Faculty	41	20.0%
Through Friends	15	07.3%
Through Library staff	83	40.5%
Total	200	100.0%

Table 2 indicates that 83(40.5%) of respondents stated that they are well aware of using Open Access Digital Repositories through library staff, followed by **61**(29.8%) through internet, 41(20.0%) through Faculty,15(07.3%) through friends.

Table: 3.Preference for seeking information through Open Access Digital Repositories

Preference	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Preferred	116	56.6%
Neutral	84	43.4%
Not Preferred	0	.0%

Total	200	100.0%

Table: 3 indicated that maximum number 116(56.6%) of respondents prefer to seeking information through Open Access Digital Repositories , followed by 84(43.4%) are neutral.

Table: 4. Purpose of information seeking through Open access digital Repositories

Purpose	No. of Respondent	**Percentage**
To complete Research Projects/ Assignments	68	34.2%
To write research papers/books	57	28.9%
To update knowledge	25	12.5%
To prepare presentations/reports	27	13.2%
To access grey /unpublished works	23	11.2%
Total	200	100.0%

In order to find out the purpose of information seeking through Open access digital Repositories, the respondents were asked to indicate the purpose of using Open access digital Repositories .The table 4 demonstrates that 68(34.2%) of the respondents using Open access digital Repositories to seeking information for the purpose to complete Research Projects/ Assignments, whereas 57(28.9%) to write research papers/books, 27(13.2%) to prepare presentations/reports.

Table: 5.Benefits of seeking information through Open Access Digital Repositories

Benefits	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Easy and free access	68	34.30%
Permanence and all time availability	64	32.20%
Single point access to all works produced by an institution	45	22. 20%
Hyperlink access to additional Information	23	11.30%
Total	200	100.00%

Table 5 exhibits that 68(34.30%) of the respondents believed that the use of Open Access Digital Repositories while seeking information has increased their academic activities made easy and free access, while 64(32.20%) claimed that Permanence and all time availability, 45(22. 20%) of respondents pinioned that single point access to all works produced by an institution, and 23(11.30%) Hyperlink access to additional Information. From this result of the study, it is clear that the use of Open Access Digital Repositories while seeking information have positively influenced the educational efficiency of the respondents.

Table: 6. Drawbacks of seeking information through open access digital Repositories

Drawbacks	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Lack of knowledge	100	50.00%
Lack of Quality content	56	28.1%
Lack of Original research works	29	14.5%
Lack of instruction about how to use/see	15	07.4%

Total	200	100.00%

Table 6 shows that difficulty in finding relevant information is a major challenge faced by respondents,100(50.00%) of respondents stated lack of knowledge is a major problem while seeking information through Open Access Digital Repositories, followed by 56(28.1%) lack of Quality content,29(14.5%) lack of original research works,and 15(07.4%) lack of instruction about how to use/see

Conclusion and Recommendations

The digital repository has remarkable influence on the information seeking behavior of students, research scholars and academics today. The study found that open access digital repository play an vital role in researchers' information-seeking pursuits ,because open access digital repositories have develop into platforms for the distributing of digital information ,offer access to research articles and other learning materials free of cost. Libraries in educational institutions should device a new means of reaching out and creating awareness of digital repository and services in order to make sure maximum usage on the part of users. Computer skills of research scholars should be improved. The study also suggested some other techniques like attending training classes, awareness programmes, workshops, seminar etc. to the doctoral students in order to develop their level of open access digital repository awareness. The Universities and libraries can organize various orientation programmes, workshops etc, for research scholars as well as for other graduate and post graduate students in order to effective utilization of digital contents.

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