

Impact of Electronic Books in Academic Libraries of Bellari District: A Study

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Abstract

In this study aims to explore the developments of impact of e-books in academic libraries of Bellari district. A survey was conducted to collect primary data from respondents through a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire contains both types of questions as closed-ended and open-ended. It was personally distributed to 100 Under Graduate students and the 71 answered questionnaires received back. It is found that respondents are using e-books for learning, preparing the assignments and update subject knowledge. It is also viewed that students are facing difficulty in access to e-books a limited number of computers and a lack of training, etc. The common benefits of e-resources are easy to search, up-to-date, easy to share and link to other resources.

Keywords: e-books; current trends; Impact; Collection Development.

INTRODUCTION

As a greater number of electronic resources become available, retrieving relevant and authoritative information has become progressively more challenging and time consuming. Locating relevant information in a timely manner is critical for both the researcher and the information professional. Electronic Books (e-Books) are one

way to enhance the digital library with global 24/7 in a day access to authoritative information, and they enable users to quickly retrieve and access specific research material easily, quickly, and effectively. It is crucial to not only provide these electronic resources, but to integrate them in to library systems to stream line library operations, as well as promote user adoption. As an e-Book provider, net Library, a division of Online Computer Library Centre (OCLC), has been involved in these collection cataloguing, and distribution of e-Books. Library users are able to remotely search, locate, and check out e-Books from the libraries online public access catalogs (OPACs). As with any new opportunity, new challenges emerge and utilizing the internet to deliver book content is no exception. Integrating e-Books in to the digital library has created challenges and opportunities for librarians, publishers, and e-Books providers.

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DEFINITION

An e-Book is based both on emulating the basic character is tics of traditional 1 books in an electronic format, as well as lever aging internet technology to make an e-Book easy and efficient to use. An e-Book can take the form of a single monograph or/a multi-volumes e to of books in a digital format that allows for viewing on various types of monitors, devices, and personal computers. It should allows arching for specific information across a collection of books and within a book. An e-Book should utilize the benefits of the internet by providing the ability to embed multimedia data, to link to other electronic resources, and to cross reference information across multiple resources.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

An information resource is a backbone of academics, research, and development. The information and communication technology tools have changed the mode of communication and availability of information in a digital environment (Bellary and Kashinath Surve, 2019). There is no doubt that e-resources are contributing a lot towards research, development, and higher education. These resources have converted into knowledge disseminating center. These resources are being accessed by the user community at a very fast pace (Kumar, Palaniappan, and Duraisekar, 2018). Bhat, N. (2019), investigates that the respondents believe that due to the advent of e-resources the users' interest in studies has enhanced and the e-resources have also played a significant role in the timely completion/submission of their study related assignments. He further found that a good proportion of respondents agree that the advent of e-resources has laid a positive impact on the performance of users in academic examinations, competitive examinations, and the interviews they face.²

Alphonse, S. and Mwantimwa, K. (2019), the results show that there is not any time restriction to use e-resources due to which they become more useful. On the other hand, students face some barriers as the cost of internet services, limited search capacity, and limited access.¹ Saxena, S. (2018), underlines five factors (institutional; the task complexity; relevance and application; information quality; and technical) that are responsible for limiting the usage of academic journal articles by universities, teachers, and students.⁷ Isibika, I. and Kavishe, G. (2018), point out that participants had little knowledge about subscribed e-resources,

and the major barriers that led to underutilization were unstable network connectivity and a lack of search skills.⁴ Bhat, N. (2018), finds that users have a great propensity to use e-resources as most of them have seen to use them daily or twice or thrice in a week.³ Kumar, Vand Batra, D. K. (2018), reveal that students are well aware of e-resources and consider them as more useful for their academic performance. They also observe that students are using open-access resources more than subscribed e-resources due to a lack of search skills. Further, faculty awareness programs and training have come out as motivation factors that have convinced students to use e-resources.⁵ Lwoga, E. and Sife, A. (2018), found that better educated and middle aged faculty members with a wide experience of using e-resources are more likely to continue using e-resources. They investigated that information quality had a positive relationship with the continuous use of e-resources while an indirect impact on service quality.⁶ Tetteh, E. (2018), the results show an improved usage of Carligh facilitated electronic resources. However, the rate of improvement declined by the year. The frequency of use of e-resources varied in different months of the year. Lwoga, ET.¹¹ and Sukums, F. (2018), studied that in addition to the Google search engine, Wikipedia, and four scholarly databases, the awareness level of respondents about the other 19 scholarly databases and search engines were below 50 percent.⁶

ELECTRONIC BOOKS (E-BOOKS)

An electronic book is defined as a resource which involves computer or ICT to access, storage and delivery information. The E-book circulate information in different forms and media such as CD-ROM, Floppy Disk or Magnetic tape or online networks like online databases, information gateways, institutional repository, websites, etc. The book trade literature from a few years ago included industry analyst's predictions that e-Books would in short order make significant inroads in to the market for paper books (p-Books). P-Books would be displaced by e-Books because of the e-Book's ready availability at any time and place where there was an internet connected computer. Consumers would be able to have what they wanted when they wanted it. This situation is the usual prescription for a change in items consumed in an increasingly fast paced world. Had this article being written in early 2001, rather than early 2002, there might still be some evidence that this trend was advancing. However, recent events in the e-Book market place

strongly indicate that the time has not arrived yet for a reader's migration to electronic content this has occurred for several reasons. Before these reasons are discussed, the advantage of e-Books should be presented.

ADVANTAGE OF E-BOOKS

Text can be searched automatically, and cross-referenced using hyperlinks. This makes e-Books an excellent choice of format for works that benefit from search and cross-reference capabilities, such as dictionaries, reference works, and certain kinds of text books.

Less physical space is required to store e-Books. Hundreds or thousands may be carried together on one device. Approximately 500 average e-Books can be stored on one CD (equivalent to several shelves worth of print books). Because they take up little space, e-Books can be offered indefinitely, with no 'out of print' date, allowing authors to continue to earn royalties indefinitely (copyright law permitting), and allowing readers to find older works by favorite authors.

Readers who have difficulty reading conventional books can benefit from the adjustment of text size and font face. Text-to-speech Software can be used to automatically convert e-Books to spoken books. In addition e-Books may be read in low light or even total darkness, with a back-lit device.

It costs nothing to replicate e-Books. Copies can be made instantly and in as great a quantity as desired. This makes it easy to retain backups, and means that it is difficult to eliminate works once they have been distributed. E-Books can be published by independent publishing houses, which can mean greater editorial and authorial freedom and more room for experimentation. From the publisher's point of view, the ease of distributing e-Books means that they can be used to stimulate higher sales of printed copies of books.

With Internet access becoming ubiquitous in industrial nations, the ease of distributing e-Books is a considerable advantage. e-Books cost nothing to transfer, and such an operation occurs instantly. Readers can begin reading at once, without the need to visit a book store. Errors in texts may be easily and quickly corrected, and may even be pushed to users to update their copies of works in-place, rather than requiring a separate erratum. No environmental resources are consumed by e-Book replication, cutting down on paper and ink production. Nor do e-Books require to be replaced

through wear and tear; there is no risk of damage, vandalism or deterioration on the pages.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Internet has caused an evolution in the book publishing industry with the emergence of the e-Book. The advantages of e-Books for libraries are straightforward and include:

- Easy access to content.
- On-demand availability
- Prevention from being lost, stolen, or damaged
- Capability to search within a book and across a collection of books
- Ability to be linked together resources, including dictionaries and thesauri
- Absence of physical space requirements
- Device independence for accessing the content
- Access to content using standard web browsers
- Customizable search interfaces
- Easy transportation and
- Access from anywhere.

e-Books create new opportunities for publishers and have revived the scholarly monograph. They also provide an opportunity for publishers to maintain a competitive position in the market place. The emergence of the e-Book has given publishers new ways to serve customers by repurposing content and creating living books, which incorporate text, audio, video, and other resources, such as dictionaries, thesauri, etc.

E- BOOK CHALLENGES

(a) For Librarians

The integration of e-Books into the digital library has not only created opportunities for librarians, but also created several challenges. Full-text access and retrieval of e-Books combine library-based theories and principles with web search and retrieval techniques. Librarians must develop innovative policies, procedures, and technologies to accommodate the publication of and access to e-Books. e-Book challenges for librarians can be grouped into three categories:

- (i) Acquisition and collection development

- (ii) Standards and technology
- (iii) Access.

Within each of these categories are subcategories. Acquisition and collection development challenges include budget allocations; usage and distribution models; purchase models; and collection development strategies. Standards and technology challenges include not only cataloging and metadata standards and schemes, but also e-Book hardware and software technologies, digital rights management software, and user and staff training. Access challenges include the cataloguing and indexing of e-Books, circulation models for the electronic environment and preservation and archiving of e-Books and their sources linked to them.

FOR PUBLISHERS

Since the Internet knows no boundaries, publishers must also contend with challenges created by the emergence of the e-Book. These include securing both electronic and territorial contractual rights for content and permission clearance. Publishers must become involved in the development of format identifiers, such as International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs), Digital Object Identifiers (DOI), International Standard Text Code (ISTC), and Online Information Exchange (ONIX). "ONIX" refers to a standard format that publishers can use to distribute electronic information about their books to wholesale, e-tail and retail booksellers, other publishers, and anyone else involved in the sale of books. e-book metadata creation and distribution, as well as e-Book file delivery are new publisher venues that require additional resources. Editorial and production workload, quality assurance, and sales reporting and accounting, including royalties for electronic content, require publishers to revise policies and procedures, to hire personnel with these knowledge and skills, and to train personnel in this new publishing venue. Publishers must also develop methods for the storage and transmission of e-Book files for purposing content. The marketing for and the publicity and sales integration of e-Books also require publishers to revise content practices or to develop new practices.

In spite of these challenges, progress has been made in the production and distribution of e-Books during the last two years. Librarians, publishers, e-Book providers, and integrated library system vendors have worked together to implement and integrate acquisitions systems; test various collection development strategies; propose and adopt new,

revised, and combined standards; provide new e-Book hardware and software; identify and test new indexing and retrieval methods for full-text e-Books; test new access and usage models; and initiate archiving policies and procedures for e-Books. Several models have emerged for providing, distributing, accessing, and retrieving eBooks.

CONCLUSION

This study finds that students of Academic Libraries of Bellari District well aware of e-resources. Websites, mobile apps, video contents, and e-books are the most frequently used e-resources to access information. More than 50% of students used e-resources for update subject knowledge, academic and self-learning activities. e-resources get the upper hand with their features as quickly accessible, easy to search, up-to-date, easy to share and link to other resources. The common difficulties faced in using e-resources by respondents are lack of training, slow download speed, a limited number of available titles and limited access to computers. It is found that most of the respondents are unanimously agreed that e-resources are requisite for efficient and effective learning.

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