REVIEW OF RESEARCH

AWARENESS AND UTILIZATION OF E-RESOURCES AMONG THE STUDENTS OF CAREER POINT UNIVERSITY KOTA (CPU)

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ABSTRACT:

This study investigates the level of awareness and utilization of e-resources among the students of Career Point University Kota (CPU). Survey research design was adopted for the study. A sample of 230 both undergraduate and postgraduate students was selected for the study and questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. 157 copies of the questionnaire were retrieved, representing 68% response rate. Data was analyzed using frequency and simple percentages.

Findings revealed that students were aware of most of the available e-resources except in some rare cases. Despite the awareness, findings indicated that students participated less in the utilization of the available e-resources in CPU library. It was recommended that the university management should invest more on acquisitions of e-resources needed in the library. Also proper orientation program should be arranged constantly for the new library users on how to use e-resources and other library resources.

KEYWORDS: E-resources, Career Point University, Kota.

INTRODUCTION:

The 21st century is witnessing the growth of electronic or digital information resources at a phenomenal rate. In the recent information age, the electronic documents dominate the swelling tide of information that floods nearly each and every organization. While the growth of e-resources is increasing, what has not increased is the awareness and skills required to access the information resources. At present for example in the academia, the amount of electronic information resources available is much more than the print resources, however many teachers and students do not know how to access and retrieve such electronic information resources from the Internet, E-Journals, E-databases etc. Information seeking skills mostly are not coping with the amount of e-resources available for use, which is creating a different kind of digital divide among the group of information seekers.

E-resources add value to the library collection and satisfy the unique needs of students, faculty and research scholars with less risk and time.

Additionally, electronic resources have the capability to increase students' learning opportunities. The interactive and multimedia components provided by the electronic media somehow offer multiple learning experiences than conventional counterpart (printed) documents.

Dadzie (2005), mentioned that "electronic resources are invaluable research tools which complement print-based resources in any traditional library. Electronic resources provide access to information that might be restricted to the user because of geographical location or finances. They

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also provide access to current information because they are frequently updated. Through their various search techniques, electronic resources provide extensive links to explore additional resources or related content. In addition, electronic resources are convenient to use since users are able to access information from the library, internet cafe and offices or at times from the comfort of their homes at any time of the day". (p. 290).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The use of e-resources is increasing day by day and every university library is rapidly moving towards e-resources collection. The growth and diversity of e-resources in the past five years has led many people to predict the disappearance of the print resources. Thus, increasing number of e-resources seems to confirm that we are facing a general change in scientific communication process.

A study conducted at PEC, Chandigarh in 2009 (Parmar, 2012) found that 85 percent faculty, 91 percent research scholars, 75 percent PG and 49 percent UG students were aware of e-journals. Majority of the faculty and research scholars were aware of more than five e-journals while other students were aware of only 1 or 2 e-journals. At IIT, Delhi (Nisha and Naushad Ali, 2012) 95 percent students, researchers and faculty were aware of e-journals.

Mohammed Haneefa K (2005) has investigated the use of e-resources in special libraries in Kerala. The study explored the specific factors that promoted or hindered the use of electronic resources. It was conducted in 30 libraries. The study reported that majority of the special libraries in Kerala have no OPAC, even though most of them are at various stages of computerization. The study revealed that very few libraries are using commercial online databases. Only two libraries have a separate Digital Library. Only three special libraries are participating in library consortia and this is for accessing for e-journals. The study also revealed that all the special libraries in Kerala are providing e-mail and WWW facilities. Majority of the libraries under study are providing access to e-journals.

Baheerathan M, (2003) studied the internet awareness among the teachers of mathematics at high school level in Tanjavur district. He reported that the internet awareness among the students of mathematics at high school level is not sufficient. Also he found that the gender of the teachers and the locale and the management of the schools where they are working caused no significant difference in respect of their internet awareness.

Lord J (2003) has discussed various aspects of access to electronic journals at the Royal College of Nursing (RCN). RCN had been offering remote access to electronic journals since 2001. Ensuring that the service was used effectively by the RCN's large membership with different information literacy skills in UK and abroad is a challenge, the study outlined the various strategies employed to meet that challenge. RCN library and information services also worked with RCN Colleagues, developing the award winning online learning zone to ensure that the e-journals are promoted within an online learning environment.

Adika Gifty (2003) has analysed that lack of access to current materials in libraries of universities in developing countries is a major problem that hinders research and teaching. Interlibrary loans and document delivery projects have not solved this problem by themselves. The Internet makes it possible for users to have access to large volumes of information irrespective of their geographical location.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The dawn of a new era in library services has led to a change from the dominance of the conventional (print) collection to the inclusion of electronic collection. Despite the massive influx of electronic resources in the libraries today, so many students, researchers and faculty members find it more difficult when it comes to the application and use of the electronic resources provided by the parent library. As a result the researcher tends to investigate the level of 'Awareness and Utilization of electronic resources among the students of Career Point University Kota'.

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OBJECTIVES

The aim of the study is to know the level of awareness and utilization of e-resources among the students of Career Point University Kota (CPU). Within this broad objective, the study is specifically intended to:

♦ Know the user awareness of e-resource;
♦ Assess the utilization of e-resources;
♦ Identify the problems faced by users of e-resources;
♦ Suggest measures for increasing in the use of e-resources.

METHODOLOGY

The research method adopted for the study is survey design, Aina and Ajiferuke (2002), argued that, survey design could be conveniently used in large and small population without sacrificing efficiency in addition to time and money saving and currency. Nwanna (2014), cited in Agbonmiewalen that 'when a population runs into few hundred use forty 40% or more, when several hundred use 10%, when thousands use 10%, and when several thousand use 5% or less. Therefore, 10% which represent 230 students out of the total population of 2300 was used as sample size. The main instrument for data collection for this research is a structured questionnaire that was distributed among the students of Career Point University Kota using simple random sampling while interview and observation are also used. Table 1 below; represent the total population of the study.

Table 1: Population Distribution (2019)

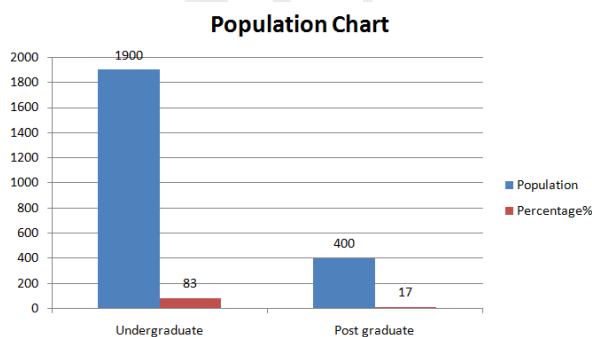| S.No	Users	Number	%
1.	Undergraduate Students	1900	83
2.	Postgraduate Students	400	17
Total		2300	100

Chart: 1 Population Chart
total= 2300

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Data analysis, interpretation and discussion of findings based on the objectives of the study. A total of two hundred and thirty (230) questionnaire were distributed and a sum of 157(68%) of the questionnaire were filled and then returned. The questionnaire was designed to seek information on personal data, awareness of electronic resources, use of electronic resources, access to electronic resources, and problems associated with the use of electronic resources. Data collected with the help of questionnaire was organised using frequency tables with simple percentages.

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The analysis is presented below:

Table 2; Gender of the respondents,

Gender	Frequency	Percentage %
Male	97	62
Female	60	38
Total	157	100

The table above indicate that 62% (97) 0f the respondents were male while the female counterpart represents 38% (60). This revealed that, there is more male students in career point then the female counterpart.

Table 3: Program of study,

Program	Frequency	Percentage%
Undergraduate	103	66%
Post graduate	54	34%
Others (specify)	0	0
Total	157	100

Table 3 above, shows that undergraduate students of Career Point University Kota outweigh the post graduate students with 103(66%) and 54(34%) respectively. This revealed that there are more undergraduate students in Career Point University Kota than the post graduate students.

Table 4: Level of Awareness of e-resources available in CPU library;
The table below indicate the level of awareness of e-resources among the students.

E-resources	UG Percentage%	PG Percentage%
e-journals	56(36%)	100(64%)
e-book	70(44)	87(55%)
e-databases	48(31%)	85(54%)
e-repositories	50(31%)	121(77%)
Opac	36(22%)	59(38%)
e-magazines	40(25%)	90(57%)

From the above table 4 the following can be extracted;
Only 36% of the undergraduate students are aware of the e-journals while 64% of the postgraduate students are aware of some of the e-journals provided by the CPU library. It also revealed that 44% of the undergraduate students of CPU are aware of the e-books while 55% of the postgraduate students are aware of the e-books that are available especially in CPU library. Less than half (48%) of the undergraduate students are aware of the e-databases and almost more than half (54%) of the postgraduate students are aware of the e-databases available. The table also revealed that 50% of the undergraduate respondents are aware of e-repositories, while 77% of the postgraduate students are aware of the e-repositories. It can also be seen that 36% of the undergraduate students are aware of the opac and only 59% of the postgraduate students are aware of opac. And lastly the table revealed that, 40% of undergraduate students are aware of e-magazines while 57% of the postgraduate students are aware of the e-magazines available especially in the CPU library.

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Table 5; Level of Utilization of e-resources

This table can be broadly classified according to program of study, which are undergraduate and postgraduate programs.

Table 5.1; Level of utilization by undergraduate students

S No.	Level of utilization	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Daily	5	3.1%
2	Once a week	19	12.1%
3	2-3 times a week	18	11.4%
4	2-3 times a month	21	13.3%
5	Occasionally	40	25.4%

The above table revealed that most of the undergraduate students with 25.4% tend to use the e-resources occasionally followed by those that use it 2-3 times a month with 13.3%. It can also be seen that 11.4% of the undergraduate students of CPU use e-resources 2-3 times a week while 12.1% used it once a week and only 3.1% of the respondents use e-resources daily.

Table 5.2; Level of utilization of e-resources by postgraduate students

S No.	Level of Utilization	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Daily	23	14.6
2	Once a week	30	19%
3	2-3 times a week	35	22.3%
4	2-3 times a month	24	15.3%
5	Occasionally	90	57.3%

The table 5.2 above revealed that most of the postgraduate students of CPU with 57.3% used e-resources occasionally followed by those that use it 2-3 times a week with 22.3%. It also revealed that 19% of the respondents used it once in a week and 15.3% recorded using it 2-3 times in a week while only 14.6% of the postgraduate students of Career Point University used e-resources daily.

The above tables revealed that, postgraduate students often used e-resources more frequnctly than the undergraduate counterpart.

Table 6; Access to e-resources

Place of access	Frequency	Percentage %
Campus	51	32.4%
Off Campus	16	10.1%
Off and on campus	88	56%

Table 6 above revealed that 56% of the respondent access e-resources both in and out campus while 32.4% access e-resources within the campus and only 10.1% access e-resources off campus.

Table 7; problems associated with the use of e-resources

Problems	Frequency	Percentage %
Inadequate computers in the library	75	47.7
Insufficient search skills	90	57.3%
Poor internet connectivity	51	32.5%
Limited subscribed	122	77.7%

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databases		
Lack of time for searching	44	28%
Power instability	1	0.6%
Lack of information on how to use e-resources	130	82.8%

Table 7 above revealed that 82.8% of the respondents lack information on how to use e-resources. Also 77.7% of the respondents revealed that that is limited subscribed databases in the institutions' library under study; while 57.3% of the respondents expressed that there is insufficient search skill by the students. The table further revealed that 47.7% of the students expressed that there is inadequate computers in the library while 32.5% expressed poor internet connectivity and 28% indicated lack of time for searching respectively, when only 0.6% of the respondents revealed that there is power instability.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS
❖ The study revealed that 83% of the students in Career Point University Kota are pursuing various undergraduate programs while only 17% are pursuing postgraduate programs.
❖ The study also revealed that more than half (62%) of the students were male while only 38% tends to be female.
❖ The study further revealed that more than 50% of the students are aware of the e-resources available in the CPU library unless in the case of Opac and e-magazines whereby it has been recorded that less than 50% of the undergraduate students are aware of them. Also the study recorded that, postgraduate students are more aware about the e-resources available than their undergraduates counterpart. This can be attributed to the differences in their educational level, experience and tasks
❖ The study indicated that there is less participation in the utilization of e-resources by undergraduate students while most of the postgraduate students tend to use available e-resources occasionally.
❖ It can be understood from the study that more than 50% of the students preferred to access e-resources both off and on campus.
❖ Based on the study, the following problems have been identified;
 i. There is inadequate computers in the CPU library
 ii. Most of the students lack skill on how to search for available information from the databases
 iii. Internet connectivity is not sufficiently enough
 iv. There is limited subscribed databases
 v. More than half of the students lack information on how to use or operate some e-resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Based on the study, the following recommendations are suggested by the researchers;
1. More or adequate computers should be provided so that to enhanced accessibility and utilization of available e-resources by students.
2. Proper training or orientation on how to use library resources both conventional and non-conventional counterpart should be given to library users especially those that are newly registered.
3. Library should endeavour to subscribe to other paramount databases that will be useful to the students.
4. Library should also endeavour to provide more reliable network connection so as to facilitate easy access of subscribed databases.
5. University management should invest more in acquisition of e-resources in the library.

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