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Address:-Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.aygrt.isrj.org

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GRT GOLDEN RESEARCH THOUGHTS

UTILIZATION FREQUENCY, HOURS DEVOTION AND TRAINING FOR USING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN LIBRARIES OF AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES OF RAJASTHAN

Dr. Kanhaya Lal Sharma

AIM & ACT Library , Banasthali University , Teh. Newai , Tonk, Rajasthan.

ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made to know the frequency of using electronic resources by users, hours devoted for electronic resources and type of training obtained by users for operating electronic resources. The questionnaires were administered to random sample of two hundred fifty users. The result of the survey indicates that maximum agriculture scientists are using e-resources available in their library daily for their academic use. Few of the Scientists used e-resources only once a week and the rest used them infrequently. The situation of research scholar and students was also reported almost the same. There are some users who use the e-resources occasionally. Few users never used e-resources. Most of the users reported that they did not undergo any formal training for use of computers.

KEY WORDS: *Utilization, Frequency, Electronic resources, Electronic books, Electronic Journals and OPAC, Agricultural Universities*.

1.INTRODUCTION

Electronic resources play an important role in research and development. These are using in scanning, imaging, storing, processing, retrieving, and transmitting the information. All the electronic resources like CD, E-books, E-Journals, Internet, and OPAC etc are slowly replacing the importance and usages of print media.

2. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Libraries of agricultural universities and institutions of Rajasthan are included in this research work. Inferences on the basis of primary data have been drawn generated by spot survey and information from the library staff and the users. Final sample of the study includes Agricultural scientists (150), Research scholars (50) and students (UG/PG Courses) (50) of Rajasthan Agriculture University, Bikaner; Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur; Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur; National Research Centre on Camel, Bikaner; Centre of Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar; National Research Centre on Arid Horticulture, Bikaner.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Main objectives of this study were as follow:

A. To know frequency of using electronic resources by users.

B.Hours devoted by users for electronic resources.
C.To know type of training obtained by users for operating electronic resources.

4. HYPOTHESIS

On the basis of conceptual framework and review of related literature following assumptions have been made for this study:
A. E-resources are now available in agricultural field in sufficient quantity,
B. Agricultural scientists are frequently using different types of e-resources,
C. Many formal and informal training received users for use of electronic resource

5. METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire has been developed and administered by the researcher to collection relevant information from the agricultural scientists (AS), research scholars (RS) and students of agricultural universities and institutes of Rajasthan. Information and responses given by respondents were analyzed and interpreted.

6. DATA ANALYSIS

Information and responses given by respondents have been quantified and analyzed with the help of descriptive statistics and Chi-Square as an inferential statistics.

6.1 Frequency of Using Electronic Resources by Users

We also enquired from the users of the libraries of agricultural universities and ICAR institutes of Rajasthan as to how frequently they make use of the e-resources in their work. The results received from them are tabulated in following table 1.

Table 1: Frequency of users using e-resources

S. No.	Utilization	Responses					
		AS	%	RS	%	ST	%
1	Daily	105	70.00	35	70.00	37	74.00
2	At least once a week	28	18.67	8	16.00	8	16.00
3	At least once a fortnight	8	5.33	3	6.00	2	4.00
4	At least once a 20 days	6	4.00	2	4.00	1	2.00
5	At least once a month	1	0.67	1	2.00	1	2.00
6	Rarely	2	1.33	1	2.00	1	2.00
Total		150	100	50	100	50	100

Table 1 depicts the results related to frequency of using electronic resources in the libraries. 70% agriculture scientists responded that they used e-resources available in their library daily for their academic use. 19% scientists, however, used e-resources only once a week and the rest used infrequently. The situation of research scholar and students is also exhibit almost to be same pattern.

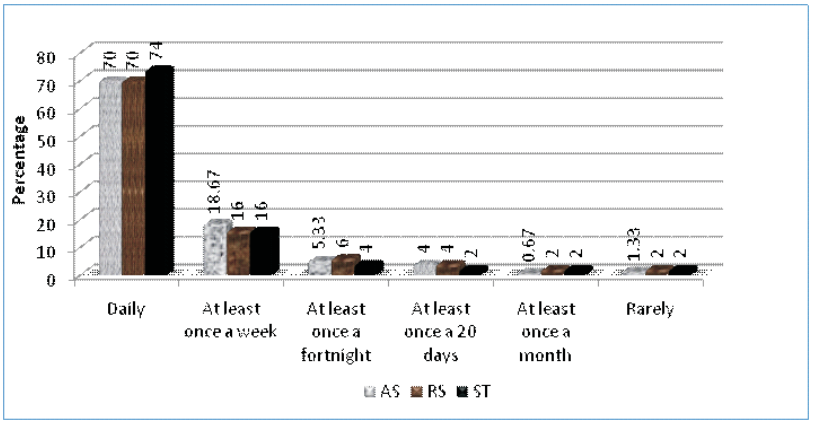
Chi-square test of independence was found to be non- significant thus frequently of using e-resources by users in independent of respondents category.

χ^2cal =2.038 NS p=0.996 [χ^2tab, 10, 5%= 18.307]

NS= Non-significant

Frequency of use of e-resources by users is presented through diagram figure 1 below for more and clear comprehension:

Figure 1: Frequency of users using e-resources



6.2 Hours devoted by Users for Electronic Resources

The number of hours devoted by users in using e-resources also has its own meaning while considering IT application in the libraries. We therefore put up a question before our users as to how many hours devote in consulting are using the e-resources of their libraries. Their responses are tabulated in the following Table 2.

Table 2: Number of Hours devoted by per User towards using e-resources

S. No.	Duration	Responses					
		AS	%	RS	%	ST	%
1	More than 4 hours daily	2	1.33	2	4.00	2	4.00
2	4 Hours daily	8	5.33	4	8.00	6	12.00
3	3 Hours daily	10	6.67	4	8.00	4	8.00
4	2 Hours daily	36	24.00	16	32.00	8	16.00
5	1 Hour daily	90	60.00	20	40.00	18	36.00
6	Never	4	2.67	4	8.00	12	24.00
Total		**150**	100.00	100.00	**100**	**50**	**100**

Table 2 depicts the results hours devoted by users for electronic resources in libraries. 60.00% agriculture scientists reported that they use e-resources almost one hour daily. The analysis of the above table indicates that 1.33% scientists, 4.00% research scholars and students are devoting more than four hours daily on e-resources in the library. About 7% agriculture scientists, 8% research scholars and students have devoted almost 3 hours daily on e-resources. 24% scientists, 32% research scholar and 16% students have devoted 2 hours daily towards use of e-resources. However, there are some users who never ever used e-resources.

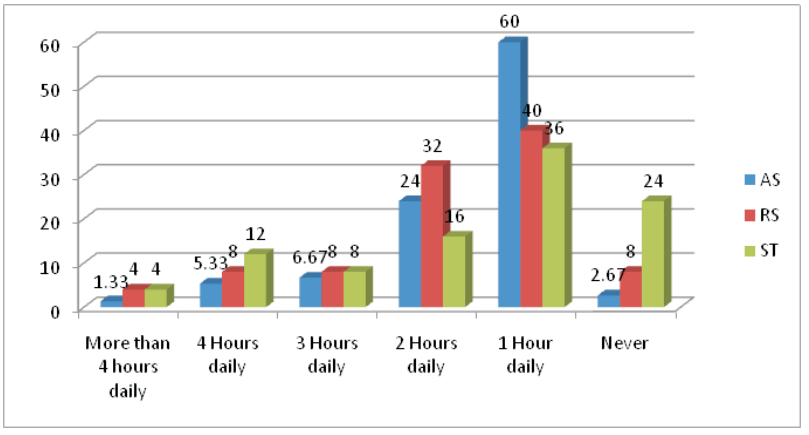
Chi-square test was found to be non–significant resulted in independence of category of user against the number of hours devoted by users for e-resources.

χ^2cal =64.514 ** [χ^2tab, 10, 5%= 18.307]

** Highly Significant

The data of frequency of use e-resources are also depicted in figure no. 2-

Figure 2: Number of Hours devoted by per User towards using e-resources



6.3 Type of Training Obtained by Users for Operating Electronic Resources:

Computer operations need special skill in the users. Without obtaining computer literacy, use of e-resources independently by the users is not possible. Therefore, we enquired from the users of libraries of agriculture universities and ICAR institutes of Rajasthan that have they undergone any formal or informal training for developing the computer skills. The answers given by them are presented in the following table 3.

Table 3: Type of Training obtained by the Users for using e-resources

S. No.	Training	Responses					
		AS	%	RS	%	ST	%
1	Formal training	55	36.67	19	38.00	22	44.00
2	Non formal training	95	63.33	31	62.00	28	56.0
Total		**150**	**100**	**50**	**100**	**50**	**100**

Above table 3 depicts the results related to type of training obtained by users for operating electronic resources in libraries. 63.33% scientists, 62% research scholars and 56% students reported that they did not undergo any formal training for use of computers. They developed computer skill while sitting on the computer itself. 37% scientists, 38% research scholars and 44% students, however, developed the computer skill by joining formal training courses of computer.

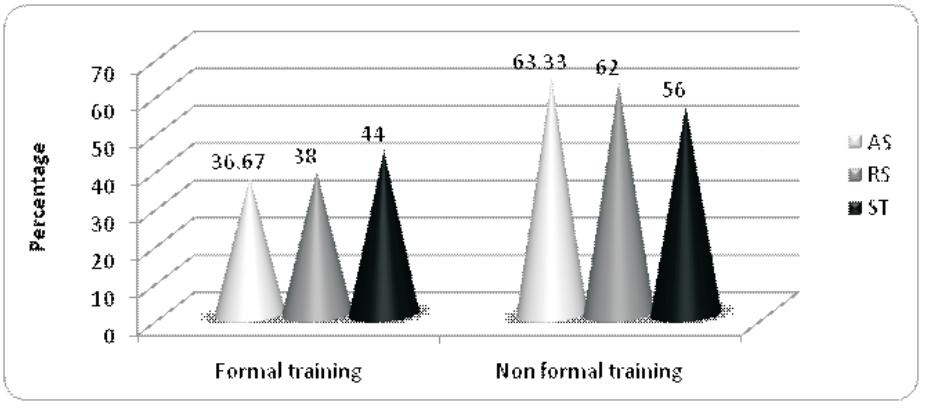
Chi-square test was found to be non–significant and data reveals that non-formal training has been obtained by majority of users in all the three categories of respondents for operating e-resources.

χ^2cal =0.857 NS p=0.652 [χ^2tab, 2, 5%= 5.991]

NS= Non-significant

The above results are presented diagrammatically below for easy understanding figure3.

Figure 3 : Type of Training obtained by the Users for using e-resources



7.FINDINGS

Main findings of the study are as under:

1. Maximum agriculture scientists responded that they used e-resources available in their library daily for their academic use. Few scientists however, using e-resources only once a week and the rest of the scientists are using them infrequently. The situation of research scholar and students was also almost same.
2. Maximum agriculture scientists reported that they use e-resources almost one hour daily. Scientists, research scholars and students devote more than four hours daily on the e-resources in the library. Few agriculture scientists, research scholars and students clientele devote almost 3 hours daily on e-resources. However, there are some users who are only using e-resources occasionally. Very few users responded that they have never used e-resources.
3. Maximum agriculture scientists, research scholars and students reported that they did not undergo any formal training for use of e-resources. They developed computer related skills while sitting on the computer itself. Few scientists, research scholars and students, however, developed the computer related skill by joining formal training courses of computer.

8. SUGGESTIONS

On the basis of above results of the present study following suggestions/recommendations can be made to attract more use of e-resources in libraries of agricultural universities and institutes of Rajasthan state –

1. Results of the study illustrate that maximum agriculture scientists, scholars and students are using available e-resources daily for their academic use. This is a good indication. Library management can maintain this user status by keeping their library up to date. Future needs of users are vital for resource updating. Libraries should carry out user's survey to know the prospective need of e-resources.
2. Few scientists, scholars and students are using e-resources only once a week and the rest of the users are not using e-resources frequently. This situation is alarming indeed and suggests that there is a great need of conduction of user survey to find out particular reasons.
3. Results of the study demonstrate varied pattern of using e-resources. Most of the users are using e-resources almost one hour to More than 4 hours daily. There is a big no. of research scholars and students who had never used e-resources. This result reflects the need of orientation programs and user awareness programmes to be organized frequently.
4. Results of the study reveal that maximum agriculture scientists, research scholars and students did not undergo any formal training for their use of e-resources. They developed computer related skills while sitting on the e-resources itself. Few scientists, research scholars and students, however, developed the computer related skill by joining formal training courses of computer. Researches show that computer related skills are vital in use of e-resources. Libraries can organize formal basic and advanced training programs for their users. This type of programs may be use full and can increase use of e-resources.
5. Usability of e-resources subscribed by the libraries should be evaluated on the basis of their use and worth in library. Feedback of user can be taken to get clear inference. Decision regarding continuation or discontinuation of the subscription should be based on periodical survey of users.
6. Appropriate internet facilities should be kept up in libraries of agricultural universities and institutes of Rajasthan state. Adequate speed of internet should be maintained to attract more access of users.
7. Improvised software & latest configured computer hardware are essential to attract more frequent use of e-resources so separate budget may be given to all libraries.

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Golden Research Thoughts
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005,Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com
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