



Management Of E-Resources In Selected University Libraries In Telangana State

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ABSTRACT:

The management of electronic resources (e-resources) in academic libraries is pivotal in enhancing research and educational outcomes. This study explores the strategies and effectiveness of e-resource management in selected university libraries across Telangana State, India. The study focuses on how libraries acquire, access, integrate e-resources, and the challenges faced by the University Libraries. The study utilizes a mixed-methods approach, incorporating surveys, interviews, and direct observation to gather data from librarians and users within the university libraries. Key focus areas include the impact of technological infrastructure, budget allocations, staff competencies, user engagement on the overall management and utilization of e-resources.

The study reveals a significant variation in the management practices between different university libraries, influenced by financial, technical, and human resource factors. While some libraries demonstrate robust systems and policies for managing e-resources efficiently, others struggle with issues such as inadequate funding, limited technical support, and lack of training for library staff. The study suggests that enhancing digital literacy skills among librarians and users, increasing budget allocations for digital resources, and adopting advanced technological tools are critical for improving the management of e-resources in university libraries. The study concludes with a set of recommendations tailored for policymakers, library administrators, and academic institutions in Telangana to optimize their e-resource management strategies to better support their academic communities.

Key words: e-resource management strategies, University Libraries, Telangana OPACs (Online Public Access Catalogs)

INTRODUCTION:

The term "e-resource" encompasses all products that a library offers through a computer network. These electronic resources, also known as online information resources, include a range of materials such as bibliographic databases, electronic reference books, search engines for full-text books, and digital data collections. The array of e-resources extends to e-books, e-journals, databases, CDs/DVDs, e-conference proceedings, e-reports, e-maps, e-photographs, e-manuscripts, e-theses, e-newspapers, and internet websites.

The history of e-resources dates back to the mid-1960s with the introduction of machine-readable catalogues, which acted as directive tools for accessing information resources. This evolved into the use of OPACs (Online Public Access Catalogs) and bibliographic databases, which were further enhanced by the adoption of CD-ROM databases in the 1980s. Over the past decade, library collection management has undergone significant transformations. The advent of new technologies in information publication via the Internet and the World Wide Web has necessitated the development of web-based information collections by libraries. This shift has dramatically changed the generation, publication, and dissemination of electronic information.

The concept of libraries has rapidly evolved due to the impact of information communication technologies. Libraries have transitioned from a primarily print-based environment to an electronic one, now hosting both printed and digital collections. With the rapid changes in the information environment, there has been an increased availability of electronic resources in libraries. Electronic publishing has largely supplanted print publications, offering an alternative medium that provides faster and lower-cost dissemination of information than traditional paper-based methods.

This transformation has given rise to consortia that enable libraries to provide electronic access to professional literature, including research journals, abstracts, review publications, and databases across various disciplines such as science, technology, social sciences, and humanities. Online access to databases allows users to retrieve relevant and up-to-date information swiftly. The different electronic formats that facilitate information delivery include OPACs, online databases, web databases, e-books, e-journals/magazines, e-theses and dissertations, e-reference sources, e-learning materials, e-research reports, and e-newspapers. As a result, electronic resources have become an essential part of university library collections in the 21st century.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE: Pathrikar Shiripad Ramchandra Rao (2022) conducted a study titled "Collection Management of e-resources in non-agriculture University Libraries in Maharashtra." It found that the use of e-resources facilitates easy retrieval of information and helps expand the knowledge base of students for their semester projects and other academic purposes. Ravi Kumar, N P (2022) explored "Information Resources Development and Management in Select State Agricultural University Libraries in South India: A Study." The research revealed that there is significant potential to enhance university library resource development to improve organizational outcomes. The study highlights the need for improvements in university library development policies and in training and development practices. Lakpathi Kethavath (2021) investigated the "Use Pattern and Impact of E-Resources by Faculty Members and Research Scholars in Osmania University." The study found that the impact of e-resources on faculty members has notably enhanced their learning skills and increased their research publications. Jaffer Basha, S (2020) analyzed the "Usage and Management of E-Resources and Services in Engineering College Libraries of North Karnataka: An Analytical Study." It was discovered that the majority of engineering colleges provide e-resources to their users, and these resources are extensively utilized for academic activities. Siddiqui, Suboohi (2019) conducted a study titled "Access and Use of E-Resources by Faculty Members and Students in Economics at Select Universities in Delhi." This research focused on the availability and accessibility of resources in the social sciences, and emphasized the importance of training faculty and students in the use of e-resources for both curricular and co-curricular activities. Kulveen Kaur (2018) presented "Use of E-Resources in Agricultural University Libraries of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh: An Analytical Study." The findings indicated that university libraries should be well-equipped with up-to-date collections of agricultural information. The study also suggested that universities should implement comprehensive plans for manpower development and prioritize initiatives for better Human Resource Management in the university libraries of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. Tandel, Sanjaykumar Dahyabhai (2017) explored "Use of E-Resources and Services in University Libraries of Gujarat State: An Analytical Study." The study found that the majority of university libraries in Gujarat are subscribing to e-resources, which are heavily utilized by library users for their research and academic studies.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The specific objectives related to the present study are as follows:

1. To find out the services provided by the selected University Libraries in Telangana State.
2. To find out the e-resource development collection policies in selected University Libraries in Telangana State.
3. To examine the barriers of e-resources management in selected University Libraries in Telangana State.
4. To study the impact of ICT application on e-resources management in selected University Libraries in Telangana State.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:

The study was carried out based on the following hypotheses:

1. Selected University libraries are providing innovative Library services to the users.
2. Large numbers of University Libraries are having e-resource development policy in selected University Libraries in Telangana State.
3. There are significant barriers to e-resource collection management in selected University Libraries in Telangana State.
4. There is an impact of ICT application on e-resource collection management in selected University Libraries in Telangana State.

METHODOLOGY:

In the current study, the survey method of research was adopted. A total of five university libraries in the state of Telangana were selected for this research. The results and findings were derived from the responses of 105 selected sample respondents. The sample included 75 students and 30 library staff. This diverse group provided a comprehensive view of the usage and management of e-resources within the academic libraries. Their insights are crucial for understanding the effectiveness of current library services and identifying areas needing improvement to enhance user satisfaction and accessibility of digital resources.

LIMITATIONS:

The present study is restricted to five selected university libraries in Telangana state, and the findings and conclusions are drawn based solely on this limited sample. Consequently, the results and findings cannot be generalized to all university libraries within Telangana state.

ANALYSIS:

The gender-wise distribution of respondents in the survey shows a total of 67 (63.80%) male respondents, which includes 45 (42.85%) student respondents and 22 (20.95%) library staff respondents. This is followed by 30 (28.57%) female student respondents and 8 (7.61%) female library staff respondents. The gender ratio of respondents in the present study is approximately 2:1 male to female. The average age of the respondents is 39.21 years. The majority of the student respondents are pursuing postgraduate courses at their respective universities. Among the 30 library staff members, a large majority, specifically 20 (66.66%), hold a Master's degree in Library and Information Science, which is a positive indicator of their qualifications.

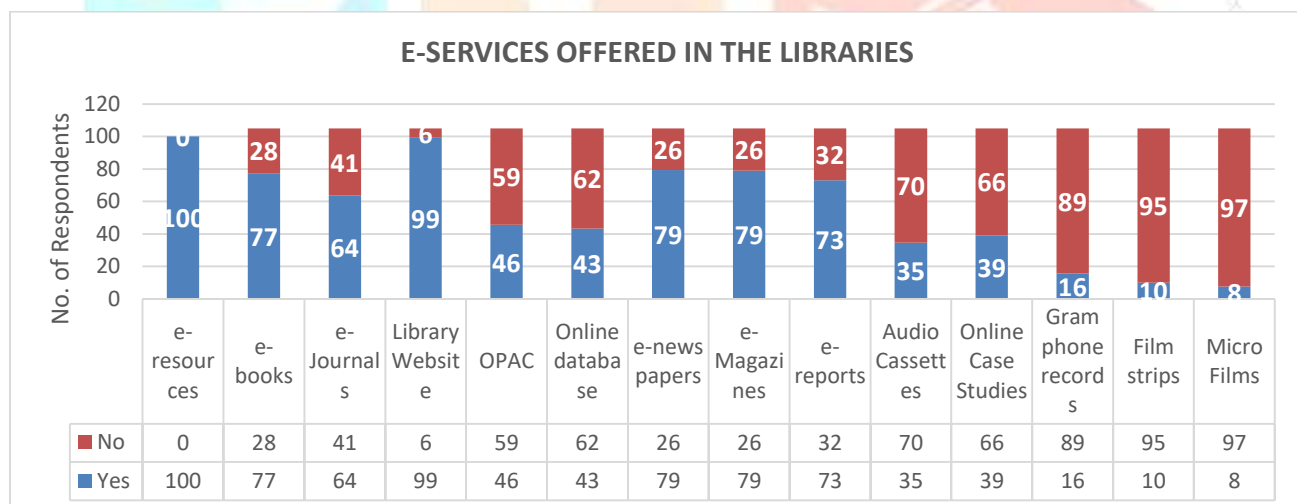
Table No. 1 Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents

Respondents Type	Female	Male	Total
Students	30	45	75
Library Staff	8	22	30
Total	38	67	105

All respondents, i.e., 100% (105 out of 105), reported that their libraries provide e-resource services, which is a positive indicator. The list of e-services offered reveals that a significant majority, i.e., 95.24% (100 out

of 105 respondents), mentioned their libraries offer e-books, and 78.10% (82 out of 105 respondents) provide access to e-journals. Furthermore, 94.29% (99 out of 105) of respondents indicated that their libraries have dedicated and interactive websites. A moderate number of respondents, i.e., 43.81% (46 out of 105), said their libraries offer OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogs), and 40.95% (43 out of 105) provide online databases. Additionally, 75.24% (79 out of 105) of respondents reported their libraries offer e-papers and the same percentage (75.24%, 79 out of 105) said their libraries also provide e-magazines alongside physical magazines. Around 69.52% (73 out of 105) mentioned their libraries offer e-reporting services. In terms of other services, a smaller number of respondents, i.e., 33.33% (35 out of 105), said their libraries offer audio cassette services, and 37.14% (39 out of 105) stated their libraries provide online case studies. Only 15.24% (16 out of 105) mentioned Gramophone record services, 9.52% (10 out of 105) indicated Film strips, and 7.62% (8 out of 105) reported their libraries offer Microfilm services.

Chi-square test results of Respondent Type Vs. E-services offered by the libraries shows that calculated chi-square value of e-resources (4.8651), e-books (5.1247), e- Journals (4.0961), Library Website (7.5548), Online database (9.4781), e-newspapers (6.8894), e-Magazines (5.1117), e-reports (4.0009) and Online Case Studies (5.143) is greater than the table value (3.841) at 0.05 level of significance at 1 degree of freedom so reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis. So All University libraries are providing innovative Library e-services to the users.

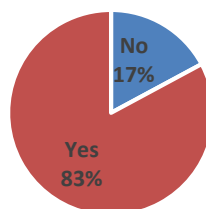


A large majority of respondents i.e. 82.86% (87 out of 105) respondents said their libraries have e-resource development collection policy. It is a positive indicator. Followed by a small percentage of respondents 18 out of 105 respondents said their libraries don't have e-resource development collection policy.

Table No. 2 e- resources Selection & Development Policy

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
No	18	17.14
Yes	87	82.86
Total	105	100

e- resources Selection & Development Policy



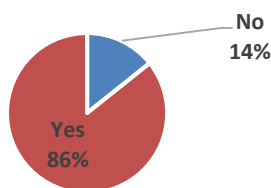
Chi-square test results of Respondent type Vs. Responses on Status of Libraries having e- resources Selection & Development Policy. Calculated Chi-square value is 5.1572 is higher than the table value (3.841) at 1 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. So reject the Null Hypothesis (H0) and accept the alternative hypothesis (H1). Hence largenumbers of University Libraries are having e-resource development policy in selected University Libraries in Telangana State.

Table No. 3 Impact of ICT application on e-resources management

Response	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
No	15	14.29
Yes	90	85.71
Total	105	100

A large majority of Respondents i.e. 85.71% (90 out of 105) respondents who participated in the present survey said ICT Application has greater impact on e-resources management. It is a positive sign. Very small percentage of respondents 15 out of 105 respondents said ICT application doesn't have any impact on e-resource management.

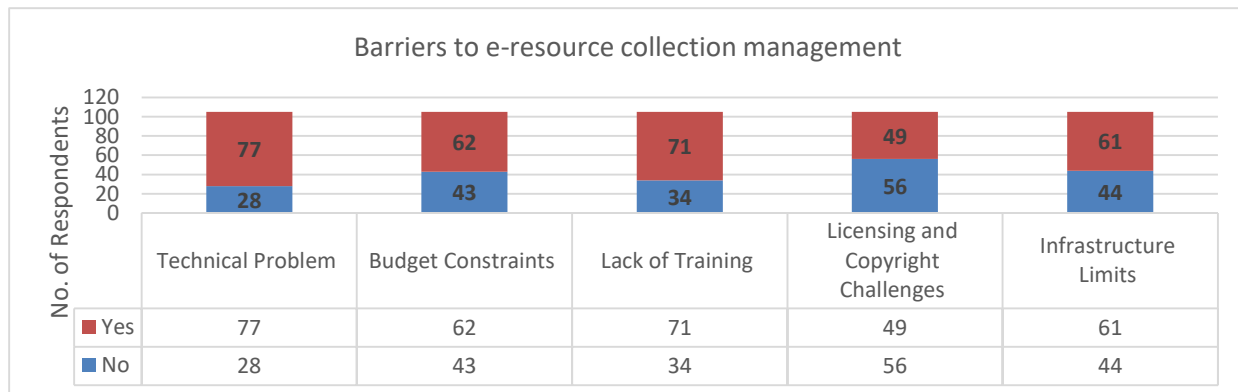
Impact of ICT application on e-resources management



A majority of respondents i.e. 73.33% (77 out of 105) respondents indicate that technical problems, 67.61% (71 out of 105) respondents indicate that lack of training is the major problem they face in their libraries with regards to e-resource collection management. About 59.04% (62 out of 105) respondents said budget constraints and 46.66% (49) respondents said Licensing and Copyright Challenges are the most prevalent barriers to e-resource collection management.

Table No. 4 Barriers to e-resource collection management

Problem	Response	
	No	Yes
Technical Problem	28	77
Budget Constraints	43	62
Lack of Training	34	71
Licensing and Copyright Challenges	56	49
Infrastructure Limits	44	61



FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

All libraries are actively providing essential e-resources such as e-books and e-journals, indicating a strong commitment to digital transformation with nearly full penetration of e-service offerings like dedicated websites. Moreover, the high rate of libraries with established e-resource development policies (82.86%) suggests a structured approach to resource management, aligning with the progressive adoption of technology in library operations.

However, the survey also highlights critical challenges that libraries face in optimizing e-resource management. A significant proportion of respondents identified technical problems, lack of training, budget constraints, and licensing or copyright issues as major barriers. These challenges underscore the need for ongoing training programs to enhance staff competencies in managing digital resources effectively. Additionally, the impact of ICT applications on e-resource management is overwhelmingly viewed as positive by the majority, emphasizing the importance of integrating modern technology solutions to overcome operational hurdles and improve service delivery. This insight into both the capabilities and areas for improvement aids in shaping strategies for future development, focusing on leveraging technological advancements while addressing infrastructural and training needs.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION:

To ascertain the e-resource management processes adopted across selected university libraries in the state of Telangana, as well as the major barriers associated with e-resource management, a well-structured questionnaire was designed and responses from various stakeholders were collected. Critical parameters

such as the availability of e-resources, the types of e-resources offered to users, e-resources collection policies adopted, e-resources management techniques used, barriers to e-resource management, and the impact of ICT on e-resource management were considered and analyzed.

CONCLUSION:

The findings from this study illustrate a robust adoption of e-resource services across libraries, with a high percentage offering critical digital assets like e-books, e-journals, and maintaining interactive websites. The significant adoption of e-resource development collection policies further highlights a structured approach towards the enhancement of digital libraries. However, the study also brings to light several challenges that impede optimal e-resource management, primarily technical issues, lack of adequate training, budget limitations, licensing and copyright complexities. Despite these challenges, the positive impact of ICT applications on e-resource management is overwhelmingly recognized by the vast majority of respondents. This highlights a crucial pathway for libraries investing in technology and training can drastically improve the management and efficiency of e-resource services, thereby meeting the evolving needs of library users more effectively. Therefore, libraries need to focus on upgrading their ICT capabilities and addressing the training needs of their staff to harness the full potential of digital resources and ensure their services remain relevant and accessible in the digital age.

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