Relevance of E-Books in MJP Rohilkhand University, Bareilly

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Abstract

In higher education, universities play a pivotal role in the development of academic community. In this context, the University Libraries have emerged as the hub of learning for higher education and provide facilities for research and specialization. E-resources are necessary in the present ICT era. In the present study an attempt has been made to describe the status, importance, etc. of e-books in M.J.P. Rohilkhand University, Bareilly.

Keywords: E-Books; Internet; ICT.

Introduction

The development of the internet has led to the adding of a lot of concepts starting with "e-"to our lives. E-mail, e-shopping, e-banking, e-commerce, e-government, e-signatures and e-learning are leading concepts among them. E-books with growing reader/ user population are a book format that most of us have heard and used a lot lately because of their long-standing history and the widespread use of information technologies.

An electronic book (or e-book) is a book publication made available in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, readable on the flat-panel display of computers or other electronic devices. Although sometimes defined as "an electronic version of a printed book", some e-books exist without a printed equivalent. Commercially produced and sold e-books are usually intended to be read on dedicated e-reader devices. However, almost any sophisticated computer device that features a controllable viewing screen can also be used to read e-books, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets and smart phones [1].

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MJP Rohilkhand University

Rohilkhand University was established in 1975 as an affiliating university. It was carved out of the then Agra University. There was a dire need to establish a separate university since the region has a lower literacy rate than the national average. The status was upgraded to affiliating-cum-residential university in 1985 when four teaching departments were established in the campus. In 1987 three more departments were added. In August 1997 Rohilkhand University was renamed as Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University. The university imparts non-conventional, professional and technical education through its network of colleges and institutes. The university has taken an overall perspective of development plan and thereby modified university status by including new Faculties of Engineering and Technology, Management, Applied Sciences, Education and Allied Sciences, etc. The existing faculties in the university are Advanced Social Sciences, Applied Sciences, Education, Agriculture, Education & Allied Sciences, Arts, Commerce, Dental Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Law, Management and Sciences. The university headquarter is located at Bareilly with its territorial jurisdiction extending over the districts of Bareilly, Moradabad, Rampur, Bijnore, Jyotibaphule Nagar, Baduan, Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur. The university campus spreads over 206 acre of land. The Campus possesses

administrative building, faculty buildings, central library, multipurpose hall, hostel for boys & girls, staff quarter for vice-chancellor and other officers of the university, faculty members, non-teaching staff, guest house, sports complex, medical center etc. The senior faculty members of different disciplines in Humanities, Science and Technology are running research projects funded by various agencies and so far 65 projects funded by UGC, AICTE, DST, CST, ICAR, ICHR, MIF have been completed. Teachers of the affiliated college are also engaged in research projects funded by above agencies. In tune with the goals of the university the different departments of the campus have framed their objectives for keeping pace with the national and international educational scenario [2].

Central Library

With the establishment of university in 1975, an idea of a central library also emerged. But it could be actualized only after the university attained its residential character in 1985 and thus central library came into existence in a rudimentary form in the administrative block. In 1989, the then vice-chancellor Dr. B. B. Singh Bisen took an initiative to differentiate the library from other offices of the administrative block and appointed an O.S.D. especially for the library. Later on, it was decided that separate building for the library may be constructed. On 29th Nov. 1994 the then Chairman of UGC Prof. G. Ram Reddy laid the foundation stone of library building and on completion it was inaugurated by the then Governor and Chancellor of U.P. Shri Romesh Bhandari on 13th Feb. 1997. With the rapid development of the university, library needed much more space therefore the then vice-chancellor Prof. Z.H. Zaidi took necessary step in 2003 for the expansion of building. The expanded portion was completed in 2005 and was inaugurated by the then Vice President of India Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhavat on 04th Feb. 2005. Besides the central library there are also two departmental libraries; one is in the Institute of Engineering and Technology and second is in the Faculty of Education and Allied Sciences. The central library is being administered by Hon. Librarian with the help of Assistant Librarian and twelve supporting staff. The main sections of library are Acquisition/Processing Section, Theses/ Dissertations Section, Journals/Periodicals Section, Newspapers/Magazines Section, Stack Room, Reading Room and Computer Room. The main sources of funds are UGC grant, university fund, overdue charges, etc. Ministry of Social Welfare, U.P. govt. also donates the books for the SC/ST students.

The collections of library are 93842 Books (text/ reference on Animal Science, Plant Science, Engineering, Education, Literature, History, Management, Law, Economics and general interest), 1849 back/bound volumes of Journals, 6790 Theses/ Dissertations and 567 CD's (audio/video). Currently 102 print (75 Indian and 27 Foreign) and 1390 on-line Journals are being subscribed. Internet facility is also available for the users. Library opens at 8:00 am to 8:00 pm excluding Sundays and gazetted/ university holidays. The library is in process to computerize the complete services relating to the users [3].

E-books in Central Library

In order to strengthen the services of central library, e-books facility was introduced in the year 2015-16. At that time 728 titles of e-books (15 of Animal Science, 28 of Chemistry, 113 0f Engineering & Technology, 32 of Education, 9 of History, 21 of Hotel Management, 4 of Journalism & Mass Communication, 35 of Law, 34 of Mathematics, 5 of Philosophy, 31 of Physics, 31 of Psychology, 28 of Social Work and 343 of Management) were procured which are available (for teachers/students) on-line through IP address of the university. These e-books may be access at www.lib.myilibrary.com. In near future the library is planning to procurement of new e-books on different subjects which are running in university campus and its affiliated colleges.

Relevance of e-books

The e-books may be relevant in a university library through many ways. Some of them are as under:-

1. Interactivity - Students loved the way e-books provide practically endless opportunities for interaction, ranging from simple websites to exchanges with authors.

2. Access - Students appreciated the fact that e-books provide access to reading anytime, anywhere.

3. Vocabulary - The e-book makes it easier to learn new words, for example, by clicking on a word to view its definition.

4. Note Taking - Students enjoyed the many ways to annotate texts, audio, and video using a variety of apps.

5. Search - The e-book allows readers to find words and phrases rapidly.

6. Reading Aloud - The Voice Over function available on certain tablets is helpful for young children learning to read or with reading problems.

7. Individualization - The e-book offers invaluable benefits for students with learning problems, including tailored content (e.g., supplemental pages or sections).

8. Learning - Numerous studies have demonstrated the cognitive potential (i.e., increased learning) of the e-book, particularly for textbooks.

9. Updates - The e-book allows publishers to continuously update content.

10. Frequency - Students wanted to read e-books more often than traditional paper books.

11. Duration - Students spent more time reading e-books than paper books.

12. Organization - Students reported that e-books and e-texts were easier to organize and prioritize.

13. All in One Place - Students repeatedly stressed the practicality of reading on a tablet, where everything is in one place: dictionary, search engine, images, sound, etc.

14. Variety - Students could readily access a wide variety of books and texts, and teachers regarded the tablets as a kind of world-scale library.

15. Quantity - The most recent tablets can contain over 50,000 books, more than anyone can read in a lifetime.

16. Interest - Students found reading e-books more interesting than regular books.

17. Multimedia - The multimedia content (images, sound, video) appealed to students and inspired them to read.

18. Enjoyment - Overall, students enjoyed reading e-books more than regular books.

19. Adaptation - The e-book allows many ways of tailoring content for young readers: luminosity, font style, etc.

20. Sharing - Students can easily share what they are reading with others. More and more apps allow sharing comments and highlighted sections via social networks.

21. Networking - Students found it easy to share ideas about common projects.

22. Collaboration - Students could collaborate in real time with their classmates when reading texts.

23. Savings - Schools can cut costs substantially over the medium term by introducing e-books.

24. Ecology - The e-book has a lower environmental impact.

25. Portability - Studies have shown that carrying heavy textbooks on a daily basis can negatively affect students' health.

Summing-up

From the above discussion we can say that the e-books are much useful for the users in many ways. Each and every institution may be introducing the e-books on priority basis for its users. The future of e-books is much bright.

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