



USE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

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INTRODUCTION :

The utilization of electronic information resources has transformed the work of social scientists. Computers in the social sciences has traditionally been used as a tool for analyzing quantitative data. However, massive increasing in computing power at declining cost has made possible ways of dealing with topics and problems which were traditionally beyond the scope of social scientists. There is in fact, no area of research, teaching or scholarship which has remained untouched by developments in electronic resources and information technology.

The rapid growth of new technologies has changed the communication process and reduced the cost of communication for individuals. Electronics sources can be seen as the most recent development in information technology and are among the most powerful tools ever invented in human history. Electronic information sources are becoming more and more important for the research community.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER:

- To know the status of awareness of subjects about availability of e-resources
- To discover the type of sources which are used most often among research
- To explore the need for using electronic resources
- To know quantitative and qualitative availability of e-resources and their relevance





- To suggest measures for improving infrastructure and promotion of e-resources.

USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION :

The use of electronic information for the purpose of research and learning in various institutions has posed challenges in relation to system connections, working ability and access. Electronic information serves as a motivating factor to researcher as it provides them opportunity to transmit, acquire or download, process and disseminate information on a subject interest.

The use of Electronic Information has provided :

- i) New means of representing and manipulating information,
- ii) Improved tools for acquisition, storage and management of data,
- iii) Means for representing conventional media forms- numbers, text, audio, video, pictures
- iv) Computer networks which facilitate communication with other individuals and within teams and which also permit access to information resources that can be widely dispersed.

Such technologies would include computer assisted data collection, computer analysis of text and of visual material, large scale database systems, new developments in statistical analysis, modeling and simulation, artificial intelligence techniques, large scale computer networks, data archives, hypertexts, multimedia and visualization techniques.





TYPES OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES :

The libraries with their traditional holding in print format, are now being added with electronic information resources in various formats such as:

CD-ROM databases :

Use of CD-Rom databases are increasing day by day in almost all fields due to their many advantages in information storage and retrieval. Majority of publishers of books and journals, on-line vendors and various learned societies are bringing out new titles in CD format with powerful, user-friendly retrieval software. Electronic information resources in CD format include abstracting and indexing services, encyclopedias, dictionaries, directories, yearbook, back volumes, patents, standards and many other reference work.

DVD-ROM databases:

The ultimate advantage of DVD (Digital Video Disc or Digital Versatile Disc) with its high data storage capacity, has made it possible to include more multimedia elements like video and sound and to integrate many reference sources on a single disc.

Online Databases :

The recent growth of Internet and the popularity and ease in use of Web are making libraries to subscribe to online information services. The usage of online databases against their CD-Rom counterparts has to be evaluated and decided on the basis of cost effectiveness and timeliness.





E-books

An electronic book is the content of the book made available to the reader in electronic form. According to Encyclopedia of library and Information Science, electronic book. Electronic books or e-books, are books in computer file format and read on all types of computers, including handheld devices, designed specifically for reading e-books.

E-journals

E-journals or electronic journals are gaining more importance with the emergence of Internet. The publishing world is undergoing a revolutionary change as more and more publications are becoming Web centric. Most of the publishers are choosing Web as an access medium using HTML to mark up the journal content so that it can be read using a web browser. There are also called as networked E-journals. Other publishers have chosen to use additional access software in conjunction with the web, the most popular being Adobe Acrobat and its associated portable document format (PDF)

INTERNET

The INTERNET and its World Wide Web (WWW) have given a paradigm shift to information management. The information available on net is increasing rapidly and the task of providing relevant information to patrons is gaining paramount importance in all types of libraries. Most of the reputed publishers, learned and commercial societies are hosting their products on net and also all libraries are sharing their internal and external information resources by means of web pages and Web-OPACs. The powerful search engines over net are aiding the information location





quite efficiently. The internet services like E-mail, Bulletin Boards, Newsgroups, Discussion Lists, etc.

HOW THE ELECTRONIC RESOURCES HELPFUL FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES :

Research Management

Computer software has much to offer to scientists to increase their research activity

- i) The costs of backing up data are extremely small
- ii) Researchers need printed copies of much information, and database programmes offer flexible ways of printing essential information,
- iii) Information has to be keyed in just once.

Thereafter, information which is required in a different format in a different programme is exported. Databases typically offer several formats for data exchange, include formats to translate data from a database to statistical programme.

Communication :

Research is usually collaborative drawing on the collective research endeavour of the social scientific community and working with colleagues in a current project. Electronic resources offer several ways of enhancing this collaboration. The use of electronic networks helps one to keep abreast of research activity. Electronic mail allows people to send information to each other with minimum delay and at almost no cost.

Analysis of Data:

Computers are used in basic statistical analysis. Researchers often have a large amount of raw data, comprising field notes, records of meeting, press and informal reports and interviews. Computers can be used to assist the analysis of this information.





Report Writing :

The use of word processor like Microsoft word and word perfect is no widespread. Most word processors include spell checking and other method to catch errors before the occur. A word processors glossary function contains names of frequently used phrases.

Presentation :

Various software can assist social scientists in presenting materials to a live audience. The programmes may be used to produce slides for a projector, which can be used in conjunction with an LCD panel which connects to the computer.

CONCLUSION :

From the above discussion we understand the importance of electronic resources in research. Electronic resources will encourage the advent of research projects wider in scope than at present, a trend towards more collaborative research, and greater accumulation of research findings than at present innovations such as electronic mail or computerized information available at low cost and over great distances.

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