Use and Perception of Open Access Awareness: A Case Study of Alagappa University

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Abstract

The present study entitled as "Use of Open Access Resources by the Research Scholars and Faculty Members of Alagappa University and its Affiliated Colleges: A Study" has been taken up for investigation of Open Access Resources usage by the Research Scholars and Faculty Members of Alagappa University and its Affiliated Colleges. The problem chosen for the present study is to develop the information society. There is a continuous growth in the production and use of Open Access Resources. In this study we tried to find out that up to what level of research scholars and faculty members are aware of using Open Access Resources. The findings shows that out of 456 respondents considered for the study 178 [39%] were male and remaining 278 [61%] were female. The estimated significance value is greater than 0.05 meaning; the null hypothesis is accepted hence, there is no significant difference in frequency of usage of OAR with respect to gender. From the mean score value it is understood that most of the respondents uses OAR "Almost every time". The study identifies that many courses are available for research scholars and faculty members to learn about open access resources and online programmes.

Keywords: Information need; User study; Academic library; Open Access Resources; Subject gateway; Open Course Ware (OCW); Search engine.

Introduction

Open Access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions, what make it possible are the internet and the consent of the author or copyright holder. In most fields, scholarly journals do not pay authors, who can, therefore, consent to OA without losing revenue. In this respect, scholars and scientists are very differently situated from most musicians and movie-makers, and controversies about open access to music and movies do not carry over to research literature. Open access is entirely compatible with peer review, and all the major open access initiatives for scientific and scholarly literature insist on its importance, just as authors of journal articles donate their labor, journal editors and referees participating in peer review.

An open access literature is not free to produce, even if it is less expensive than conventionally published literature. The question is whether there is better way to pay the bills than by charging readers and creating access barriers. Business models for paying the bills depend on how open access is delivered. There are two primary vehicles for delivering open access to research articles: open access journals and open access archives or repositories.

Review of Literature

Massoro and Adewale (2019) conducted a study entitled "Influence of Attitude, Subjective Norms and Personal Innovativeness on Intention to Use Open Access Journals: a case of Agricultural Research Institutes." This study employed the Theory of Reasoned Action by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975), and the data was collected from 121 researchers through a cross-section survey questionnaire. The findings from the study revealed that subjective norm is the strongest predictor of the intention to use OAJ, followed by personal innovativeness. Nonetheless, further analysis showed that attitude has no significant influence on the intention to use open access journals.

Bhaskaran and Koovakkai (2019) in their study entitled "Perception of Library Professionals in Kerala towards Open Access Publications: a gender wise study" discuss the perception of library professionals in Kerala towards Open Access. The Library professional has significant role in promoting and dissemination of the Open Access in Kerala. The result   survey shows the positive attitude of the library professionals towards the Open Access in the academic environment of Kerala. The Methodology used to collect the data is structured questionnaire and conducted an online survey.

Greene (2019) in his study entitled "Developing Counter standards to measure the use of Open Access resources" describes the methodology used to test the effectiveness of a set of filters to detect and remove robot activity from open access usage statistics, balancing the highest accuracy of usage statistics with lowest barrier to implementation. There are currently no standards for measuring the use of open digital content, including cultural heritage materials, research data, institutional repositories and open access journals. Such standards would enable libraries and publishers that invest in open digital infrastructure to make evidence-based decisions and demonstrate the return on this investment. The most closely related standard, the counter Code of Practice, was designed for subscription access e-resources and ensures that publishers provide consistent, credible and comparable usage data. In the open environment, computer programs known as web robots constantly download open content and must be filtered out of usage statistics.

Abdu and Maidabino (2019) in their study entitled "Awareness and Perception of Physicists towards Self-archiving in arXiv.org Open Access Repository in Northwestern Nigeria." investigated the level of awareness and perception of self-archiving in arXiv.org open access repository among physicists in Northwestern Nigeria. The study adopted quantitative research methodology using survey design. Questionnaire was the only instrument used for data collection. The population of the study composed of all physicists of the Federal Universities in Northwestern Nigeria. Consequently, 127 copies of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents, out of which 108 (85%) were returned and found usable for the study. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The study reveals that there was moderate level of self-archiving among physicists in Northwestern Nigeria.

Sheikh (2019) has done a research entitled "Faculty awareness, use and attitudes towards scholarly open access: A Pakistani perspective." Open access is a new scholarly publishing model that aims to provide free access to scholarly information to all members of society. This study analyzes the awareness, use and attitudes of Pakistani faculty members towards scholarly open access. A structured questionnaire was designed to collect data from the respondents by using an online survey tool, Google Forms. The population of the study was the faculty members of 21 universities and higher education institutions located in Islamabad. A sample of 3000 faculty members were invited, through email, to participate in the study; of which 616 completed the survey, with a response ratio of 20.53%. Descriptive statistics and (SPSS) version 21.0 were used for data analysis.

Bala, Bansal and Sharma (2018) in his study entitled "Awareness of Open Access Resources among the Researchers of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana" showed the objective of this study is to explore the use of open access resources (OARs) by researchers of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data from the researchers. The findings of the study shows that research articles, theses and e-books are extensively used open access resources for course and research work. Training and online tutorials can be helpful in overcoming the problems faced by researchers in using OARs. One hundred questionnaires were physically distributed to the researchers of various streams of the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, out of which 87 questionnaires were returned. However, only 83 questionnaires were considered relevant to carry on the study further.

Ogungbeni et al., (2018) in their study entitled "The roles of academic libraries in propagating open science: A qualitative literature review" investigate the roles of academic libraries in propagating Open Science. The study is a qualitative survey based on literature review. Various definitions of open science from different scholars and schools of thought were examined. Research articles on the effects of open science on research and the place of academic libraries in scientific research were reviewed. Open science enhances collaborations and sharing of resources among researchers. Metadata related activities are more prevalent due to open science. Open science has increased the relevance of science to our environment and world issues like privacy and the rightful author of scientific data are still some of the challenges facing open science.

Objective of the study

1. To discover the use and awareness of open access resources by the research scholars and faculty members of Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges.

2. To find out the frequency of open access resources used by the research scholars and faculty members of Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges.

3. To identify the difficulties encountered by the users while accessing open access resources.

4. To suggest improvement measures based on the findings of the study.

Methodology

The research has adopted the "proportionate Stratified Random sampling method" for this study. Proportionate stratified Random Sampling, the size of each stratum is proportionate to the population size of the strata when examined across the entire population. This means that each stratum has the same sampling fraction. The investigator has selected research scholars and faculty members registered for the 10 affiliated colleges of Alagappa University for the study.

The Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges' research scholars and faculty members were found to be 2120. Sample size is estimated based on a proportion, when in p = 0.5, q = 0.5 with a confidence interval 95% or an error value

5 % whose corresponding z value 1.96. The data were collected from the 456 respondents out of the total population 2120 from the area of population study. The considered populations were found to be 327 based on samples size found using Roasoft calculator and also manually estimated sample size. Therefore, 500 Questionnaire were distributed and received 456, the remaining 44 questionnaires have incomplete and missing data. The response rate is 91.2 Percentages.

Major Findings of the Study

➢ Gender: From the percentage analysis, it was found that out of 456 respondents considered for the study 178 [39%] were male and remaining 278 [61%] were female.

➢ Nativity: From the percentage analysis, it was found that out of 456 respondents considered for the study 230 [50.4%] were from rural and 226 [49.6%] were from urban.

➢ Age: From the percentage analysis, it was found that out of 456 respondents considered for the study 87 [19.1%] belong to age category below 25 years, 144 [31.6%] belong to age category between 26-30 years, 114 [25%] belong to age category between 31-35 years, 80 [17.5%] belong to age category between 36-40 years and 31 [6.8%] belong to age category above 40 year.

➢ Institution: From the percentage analysis, it was found that out of 456 respondents considered for the study Alagappa Govt. Arts College has 30 [6.6%], Raja Doraisingam Govt. Arts College has 28 [6.1%], Paramakudi Government Arts College has 29 [6.4%], Sethupathy Govt. Arts College has 30 [6.6%], Sivaganga Government Arts College for Women has 29 [6.4%], Seethalakshmi Achi College for Women has 30 [6.65%], Arumugam Pillai Seethai Ammal College has 28 [6.1%], Dr.Zakir Husain College has 30 [6.6%], Thassim Beevi Abdul Kader College for Women has 30 [6.6%], Madurai Sivakasi Nadar's Pioneer Meenakshi Women's College has 29 [6.4%] and Alagappa University has 163 [35.7%]

➢ Discipline: From the percentage analysis, it was found that out of 456 respondents considered for the study 203 [44.5%] belongs to Arts, 169 [37.1%] belongs to Science, 33 [7.2%] Education and 51 [11.2%] belongs to Management.

➢ Programme: From the percentage analysis, it was found that out of 456 respondents

considered for the study among which 81 [17.8%] belongs to M. Phil programme, 102 [22.4%] belongs to Ph.D. Programme and 273 [59.9%] are Faculty Member.

➢ Doctoral Degree Programme: From the percentage analysis, it was found that out of 456 respondents considered for the study among which 19 [4.2%] are Part time Scholar and 437 [95.2%] are Full time Scholar.

➢ Type of Institution: From the percentage analysis, it was found that out of 456 respondents considered for the study 163 [35.7%] were from university, 147 [32.2%] were from Govt. College, 86 [18.9%] were from Govt. Aided College and 60 [13.2%] Self-financing.

➢ It is found that Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges' research scholars and faculty members Search mechanism of the percentage analysis, it was found that out of 456 respondents considered for the study; 105 [23%] respondents used simple search mechanism, 95 [20.8%] uses advanced search mechanism, 156 [34.2%] used truncation / Wildcards search mechanism and 100 [21.9%] used Phrase searching mechanism.

➢ It is found that Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges' research scholars and faculty members faced problems while using OAR with respect to discipline. The information is not constantly available on the same URL, lack of ICT Knowledge and no proper guidance and training problems faced while using OAR with respect to discipline.

➢ It is found that Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges' research scholars and faculty members faced problems while using OAR with respect to discipline. Lack of search skills, information is not constantly available on the same URL, no proper guidance and training, lack of awareness of Open Access Resources, server down are major problems in using OAR with respect to discipline.

Suggestions

The productivity of an organization depends on the research activities performed within the organization. Open Access resources used by the research scholars and faculty members of Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges. Based on the outcomes of the study and the respondents' feedback, it was felt that there is a little gap in terms of infrastructure, working pattern, resource

utilization, quality publications, etc. To overcome these barriers, the study suggests the following:

➢ Higher Educational institutions and library must be adapted to computer and Wi-Fi connection for easy to access of open access resources.

➢ People are not fully aware of these open access resources. Research scholars and faculty members have to improve more about this Open Access Resources (OAR) and use it in good way.

➢ Bring awareness among all sort of teaching / learning people about open access resources. There is a lack of awareness regarding open access resources.

➢ Library Infrastructure facilities should be provided to the research scholars and faculty members particularly the library should be well using open access resources, with Hi-speed internet and Wi-Fi facility to the library and increase the downloading speed.

➢ Many Research scholars and faculty members were not aware of academic and research purpose such as reference management tools, open archives, open access publishing, plagiarism detection tools, open access management tools, lack of awareness of open access resources.

➢ Open Access Resources website should be linking for free E-Resources of Library and Information Science.

Conclusion

The open access resources used by the research scholars and faculty members of Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges. It also discusses the definition of open access resources, open access resources, the researcher focused on the statement of the problem, need of the study, and objective of the study, hypothesis, and selection of the research sample method, methodology, statistical tool used for the analysis, data collection tools and limitation of the study. The researcher also discussed awareness level of open access resources, characteristics of using open access resources, various types of using open access resources, usage of open access resources, different types of devices access available for research scholars and faculty members of Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges. The study identifies that many courses are

available for research scholars and faculty members to learn about open access resources and online programmes. For research scholars and faculty members open access resources programmes need to be conducted by the Library and the institutions. Open access resources are available on online, many research scholars and faculty members can easily use the online resources at anytime and anywhere.

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