

Use of CD-Rom Databases in Karnataka State Universities

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Abstract

An attempt has been made to assess awareness & usefulness of CD – ROM databases by the users of Karnataka State Universities. The Karnataka State University provides CD-ROM databases to its users, for Research & Development activities. A questionnaire & interview schedule was designed to collect the relevant information. About 1578 questionnaires distributed, only 432 users were using CD-ROM databases. The percentage of using CD-ROM databases was 27.38%, the remaining 72.62% users were not using CD-ROM databases.

Key words: Karnataka State University; CD-ROM databases; Bibliographical databases.

Introduction

CD-ROM databases have capacity to store thousands of bibliographical databases. Users can search for current documents easily in CD-ROM Databases. The CD-ROM Databases not only provide bibliographic details but also provide effective abstracts of articles, reports, conference papers, patents etc. All the Karnataka State University Libraries provide CD-ROM databases in science discipline.

Methods

Since the study was related to the users and their use of CD-ROM databases, in order to bring the authenticity of the research, a detailed questionnaire was developed. The questions were framed in such a way that all the possible inquiries could be asked with one goal. Beside the questionnaire, the interview method with proper schedule was applied in the reader's case. Especially the research scholars were contacted and the interviews

were conducted and counter questions of the readers were solved right at the time of the interview. In all, 1578 questionnaires were distributed & 1146 users found not using CD-ROM databases and remaining 432 users using this facility

Objectives

- 1) To understand the awareness about CD-ROM databases, particularly to teaching faculty and research scholars of Karnataka State Universities.
- 2) To investigate the availability of CD-ROM databases facility at university libraries of Karnataka state.
- 3) To study the problems faced by teaching faculty and research scholars in using CD-ROM databases.
- 4) To provide the suggestions for optimizing the use of CD-ROM databases.

Scope of the study

The present study intended to cover CD-ROM databases facility for teaching faculty and research scholars of science disciplines in Karnataka state universities, particularly general universities. These are Bangalore University, Bangalore; Gulbarga University, Gulbarga; Karnataka University, Dharwad; Kuvempu University, Shankarghatta;

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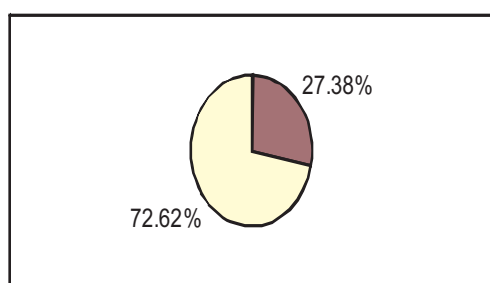
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Mangalore University, Mangalore; and university of Mysore, Mysore.

Table 1: Use of CD-ROM Database

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	432	27.38%
No	1146	72.62%
Total	1578	100%



Dia 1: Use of CD-ROM Database

Discussion

Use of CD-ROM Database

It is clear from Table 1 that due to facility of Internet and its services, CD-ROM databases were not much in use. Hence only (432) 27.38% users used CD-ROM databases and (1146) 72.62% users did not use CD-ROM database.

Table 2: Frequency of using CD-ROM Database.

(N=432)

Response	Number	Percentage
Every day	15	3.47%
Twice/ Thrice a week	67	15.51%
Once in fortnight	151	34.95%
Occasionally	199	46.07%
Total	432	100%

Frequency of using CD-ROM Database.

Table 2 shows that a very few users, i.e., (15) 3.47% users, used CD-ROM database every day, because all the universities of Karnataka do not provide CD-ROM databases in every subject. This is because most of the users are using Internet and only few users use CD-ROM databases twice / thrice a week,

Table 3: Time spent in searching CD-ROM Databases

(N=432)

Time Spent	Number	Percentage
Less than one hour	361	83.56%
1 to 2 hours	66	15.28%
2 to 3 hours	5	1.16%
Total	432	100%

i.e. (67) 15.51%. Similarly due to the Internet facility, (151) 34.95% users use CD-ROM once in fortnight and (199) 46.07% users use occasionally.

Table 3 shows that, most users used CD-ROM database for less than one hour, i.e., (361) 83.56% users. This is because users got the search results in less time. Few users, i.e.

Table 4: Reasons for using CD-ROM databases

(N=432)

Response Reason	Number	Percentage.
Searching Database for latest abstract	336	77.77%
For searching earlier literature on a given topic	215	49.76%
For searching latest publication of given author	166	38.42%

(66) 15.28% used CD-ROM database for 1 to 2 hours, because they searched for more exhaustive information for research and teaching purpose. Very few users, i.e., (5) 1.16% used CD-ROM database for 2 to 3 hours.

Reasons for using CD-ROM databases

Table 4 shows that (336) 77.77% users used CD-ROM database for searching latest abstract of journals and conference papers; (215) 49.76% of users used CD-ROM database for searching earlier literature on a given topic because it is helpful for research and teaching purpose; (166) 38.42% of users used CD-ROM database for searching latest publications.

Table 5: Preference of CD-ROM databases against printed version (N=432)

Response for CD-ROM	Number	Percentage
YES	400	92.59%
NO	32	7.41%
Total	432	100%

Table 6: Reasons for preferring CD-ROM Data bases against printed version N=400

Opinion	Number	Percentage
Convenient to use	386	89.35%
Easy to search	398	92.12%
Faster to search	392	90.74%
Can take print/ download research result	280	64.81%

Preference of CD-ROM databases against printed version

According to table 5, 400, i.e., 92.59% users gave preference to CD-ROM database than printed version because searching through printed version takes more time. Few users, (32) 7.41%, gave preference to printed version.

Reasons for preferring CD-ROM Databases against printed version

Table 6 shows that the reasons for preference of CD-ROM databases are convenient to use (386) 89.35%; easy to search

Table 7: Advantages of CD-ROM Database (N=432)

Reason	Number	Percentage
Project work	77	17.83%
Research work	332	76.85%
For teaching	23	5.32%
Total	432	100%

Table 8: Ranking of CD - Rom Databases N=432

Database	Number	Percentage	Rank
Dissertation international abstract	108	25%	1
Biological Abstract	61	14.12%	2
INSPEC	51	11.81%	3
Math Sci	48	11.11%	4
Biotechnology abstract	40	9.26%	5
Cross Culture	32	7.41%	6
Geo Ref	28	6.48%	7
Eric	24	5.55%	8
ABI/inform	21	4.86%	9
Psyc info	19	4.40%	10
Total	432	100%	

(398) 92.12%; fast to search (392) 90.74%; (can take print/download 280) 64.81%.

Advantages of CD-ROM Database

From table 7, it is clear that (332), i.e., 76.85% users used CD-ROM databases for research work, (77), i.e., 17.83% users used for project work and few users used for teaching purpose (23), i.e., 5.32%.

It is clear from Table 7 that Karnataka State University, libraries are not providing CD-ROM databases in all subjects and users are using Internet more. Hence, less users use CD-ROM databases. The percentage and preference rank of CD-ROM database are given below:

Table 9: Storing Searched Results
(N=432)

Storing Methods	Number	Percentage
By downloading in Pen drive and CD	380	87.97%
By taking printout	30	6.94%
By noting down important points	22	5.09%
Total	432	100%

Ranking of CD – ROM Databases

Table 8 shows it is clear that preference percentage rankup of CD_ROM database in the order : Dissertation abstract (108), 25%, 1st Rank; Biological abstract (61), 4.12%, 2nd Rank; INSPEC (51), 11.81%, 3rd Rank; Math Science (48), 11.11%, 4th Rank; Biotechnology

Table 10: Awareness about Logical Operators
(N=432)

Awareness	Number	Percentage
Yes	403	93.29%
No	29	6.71%
Total	432	100%

abstract (40), 9.26%, 5th Rank; Cross culture (32), 7.41%, 6th Rank; Geo Ref (28), 6.48%, 7th Rank; Eric (24), 5.55%, 8th Rank; ABI/Inform (21), 4.86%, 9th Rank; Psy info (19), 4.40%, 10th Rank.

Storing Searched Results

As shown in Table 9, (380) 87.97% users stored the searched information in CD and pendrive because saving on pendrive and CD is easy and quickly accessible. Further, some universities give printout for abstracts available in the CD-ROM databases; hence, (30) 6.94% users stored printouts while remaining users, i.e., (22) 5.09% stored by noting down important points.

Awareness about Logical Operators

Table 11: Searching options in CD-ROM Database
(N=432)

Advantage	Number	Percentage
User Friendly	432	100%
Total	432	100%

Table 12: Method of Searching CD – Rom Databases
(N=432)

Response	Number	Percentage
self	390	90.28
With the help of written instruction	30	6.94
With the help of staff	12	2.78
Total	432	100%

It is clear from Table 10 that almost all users who use CD-ROM database are aware of logical operators, i.e., (403) 93.29% users use logical operators like AND or OR or NOT. These operators used to carry out search results and even the users possess some computer knowledge, therefore they use it. The staff of university is co-operative to help the users in carrying out search results using logical operators. Very few users, i.e., (29)6.71%, are not aware about logical operators.

Searching options in CD-ROM Database

Table 11 indicates that all, i.e., (432) 100% users responded that CD-ROM database searching procedure was user friendly. As searching does not involve typing of command, users do not need any training or technical knowledge.

Table 13: Users attitude towards Library Staff
(N=432)

Response	Number	Percentage
Co-operative	415	96.06%
Non-operative	17	3.94%
Total	432	100%

Table 14: Using CD-ROM Database whenever required**(N=432)**

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	301	69.68%
No	131	30.32%
Total	432	100%

Method of Searching CD – Rom Databases

Table 12 reveals that most users, i.e., (390) 90.28% search the databases by themselves because the searching procedure is very simple and user friendly; (30) 6.94% users search the database with the help of written instruction, because only Gulbarga University provides this kind of facility to its users. Few users take the help of library staff, i.e., (12) 2.78% because they do not use more CD-ROM databases.

Table 15 Reasons for not using CD-ROM Databases when required.**(N=432)**

Response	Number	Percentage
Due to timing	101	23.37%
Due to rush	30	6.94

Users Attitude Towards Library Staff

Table 13 reveals that (415) 96.06% users had given opinion that library staff are very co-operative when they are using CD-ROM databases, because the nature of the library staff is good and they know their duty. Few (17), 3.94% users have given opinion that the staff of library is non co-operative because CD-ROM database of all subjects is not available and timing of using CD-ROM database is restricted.

Using CD-ROM Database whenever required

All the Karnataka Universities do not provide all subjects' CD-ROM databases. Hence, Table 14 shows that (301), 67.68% users used CD-ROM databases and (131), 30.32% did not use CD-ROM databases service.

Reasons for not using CD-ROM Databases, when required.

It is also clear from Table 15 that few users, (101) 23.37% are facing problems like timing because time for using CD-ROM database is 10 AM to 5.00 PM; remaining (30) 6.94% of users are not using CD-ROM databases because of rush.

Result

- A total of 2023 questionnaires were distributed out of which 1578 (78%) questionnaires were received from teaching faculty and research scholars covered from 6 universities of Karnataka State, i.e., Bangalore University, Gulbarga University, Karnatak University, Kuvempu University University of Mysore and Mangalore University.
- The male respondents were (818) 51.84% and female respondents were (760) 48.16%.
- The response received from teaching faculty was (421) 26.68% and (1157) 73.32% from research scholars. Majority of the respondents (980) 62.10% had research experience between 1-5 years.
- Around one-fourth respondents, i.e., (401) 25.41% possessed PhD qualification and (1177), i.e., 74.59% respondents did not have non PhD qualification .
- More than half the respondents, i.e., (955) 60.5%, are had 1-5 years membership with library.
- The frequency of visit to library showed (558) 35.36% users who visited library twice/thrice week followed by (614) 38.91% once in fortnight.
- About more than half respondents (868) 55.01%, spent less than one hour in library followed by (540) 34.22% who spent 1-2 hours.
- More than one-fourth, (432) 27.37% respondents were using CD-ROM databases.

- Less than half, i.e., (199) 46.07% respondents used CD-ROM databases occasionally followed by (151) 34.95% who used this facility thrice a week.
- Less than one-fourth respondents, i.e., (361) 22.87% spent less than one hour searching CD-ROM databases.
- More users, i.e., (366) 77.77% used CD-ROM databases for searching latest abstract followed by, i.e., (215) 49.76% who used CD-ROM databases for searching earlier literature.
- Almost 400, i.e., 92.59% respondents gave preference to CD-ROM database than printed documents, stating reasons for using CD-ROM databases as easy to search (398) i.e., 92.12% followed by (386) 89.35% stating convenient to use.
- The response for advantage of CD-ROM database for research work was (332) 76.85% followed by project work, (77), 17.83%.
- Most of the users of CD-ROM database, i.e., (380) 87.97% downloaded in Pendrive and CD.
- Majority of users of CD-ROM database, (403), 93.29%, had the awareness about logical operators.
- All users, i.e., (432) 100% of respondents using CD-ROM databases were of the opinion that searching procedure is user friendly.
- Majority of the users of CD-ROM database, i.e., (390) 90.28% were searching the information by self.
- Almost 450, i.e., 96.06% respondents said attitude of library staff was co-operative in nature.
- More than half, i.e., (301) 69.68% respondents were not having problems to use CD-ROM database.
- Less than one-fourth of users, i.e., (101) 23.37% were having timing problems to use CD-ROM databases.

Suggestions

An attempt has been made to address several sets of overall recommendations based on the findings and users suggestions of the study that may help further to illuminate the better use of CD-ROM databases. The suggestions are given below:

- Provision of current/update CD-ROM databases facility.
- Provision of CD-ROM facility in all subjects
- CD-ROM facility should be provided through LAN to Departments and Hostels.
- Training in use of CD-ROM databases.
- Connecting CD-ROM databases facility through LAN to Department & Hostels.
- Awareness about the worthiness of CD-ROM database.
- Provision of campus network facility
- Strong infrastructure facilities.
- Provision of separate CD-ROM section

Conclusion

The present study intended to cover CD-ROM databases facility in Karnataka State University. Due to the Internet and its services, only 27.38% of users are using CD-ROM databases. Hence, the University should provide this database facility in all subjects, totally updated, and also spread the awareness about the worthiness of the CD-ROM databases.

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