

USE OF E-RESOURCES IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OF SEVEN NORTH EASTERN STATES OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

E-Resource is a media to help the information seeker to find all e-published information. Among them some of the e-resources are freely available and some are priced. E-resource is the digital medium for communication of information. The benefits of e-resources are --- online availability, 24X7 easy access and simultaneous use. A good number of Universities have been discharging higher education in North East Region with good library support. It is utmost important to acquainted with e-resources in addition to traditional collection for updated knowledge and information. The Universities are the centres of higher education and research. The speed and scale of electronic revolution can be expected to have impact on research collection with a force not felt since the arrival of printing press. It undoubtedly bring new opportunities for information provisions to users/researchers. So the collection will change to the truly hybrid resource which technology makes possible. The use of electronic resources is growing more rapidly than expected and the use of old journals in electronic format is increasing even more rapidly than use of electronic resources overall. This article will help to get a clear picture of the use of e-resources in University Libraries of seven North Eastern states of India

KEYWORDS : E-Resources, University Libraries, North Eastern States, E-Books, E-Journals

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1. INTRODUCTION

Electronic publishing has been revolutionizing the format of the recorded knowledge. The changing scenario in library environment has arisen to meet the need and use of e-resource along with print versions. Electronic resources appear to be new challenges before the library and information professionals in respect of providing full text access to scholarly publication both in print and electronic version to its end users. Electronic resources can be used efficiently and effectively to provide information to the users. E-Resource is a media to help the information seeker to find all e-published

information i.e. E-database, E-Journals, E-book, E-magazine etc. Among them some e-resources are freely available and some are priced. E-resource is the digital medium for communication of information. The benefits of e-resources are --- online availability, 24X7 easy access and simultaneous use. E-resource can be defined as a text, graphics etc in digital form, a document converted into digital form, digital reading material, a document in a computer file format, an electronic file of words and images to be displayed on computer screen, or read on a computer over the network or viewed on a desktop/ notebook/ dedicated portable device. E-resource is an electronic text regardless of size or composition, made available electronically or optically, for any device hand held or desk bound that includes a screen.

The objectives behind conducting present study are as follows

- I. To determine the purpose and utilisation of the library services by post graduate students, research scholars and teachers.
- II. To know the different types of electronic information resources and services used by the post graduate students, research scholars and teachers.
- III. To find a fruitful plan for the effective use of e-resources in the University Libraries of North Eastern Region.

2. STUDY AREA

The Topic of the study is “The use of e-resources in University Libraries of seven North Eastern states of India” is closely associated with the university libraries of North East India. The area of study is restricted to the University libraries situated in the states of North Eastern Region of India which comprises eight (8) number of states namely --- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The North Eastern region of the country is considered as the backward region. The region is located in a remote area in comparison to the other parts of the country. So, this part of the country has been chosen because it is very important to have a detailed study of the developments in the University Libraries in the use of e-resources which gives a clear picture of the conditions of higher education in the region. Though there are 52 Universities including public and private, only the public funded Universities of seven states, namely, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura are considered for the study. A number of good Universities are functioning in the North Eastern region. 11 (Eleven) University Libraries have been selected for the study which are very important to impart higher education in the entire region. The selected University Libraries are –

1. Krishna Kanta Handique Library, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam
2. Laxminath Bezbaruah Library, IIT Guwahati, North Guwahati, Assam
3. Central Library, Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam
4. Laxminath Bezbaruah Library, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam
5. Rabindra Library, Assam University, Silchar, Assam
6. Central Library, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya
7. Central Library, Manipur University, Imphal, Manipur
8. Central Library, Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram
9. Central Library, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
10. Central Library, Nagaland University, Kohima, Nagaland
11. Central Library, Tripura University, Agartala, Tripura

3. METHODOLOGY

Survey method is adopted and study is conducted with the help of questionnaire consisting of related questions. The questionnaire were randomly distributed among librarians and users of different Universities of North Eastern Region. In addition to questionnaire method interview schedule and

observation method was also used to collect required information to supplement to the questionnaire method to bring more clarity to the data which are essential and used for analysis and interpretation.

4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Use of e-resources is very common among teachers and research scholars of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and majority of the teachers and research scholars are dependent on e-resources to get the desired and relevant information (Sharma, 2009). In another study it states that the internet has attracted the attention of the users as an easy source for accessing information and e-resources is evident. Most of the users access e-resources for updating their knowledge on their respective subjects and for academic assignments (Bhatia, 2011). An article on use of e-resources in Punjab University Library, Chandigarh discuss the use of e-resources in Punjab University Library (Chodha, 2015). Another study on e-resource of Indian Institute of Management(IIM) Libraries in India is also a very important article which discusses the importance and use of e-resources in IIM Libraries in India (Prakshe & Tajada, 2015). In a study on use of Electronic Resources in Academic Libraries and Role of Information Literacy discussed about the uses of e-resource in Academic Libraries (Imsong & Kharbudon, 2016). Another study on E-resource uses pattern among Assam University Library under consortia service helps in understanding the pattern of use of e-resource in Assam University, Silchar (Bhattacharjee & Sinha, 2016). In a study of use & assessment of Library Resources in Mizoram University & North East Hill University gives the detailed picture of uses of library resources of the Mizoram University as well as North East Hill University (Mishra & Sailo, 2016). The study of knowledge management and development of libraries, states how e-resources become an essential part of modern library services (Choudhury, Rahman, & Barooah, 2017). In a study on social networking cites it reveals that the frequent use of facebook, Twitter, YouTube among others provides alternatives to the use of libraries. This suggests that people may be using e-resources for academic purposes but not directly from libraries (Prabhakar & Rani, 2017). Another study reveals that the ICT applications has changed the scenario of special libraries in Assam in a tremendous way (Choudhury, Rahman, & Barooah, 2018).

5. USE OF E-RESOURCES IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OF SEVEN NORTH EASTERN STATES OF INDIA

Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library (KKHL), Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam

KKH Library has the following e-resources for the users – ETD (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) through Sodhganga, e-journal browsing through UGC Infonet, IEEEExplore, Manupatra, J Gateplus, and SCOPUS etc. There are about 150000 pages Digitized manuscripts and 852524 pages of digitized theses. The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) has designated The KKH Library as “Manuscript Resource Centre” and also “Manuscript Conservation Centre” the link is <http://www.namami.org>. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika corner has a collection of about 270 books and journals are ready for use in the Library premises only.

Lakshminath Bezbaroa Central Library (LBCL), IIT, Guwahati, Assam

Lakshminath Bezbaroa Central Library (LBCL) is a member of e-Shodh Sindhu and DeLCON. E-bibliographic database which are available are – EBSCO Discovery Service, Inspec Direct, J Gate Plus, MathSciNet, SciFinder Scholar, SCOPUS, Web of Science etc. Full text databases are ACM Digital Library, ACS Web Edition, EBSCO Engg Database, Elsevier ScienceDirect, IEL Online, Springer, Taylor & Francis, Wiley Journal Collection etc. LBCL Digital Repository named as Gyan-Institutional Repository

Lakshminath Bezbaroa Library (LNBL), Dibrugarh University, Assam

Lakshminath Bezbaroa Library (LNBL) has various e-resource search tools which are revealed in the website of the Library. For remote search “EzProxy” and “Fedgate” for federated search of all resources. J-Gate is also there for search in journals. It also has an Institutional Repository named as DU Institutional Repository. The important E-resources of the library are – Taylor & Francis, Indianstat, DeLCON Consortium journals etc.

Central Library, Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam

Central Library Tezpur University holds about 10000+ e-journals and 9616 back volumes of journals (as on 1.10. 2018). Apart from the online journals and database provided by e-ShodhSindhu consortium and DeLCON consortium, the Library also holds more than 2552 CDs scattering to different thought contents. ACM Digital Library, ASCE E-Journal package, ASME e-journal Package, IET Journals Conference Package 2018 Emerald Journal complete package, Indiastat etc are some important e-resources subscribed by the Library. The Library has Institutional Repository and ETD Repository which can be accessed inside the campus.

Rabindra Library, Assam University, Silchar, Assam

E Journals (Subscribed + Consortia) – 8200. There is a separate section for use of e-resources with 25 computers for the users. Total number of users are 1803 students, 329 research scholars, and 218 teachers. Digital library is also available in the library which can be accessed by <http://idr.assu.in/xmlui> & 985 thesis titles are on Sodhganga. The library is a member of DeLCON.

Central Library, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya

Central Library North Eastern Hill University subscribed about 8500 e-journals (Subscribed + Consortia). The following e-resources like Taylor & Francis, Wiley Blackwell, IEEE ASPP are available in the library. Under e-ShodhShindhu it has ACM Digital Library, American Chemical Society, American Physical Society, American Institute of Physics, Annual Reviews, ASCE Journals, ASME Journals, Bentham Science, Economic & Political Weekly, JSTOR, Oxford University Press, Project Muse etc. It also has WebOPAC and Digital Repository. The Central Library is also a member of DBT-DeLCON scheme & NDL e-resources.

Central Library, Manipur University, Imphal, Manipur

Central University, Manipur University is a member of UGC-Infonet e-journal consortium. The Library became the node of INFLIBNET since 1993. The Library has more than 50 computers with Internet facilities. The Consortium provides 8600 core and peer reviewed journals, 9 bibliographic database from 23 publishers and aggregators in different disciplines.

Central Library, Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram

Central Library, Mizoram University subscribed the following e-resources like Taylor & Francis, Wiley Blackwell, IEEE ASPP. Under e-ShodhShindhu it has ACM Digital Library, American Chemical Society, American Physical Society, American Institute of Physics, Annual Reviews, ASCE Journals, ASME Journals, Bentham Science, Economic & Political Weekly, JSTOR, Oxford University Press, Project Muse, Springer Link, Taylor & Francis, ISID Database. It also has WebOPAC and Digital Repository. The Central Library also a member of DBT-DeLCON scheme & NDL e-Resources (World e-Book Library, South Asia Archive SAA).

Central Library, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

Central Library Rajiv Gandhi University has subscribed the e-journals from UGC INFONET, NDL and DeLCON Consortium. The Important e-resources are – American Chemical Society,

American Institute of Physics, American Physical Society, Annual Reviews, Cambridge University Press, Economic & Political Weekly, Emerald, HeinOnline, JSTOR, Manupatra, OUP, Project Euclid, Project Muse, Science Direct, SIAM, Springer Link, Taylor & Francis, Westlaw India, Wiley Blackwell, E-PG Pathshala, IEEE Journal. The bibliographic databases are – ISID, JCCC, MathScinet, Royal Society of Chemistry, SciFinder Scholar etc.

Central Library, Nagaland University, Lumami, Nagaland

The Central Library has e-resources from UGC-INFONET Consortia and DeLCON Consortia. Access to these e-resources are available through Campus Area Network. About 2600 journals are available through UGC INFONET and 899 journals are available through DeLCON Consortium. WebOPAC is also available through campus network.

Central Library, Tripura University, Agartala, Tripura

The Following publishers e-books and e-journals are available in the library Taylor & Francis, Springer, Cambridge University Press, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), mylibrary (Pearson Publisher), McGraw-Hill Education, Oxford Scholarship, Sage Publication, Elsevier, Wiley Publication. e-ShodhSindhu and NDL e-resources (World e-Book Library & South Asia Archive SAA) are also subscribed. The Resources under e-ShodhSindhu are American Chemical Society, American Institute of Physics, American Physical Society, Annual Reviews, Economic & Political Weekly, ISID Database, J Gate Plus, MathSciNet, Oxford University Press, Project Muse, Springer Link 1700 & Nature Journal, Taylor & Francis, Web of Science.

Some of the collected information are presented both in tabular and graphical form.

Table 1: Library Collection of Different University Libraries

Sl No	Name of the Library	Books	Journals	Bound Periodicals	E- Resources
1	K K H Library, Gauhati Univ	269369	148	35150	9000
2	LBC Library, IIT Guwahati	154564	2291	62415	12500
3	L N B Library, Dibrugarh Univ	225672	143	22685	8800
4	Central Library, Tezpur Univ	86654	212	9661	10500
5	Rabindra Library Assam Univ	128763	122	8742	8200
6	Central Library, N E H U	265510	218	25970	11000
7	Central Library, Manipur Univ	161085	206	9715	8600
8	Central Library, Mizoram Univ	107209	219	13188	9700
9	Central Library, Rajiv Gandhi Univ	64437	92	5500	8000
10	Central Library, Nagaland Univ	102760	67	4180	8500
11	Central Library, Tripura Univ	122095	137	6920	9000

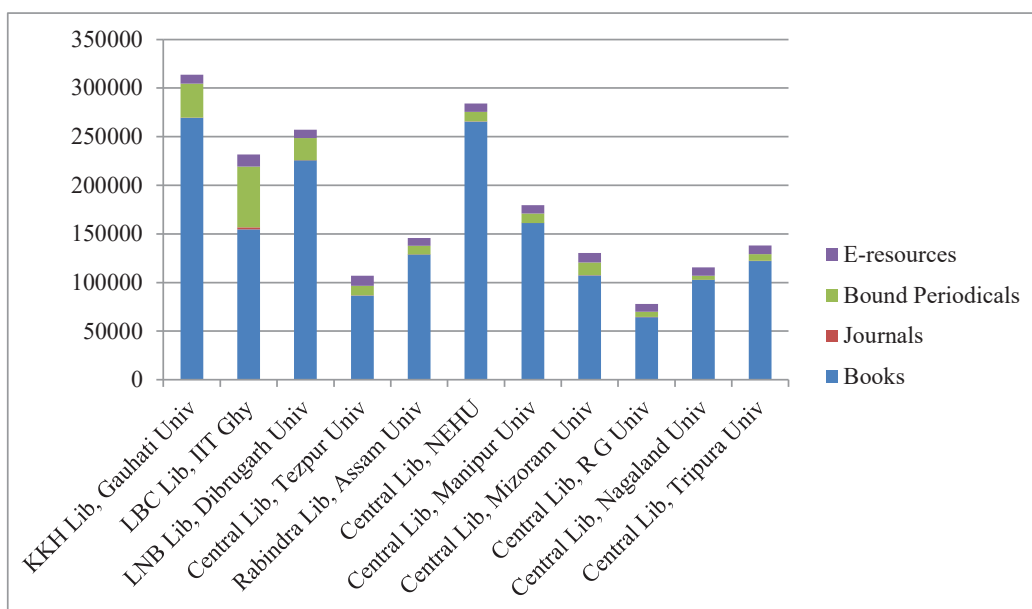


Figure 1

Table 2: Websites of the University Libraries

SI No	Name of the Library	Websites (hyperlinks)
1	K K H Library, Gauhati University	http://www.gauhati.ac.in/k-k-handiqui-library
2	L B C Library, IIT Guwahati	http://www.iitg.ac.in/lib/
3	L N B Library, Dibrugarh University	http://www.dibru.ac.in/portals/lbnlibrary/temp/index.html
4	Central Library, Tezpur University	http://www.tezu.ernet.in/Library/
5	Rabindra Library, Assam University	http://www.libraryopac.aus.ac.in
6	Central Library, North Eastern Hill University	http://www.nehu.ac.in/library/index.html
7	Central Library, Manipur University	http://www.manipuruniv.ac.in/index.php
8	Central Library, Mizoram University	http://www.library.mzu.edu.in
9	Central Library, Rajiv Gandhi University	http://www.rgu.ac.in/ext_uploads/library/index.html
10	Central Library, Nagaland University	http://www.library.nagalanduniversity.ac.in
11	Central Library, Tripura University	http://www.tripurauniv.in/index.php/g

Use of E-Resources in University Libraries of Seven North Eastern States of India

Table 3: University Libraries which are member of Consortium

SI No	Name of the Library	Consortium (Yes/No)
1	K K H Library, Gauhati University	Yes (INFONET, DeLCON)
2	LBC Library, IIT Guwahati	Yes (INFONET, DeLCON)
3	L N B Library, Dibrugarh University	Yes (INFONET, DeLCON)
4	Central Library, Tezpur University	Yes (INFONET, DeLCON)
5	Rabindra Library, Assam University	Yes (INFONET, DeLCON)
6	Central Library, North Eastern Hill University	Yes (INFONET, DeLCON)
7	Central Library, Manipur University	Yes (INFONET, DeLCON)
8	Central Library, Mizoram University	Yes (INFONET, DeLCON)
9	Central Library, Rajiv Gandhi University	Yes (INFONET, DeLCON)
10	Central Library, Nagaland University	Yes (INFONET, DeLCON)
11	Central Library, Tripura University	Yes (INFONET, DeLCON)

Table 4: User satisfaction on e-resources of different University Libraries

SI No	Name of the Library	Fully Satisfied	Partially Satisfied	Not Satisfied	No Comment
1	K K H Library, Gauhati Univ	43%	46%	4%	7%
2	LBC Library, IIT Guwahati	61.5%	30.4%	4.8%	3.3%
3	L N B Library, Dibrugarh Univ	41%	53%	3%	3%
4	Central Library, Tezpur Univ	60%	34%	4%	2%
5	Rabindra Library, Assam Univ	42%	48%	6%	4%
6	Central Library, N E H U	45%	47%	5%	3%
7	Central Library, Manipur Univ	40%	52%	6%	2%
8	Central Library, Mizoram Univ	44%	48%	2%	6%
9	Central Library, Rajiv Gandhi Univ	38%	54%	5%	3%
10	Central Library, Nagaland Univ	42%	51%	3%	4%
11	Central Library, Tripura Univ	40%	56%	2%	2%

Table 5: Time spent by users for e-resources in different University Libraries

SI No	Name of the Library	Frequently	Sometimes	Occasionally	No Comment
1	K K H Library, Gauhati Univ	52%	27%	16%	5%
2	LBC Library, IIT Guwahati	60%	35%	2%	3%
3	L N B Library, Dibrugarh Univ	54%	23%	17%	6%
4	Central Library, Tezpur Univ	62%	31%	6%	1%
5	Rabindra Library, Assam Univ	53%	41%	4%	2%
6	Central Library, N E H U	55%	32%	10%	3%
7	Central Library, Manipur Univ	51%	44%	5%	0%
8	Central Library, Mizoram Univ	58%	33%	7%	2%
9	Central Library, R G Univ	40%	38%	19%	3%
10	Central Library, Nagaland Univ	38%	42%	18%	4%
11	Central Library, Tripura Univ	46%	43%	6%	5%

6. FINDINGS

The following are the important findings of the study -

1. All the University libraries of the North Eastern Region have subscribed to different e-resources for the users and the use of e-resource in University Libraries are increasing day by day mainly for research purpose. The masters students also use e-resources for preparation of their assignments and seminars.
2. The collection of e-resources in the University libraries becomes a vital part of the total library collection.
3. All the libraries have their own websites where the users can get the required platform for use of e-resources.
4. In almost all the Universities the number of students are more. The Universities also give more emphasis on research activities. So the e-resources take a vital role in meeting the user needs where physical resources are very limited.
5. All the University libraries have joined different consortiums to subscribe more e-resources in a single subscription.
6. All the University libraries provide separate sections for e-resources to the users for their conveniences.
7. The University Libraries organise training and awareness programmes regularly for the users which helps the users a lot in using the e-resources.
8. Almost 45.14% users are fully satisfied, 47.22% are partially satisfied, 4.07% are not satisfied with the use of e-resources while 3.57% did not give any comment.
9. Time spent by the users of e-resources in University Libraries are as follows - about 51.73% use frequently, 35.36% use sometimes, 10% use occasionally and 2.91% did not comment. The users accessed the e-resources by visiting the library physically as well as from outside by various devices like mobile/smart phone, laptops, desktops etc.

7. CONCLUSION

The Universities are the centres of higher education and research. The researchers are the users pinpointed, exhaustive and up-to-date information. They are conservative in their approach to sources but quick to seize new approach opportunities. Similarly, the demand for the desk top delivery of materials is also increasing. The speed and scale of electronic revolution can be expected to have impact on research collection with a force not felt since the arrival of printing press. It undoubtedly brings new opportunities for information provisions to users/researchers. So the collection will change to the truly hybrid resource which technology makes possible. The use of electronic resources is growing more rapidly than expected and the use of old journals in electronic format is increasing even more rapidly than use of electronic resources overall. The University Libraries of North Eastern states are also taking advantages of the e-resources to fulfill the growing users needs. Moreover the University Libraries of the North Eastern states should form a consortium which will definitely help the libraries as well as users regarding the use of e-resources.

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Use of E-Resources in University Libraries of Seven North Eastern States of India

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