



Electronic Resource Management (ERM) in Technical College Libraries of Aligarh District

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Abstract

The present study is to examine and analyze the status and differences in different components of e-resources management of technical college libraries in Aligarh district. Library users in this new environment demands more sophisticated services, not only with print resources that library holds but also e-resources such as e-journals, e-books, databases, and web-resources and to meet the growing needs for integrating e-resources, web-resources such as internet bookstores and various information retrieval systems. It also examines the factors responsible for criteria/methods used in the life cycle of e-resources and e-resource management (erm) system. Libraries function as an essential integral component in the higher education system. Academic libraries in India are facing a lot of problems due to motionless budget and exponential price hike of library collections. The library atmosphere is currently undergoing a rapid and energetic emerging revolution leading to a new generation of libraries with the prominence on e-resources.

Keywords: Electronic Resource Management, ERM, Collection Development, Technical Colleges Libraries.

Introduction

In the Technical College Libraries of Aligarh District, Electronic Resource Management (ERM) refers to the methodical management of electronic resources, like as databases, e-books, online journals, and other digital content. ERM systems have been used by these libraries more and more to effectively manage their holdings, expedite access, and improve user experience. Libraries can monitor usage data, handle license agreements, and make it easier for resources to be seamlessly integrated into their services by putting ERM into place. This management strategy promotes academic research and learning in addition to making resources more accessible to instructors and students. ERM systems also assist libraries manage their budgets and adjust to the quickly evolving digital information ecosystem (Achonna, 2008). All things considered, the expansion and viability of library services in Aligarh's technical education sector depend heavily on



efficient ERM procedures. Electronic resources speak to a progressively critical portion of the collection advancement exercises of libraries. Electronic resources allude to those materials that require computer get to whether through a individual computer, centralized computer, or handheld portable gadget. They may either be accessed remotely by the internet or locally. Some of the most commonly come across categories are:

- E-journals
- E-books
- Full-text databases
- Indexing and abstracting databases
- Reference databases (biographies, dictionaries, directories, encyclopaedias', etc.)
- Numeric and statistical databases
- E-images
- E-audio/visual resources

Electronic Information Resources and Services

Information is required since it influence individuals living exercise and condition agreeing to experimental prove. According to information scientists, information represents an ordered

reality about nature of the world people live in. Information resources and services should be tailor made in order to facilitate meaningful dissemination of information and applying this information in the process of development in all spheres of human life. The conventional libraries have experienced momentous changes and alteration since electronic information resources and administration have expanded the academic communication information past the four walls (Kumar, Shailendra and Singh, Manisha, 2011).

The unused virtual environment essentially incorporates the 'digital library', 'electronic library', and the 'library without walls. Numerous libraries give virtual get to electronic resources and administration whereas keeping up and supporting utilize of physical collection housed in a library building. Scholars have also offered several definitions on virtual libraries which enable the users have the access to universal knowledge, without delay at their desk. The changing information environment has created 'information superhighway' all over the world. The governments are working towards creating information policies which would facilitate the establishment of virtual libraries in modern society. The virtual libraries advanced since the 1960s, when libraries started coordination developing information technologies. The virtual library is the source which provides modern electronic information resources and services to the mankind. It is not just a collection of material in electronic form; it includes a browser interface and perhaps a virtual space and society. It requires less space and the electronic information resources can be made available through communication networks to anyone anywhere, whereas encouraging looks with speed.

Electronic Resource Management

The Electronic Resource Management (ERM) component has been solely outlined to permit information supervisors to productively oversee all electronic resources and Web membership, such as: electronic journals, databases, and electronic books. ERM makes it possible to completely modernize the complete electronic resource management process, from an evaluation series for the resource record, to purchasing, publishing, and renovating a resource all with one easy-to-use solution.



The term e-resources have been characterized in numerous ways with distinctive title. A few specialists utilize the term advanced resources though others call computerized collection, but the meaning e-resources are same. Tara (2009) discussed on his power point presentation that there are three types of electronic resources:

Digital Communications: this electronic resource basically includes social networking sites, online tutorials, e-mails, message boards, blogs, and online classroom instruction sites.

Digital Collections: In these collection online audio and video collections, web sites, online image collections, online periodicals and books collections, online documents and wikis; are included.

Online Finding Aids: This includes indexes, search engines and databases.

Online Catalogue

In the mid-1960's, e-resources started to get to the library resources through machine-readable cataloguing (MARC). MARC was utilized for computerization, and it bolsters the data standard within the innovation advancement. It takes necessary steps for the method and accesses the library resources.

Objectives of the Study

- To find out the status of e- resources in the libraries of technical Colleges of Aligarh District.
- To explore the various methods of management of e- resources adopted by technical Colleges of Aligarh District.
- To identify the problems of management of e- resources in the libraries of technical Colleges of Aligarh District.

Research Questions

- What are the current practices and strategies employed by technical college libraries in Aligarh District for managing electronic resources?
- How do students and faculty perceive the accessibility and usability of electronic resources provided by technical college libraries?
- What is the impact of electronic resource management on the academic performance and research output of students and faculty in technical colleges?
- What training and skills do library staff require to effectively manage electronic resources?
- How do budgeting and funding constraints influence the acquisition and management of electronic resources in these libraries?

Research Methodology

The type of research that was used for the present study is descriptive research which includes surveys and fact-finding enquiries of different kinds. The major purpose of the survey was to know the level of utility and management of e-resources with special reference to technical Colleges of Aligarh District at present. The sample of the study comprised the librarian and the users of library from the technical Colleges of Aligarh District.

Data Collection tool

Research tool is a fundamental requirement which determines the validity of research. The study focused on the management of e-resources accessible by users and data was collected with the help of structured questionnaires for librarian and library users, personal visits to all technical Colleges of Aligarh District. The questionnaires were filled in by college librarian and library users. The questions were framed according to the



objectives of the study. The scope of the study is all the technical Colleges of Aligarh District. There are 13 engineering colleges available in Aligarh District which is listed below:

- Aligarh College of Engineering and Technology
- Al-Barkaat Institute of Management Studies
- Aligarh College of Pharmacy
- Om Sri Sai College of Pharmacy
- ACN College of Engineering & Management Studies
- Vivekananda College of Technology & Management
- Institute of Technology & Management Aligarh
- SSLD Varshney Girls Engineering College,
- Vision Institute of Technology
- Shivdan Singh Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology
- Braj Institute of Management & Technology
- Institute of Information Management & Technology
- SSLD Varshney Institute of Management & Engineering

Figure 1 Satisfaction of Online Database

Source: Researcher Compilation

Above Graph shows the satisfaction of online database available in the library of technical colleges. The highest respondents, 62 per cent, were not satisfied with the facilities of online database. Only a few of respondents 8 per cent fully satisfied, 15 per cent not satisfied, 4 per cent partially satisfied and remaining 11 per cent were fairly satisfied with online database.

Figure 2: Satisfaction of CD Rom Database

Source: Researcher Compilation

The above figure indicates that the highest no. 106 (53 per cent) respondents were fully satisfied by CD Rom Databases available in the Engineering colleges. Some of the students were partially

satisfied, approx. 24 per cent, approx. 9 per cent were not much satisfied, 10 per cent not satisfied while 4 per cent students fairly satisfied of the CD Rom Databases.

Figure 3 Satisfaction of OPAC

Source: Researcher Compilation

The above figure shows that 49 per cent respondents were partially satisfied with online public access catalogue. The OPAC is the fast library access facility is a library and only 31 per cent students were fully satisfied. The remaining 7 per cent not much satisfied, 6 per cent not satisfied and 7 per cent satisfied.

Status of E-Resources in the Libraries of Technical Colleges in Aligarh District

The libraries of technical colleges in Aligarh District have increasingly recognized the importance of electronic resources (e-resources) in supporting academic and research activities. These e-resources include online journals, e-books, databases, and other digital materials that facilitate access to current information and enhance learning experiences.

Availability and Access: Most technical colleges in Aligarh have made significant investments in e-resources, providing students and faculty with access to a wide range of



digital content. However, the extent of availability can vary across institutions, with some colleges having comprehensive subscriptions while others may have limited access.

Infrastructure and Technology: The effectiveness of e-resource utilization depends largely on the technological infrastructure in place. Many libraries have upgraded their facilities with high-speed internet and modern computer systems, enabling users to access e-resources efficiently. However, challenges remain in terms of consistent internet connectivity and the availability of user-friendly interfaces.

User Awareness and Training: While e-resources are available, user awareness and training are critical for maximizing their potential. Many libraries conduct orientation programs and workshops to educate students and staff about how to effectively use these resources. Nonetheless, there is still a need for more comprehensive training sessions to enhance digital literacy among users.

Challenges and Limitations: Despite the growth of e-resources, several challenges persist. These include issues related to licensing agreements, the high cost of subscriptions, and the need for continual updates to keep content relevant. Additionally, some users may prefer traditional print materials, which can affect the overall utilization of digital resources.

Future Prospects: The increasing reliance on digital content in education suggests that the status of e-resources in technical college libraries will continue to evolve. Future initiatives may focus on expanding access to a wider range of databases, improving user training programs, and enhancing collaboration between libraries to share resources effectively.

Findings of the Study

E-resources management is one of the most important concepts in any academic library. After automation and digitization of library resources, there is a challenge for library professional to manage this tremendous increase in e-resources. In this study, it is observed that all libraries are not following all the steps of different components of ERM such as selection, evaluation, acquisition, license agreement and renewal/cancellation of e-resource which are essential for the better management of e-resources. The voluminous e-resource can easily be managed through the ERM system. However, this study found that better management of e-resources directly affected by the facilities of IT infrastructures available in the library and proportion of non-professional staff to total staff.

Conclusion

The result of the study clearly indicates that significant role of library in technical education and satisfaction of their user be must. mass of the students of these institutions are depending on the textbooks, reference books and online resources available in the libraries. at the present time number of services provides by these libraries are in the electronic period for the users. Along with Textbooks, reference books, periodicals, newspapers the user also want online resources, good internet facility, Print-out, photocopier, scanning facility etc. in the library. The responsibilities of Librarian and Library ability are also increased on this internet era to provide enough study material for users. Library of technical Colleges are the important resources places for the technical students. These college libraries have developed and collected the resources to satisfaction of their users, but it is not enough because of the new emerging technology and change to digital library set-up. Today more and more bibliographic and full text information are being made available in an electronic form this change in Information Technology environment has found the Librarians to be renew with the latest improvement and guide for their user for more satisfaction.



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