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STUDY OF OBSTACLES FACED BY THE STUDENT COMMUNITIES WHILE USING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AND SERVICES IN AMITY UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR

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ABSTRACT

Induction of information technology in the pedagogical process has brought new challenges for academicians. Several studies have emphasized a strong need for computer literacy among academic staff so that they could access information through electronic sources. A computer literate faculty member is expected to be benefited from CD-ROM databases, effectively use UPACs and online services, and confidently explore the amazing world of Internet. Many researchers believed that use of computers in pedagogical process would help improve the quality of education as well as assist in intellectual growth. The purpose of this study to study the obstacles faced by the student communities while using electronic resources and services in Amity University, Jaipur.

Keywords: Electronic resources; CDRoms, Internet.

INTRODUCTION

The 21st century brought several challenges to the library as a service unit in tertiary institutions since much emphasis is laid on information and communication technology (ICT). The use of ICT tools in academic libraries paved the way to the use of Internet, automation systems and provision of electronic information resources in library operation and services.

According to Andreou (2001), no academic library is considered as modern if it is not automated and if it does not provide some basic electronic information sources such as the OPAC, CDRoms and Internet to its students. There is a growing demand on the use of electronic information resources (EIRs) in academic libraries. This is because of its dynamic nature, interoperability and flexibility compared to print resources. EIRs also known as e-resources come in different forms such as e-book and e-journal, e-dictionaries, e-magazine among others which are accessible via CD-ROMs, e-database and the Internet. Library information resources serve an important purpose in learning, teaching and research in any academic institution of higher learning. Effort is usually made by libraries to acquire relevant information resources to meet the information needs of the library users. Library information resources are usually acquired through outright purchase

or subscription and they are in both print and electronic formats. Library users usually patronize databases that are authoritative, which provides information that is up to the minute, international in scope and accessible. Availability of e-resources has changed what users actually read and use (Renwick, 2005).

EIRs are acquired in libraries to complement existing library resources and to reduce pressure on print sources. They are easily disseminated since it can be duplicated, manipulated, copied, printed, shared and disseminated among library users. Igbo and Imo (2014) stated that a major advantage of EIRs is being able to share and distribute the resource. According to Oyedapo and Ojo (2013), e-journal offers a range of potential advantages to libraries and end users.

EIRs are domiciled in CD-ROMs, computer hard disc and databases and disseminated through electronic library of a University. Most e-libraries have necessary facilities for the management, access and dissemination of EIRs. This may include power supply, information and communication technology infrastructure such as computers, networking, server, Internet access, router and modem.

The need for library users to acquire skill in searching,