

# ACCELERATING ROLE OF LIBRARIAN IN THE USE OF E-RESOURCES

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**Abstract:** Millions of students across India cannot benefit fully from a traditional educational program because they have a disability that impairs their ability to participate in a typical classroom environment. The emergence and use of information technology is the century's most significant development affecting scholarly communication. The information seeking behavior of students, researchers and faculty in the e-environment are discussed in detail. Explored the open educational resources created by different organizations are emphasized for open access. Open courseware, which is available in audio-visual and textual open educational resources are given examples in this paper. Role of library professionals for making the e-resources available to different types of user community is discussed in detail. Impact of students towards e-resources is given with the evaluation of them. It has been concluded that e-resources helps for anytime availability and easy to access, which helps for the researchers to carry out the research on time.

**Keywords:** E-Resources Open Educational Resources, Courseware, ICT, Education, Library.

## 1.0 Introduction

It is not important that how much resources you have, than how feasible they are. In other words, resources should be readily accessible to all. Before the development of computer and internet technology, printed version of resources like books, journals, dictionaries, work books, etc played a significant role in teaching and learning process. But these printed versions are not easily accessible to all and are also expensive in nature. For example, if two teachers want to refer to a particular book simultaneously, two separate copies of the same book must be needed in the library. The emergence of electronic resources has drastically revamped the status of all the libraries and information centers across the world during the last decade. There has been a rapid urge of the user community to get more and more information online. The development of the information communication technologies, the rapid rise of electronic databases, and modern e-book technologies have altogether changed the entire scenario of informatics.

The user's attitude to information is gradually shifting from the printed documents to electronic resources and thus, it has been their prerogative to know the details of the availability and organization of e-resources like online journals and databases, electronic theses and dissertations, government publications, online newspapers, etc. in the information centers. Therefore, it is the time for the information professionals in India to study the different key dimensions of electronic resources and to successfully channel them into the inquisitive minds of users by identifying and addressing some of the issues relating to the use of e-resources. This article deals with different types of e-resources available, including freely available open access materials and their impact for the educational use.

## 2.0 Electronic Resources

Electronic resources are regarded as the mines of information that are explored through modern ICT devices, refined and redesigned and more often stored in the cyber space in the most concrete and compact form and can be accessed simultaneously from infinite points by a great number of audience. The phrase "electronic resources", has broadly been defined as, information accessed by a computer, may be useful as bibliographic guides to potential sources but, as of yet, they infrequently appear as cited references in their own right (Graham, 2003). Moreover, e-resources refer to that kind of documents in digital formats which are made available to library users through a computer based information retrieval system. The Internet is said to be the right and most extensively used channel to catch hold of the majority of e-resources through different search engines (e.g. Google, AltaVista, MSN, Yahoo, etc.) and Web OPAC and, of course, some offline databases in CD/DVD formats that can even be accessed without the help of

internet. Therefore, it is perceptible that e-resources include online databases, sources from web pages, e-journal articles, electronic personal papers, e-mail messages, newsgroup postings, newsletters, government publications, e-theses and dissertations, e-newspapers, CDs/DVDs, e-books, e-databases, HTML links, digital library materials, institutional repositories, social networks, open access materials, etc.

Today's researchers are using a wide variety of sources for information. Search engines, e-print servers, websites, full-text databases, electronic journals, and print resources are all used by most of the users. Students usually respond positively to recommendations of specific resources by their teachers, friends, or librarians, but convenience remains the most important factor for information use. Users, in general, prefer e-journals because they make their work easier and give them the information they need. Fast online access, and the ability to download, print, and send articles electronically are top advantages of e-journals for all. Generally, users take print out the relevant articles for detailed reading. They used the two important features in e-journals viewer-friendly formats, such as HTML, and printer-friendly formats, such as PDF. It seems that concerns over the quality of e-journals are diminishing as most peer-reviewed journals are digitized. On the other hand, concerns remain over the quality of web resources, particularly among faculty and librarians who fear that students are using the web indiscriminately. The different type electronic resources are given below.

### **3.0 Types Of E-Resources**

The different types of e-resources are from e-books, e-journals, e-databases, digital library resources, institutional repositories, open access resources, html links, search engines, etc. Even though different types of resources are available, students, staff and others may not be able use in proper way, like searching the internet, from DBs, from e-journals, etc. Also they may not know the metadata, what is available in digital library / institutional repository for searching.

#### **3.1 Different E-Resources**

- Generally, e-resources may be classified into two major areas viz,
- Online e-resources and Offline e-resources

##### **3.1.1 Online e-resources**

- e-books & e-journals
- email, gmail & sms / mms
- e-library & e-forum
- e-learning ( courses)
- e-shops & e-dictionaries
- Search engines
- Meta search engines
- Websites

##### **3.1.2 Offline E-Resources**

- CD ROM based e-resources
- Offline e-books
- Offline e-dictionaries
- MS Office applications (power point presentation)
- Training software ( mouse training)
- e-prompter & Steganography
- PDF converter
- e-resources on mobile devices

### **4.0 Development of E-Resources for Education**

The development of e-resources requires the fundamental knowledge of the following:-

- Basic computer skills
- Internet skills
- Web skills and so on.

**4.1 Developing E-Books:** E-Books are electronic forms of text that have been “published” in a digital format that displays on specialized reading devices or computers.

**4.2 Converting A Document Into E-Book Format:** It is relatively a very easy process to convert a document into e-book format. This document is available in three e-Book formats. Please visit [http://aalbc.com/about\\_eBooks.htm](http://aalbc.com/about_eBooks.htm) to download this document in one of the following e-Book formats:

**4.3 EB Dedicated Reader or Personal Computer:** Using Adobe Acrobat 4.0 software to convert to a Adobe® Portable Document Format (PDF) formatted document. PDF is the open de facto standard for electronic document distribution worldwide. PDF is a universal file format that preserves all of the fonts, formatting, colors, and graphics of any source document, regardless of the application and platform used to create it.

**4.4 Rocket E-Books:** Using the Rocket Writer™ which allows Rocket e-book™ owners to easily create their own titles in Rocket Edition™ format. Simply save documents as HTML files and "drag" them into the Rocket Librarian™, the software used to download and manage Rocket Editions.

**4.5 Palm Pilot PDA:** Using the Peanut Make Book Java program, this reads a text file which has been formatted using either the Peanut Markup Language or a subset of HTML.

**4.6 Easy Way to Develop E-Books:** It is also possible to develop an e-book in a very easy manner, for which one can make use of Rudenko software. It is available free for download from the website: <http://www.rudenko.com>. It has plenty of user friendly options available through which the user can convert their text into e-books. It is not only an e-book compiler software but also an e-book reader. With the help of this software one can read the e-books very easily. Facilities like auto scroll, different types of voice for reading, different font styles, sizes and colours etc are available in this software.

**4.7 Developing E-Journals:** It requires the knowledge of web fundamentals. With the help of Microsoft Front page and Microsoft word applications one can very easily develop e-journals. The following are some of the e-journals available in the field of education developed by me.

- [www.eie.situedurnd.org](http://www.eie.situedurnd.org)
- [www.innovationsinindianeducation.150m.com](http://www.innovationsinindianeducation.150m.com)
- [www.aiaer.150m.com](http://www.aiaer.150m.com)

**4.8 Educational Resources:** Education Resource Information Centre provides unlimited access to more than 1.3 million bibliographic records of journal articles and other education-related materials, with hundreds of new records added multiple times per week. If available, links to full text are included. Within the Education Resource Information Centre Collection, you will find records for:

- Journal articles, & Books
- Research syntheses, & Conference papers
- Technical reports
- Policy papers
- Others education-related materials

ERIC users include education researchers, teachers, librarians, administrators, education policymakers, instructors and students in teacher-preparation programs, parents, the media and business communities, and the general public. The user community conducts more than thirteen million searches each month through the ERIC Web site and commercial and non-commercial sites. ERIC Web site and commercial and non-commercial sites. The open educational resources and open courseware are some of the recent innovations that are especially relevant for achieving equitable access to quality education. Open Educational Resources are open content that is freely accessible worldwide from a common portal or gateway. Indian institutions also have recognized the importance and impact of open educational resources to bridge the learning divide in the country. Recently, India's National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has called for a “national e-content and curriculum initiative” to stimulate the creation, adaptation and utilization of open educational resources by Indian institutions. In addition to National Knowledge Commission, University Grants Commissions, National Association of Software and Services Companies and many other advocacy, advisory and policymaking bodies in India are supporting the cause and bridging knowledge and skill gaps (Ghosh, S.B. and Das, 2007; Das, 2011).

**4.8.1 Indian Initiatives of Open Educational Resource:** Indian open educational resources can be broadly

categorized as audio-visual open educational resources and textual open educational resources. Few of the Indian open educational resources initiatives are targeted at school students, whereas most others are targeted at students of technical and vocational education and training (TVET), tertiary education and lifelong learning. Some of the Open Educational Resources are as follows:

- National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) ([www.nptel.iitm.ac.in/](http://www.nptel.iitm.ac.in/)).
- Learning Object Repository of the Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC) ([www.cec-lor.edu.in/](http://www.cec-lor.edu.in/))
- Online textbooks of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) ([www.ncert.nic.in/html/textbooks.htm](http://www.ncert.nic.in/html/textbooks.htm)).
- National Science Digital Library (NSDL) of the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (<http://nsdl.niscair.res.in/>)
- Vidyanidhi – digital library and e-scholarship portal for theses and dissertations ([www.vidyanidhi.org.in/](http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in/))
- Other than the above OERs, there are e-resources available in the form of digital libraries, institutional repositories, open access resources / journals, and others
- Rai Open Courseware ([www.rocw.raifoundation.org/](http://www.rocw.raifoundation.org/)) Other than the above OERs, there are e-resources available in the form of digital libraries, institutional repositories, open access resources / journals, and others.

## 5.0 Role of Library Professionals

### 5.1 Library professional is supposed to

- Publicise what's Available, and Where It Might Be Obtained;
- The right staff Structure;
- The right environment; and the right budget.

**There is also a need for**

- Early knowledge of Budget;
- Well-Trained Adaptable Staff With Good Management To Sell
- To acquire The Right Information;
- Good two-Way Communication With Users And Good Pr;
- Selection and Evaluation of Suppliers;
- Physical Environment; and a Plan.

**Professional is to**

- Identify the stuff the user wants;
- Sufficient funds; the necessary infrastructure;
- Educate the users; and get staff to process and deliver; and
- Identify how and when the user wants the stuff.

### 5.2. Library Instruction

Lubans (1971) and Holland and Powell (1995) which indicated that graduate students need instruction in the use of the library to enable them to make more effective and efficient use of information sources and services to which the library provides access. Guidance in the use of library resources and services is, therefore, a necessity to help students meet some of their information needs. Library staff assumes that all graduate students are familiar with the library. Graduate students need help in library usage especially science graduates. There appears to be a training need among graduate students. This places a challenge on information providers to meet this need.

### 5.3 Impact on Students

The use of e-resources by students and faculty are increasing.

The impact is:

Students feel more at ease using online (Web-based) resources than CD-ROM databases, and find CD-ROMs less user-friendly with a less intuitive interface. The library is responding to this by subscribing to more Internet/Web-based academic resources.

- Students prefer to use the Web for e-mail (the high percentage that uses Hotmail, Yahoo Mail, etc.). The University might investigate moving towards a Web-based interface for the e-mail system.

- Printing – All of the Windows NT workstations can now send print jobs directly to the printer. The PC beside the printer has been moved to nearer the help desk where staff on hand to help users who may have difficulty with the interface.
- Staffing – an additional member of staff has to be employed and he / she act as a training role.
- Opening hours – weekend opening hours has to be increased.
- Number of machines is to be increased.

Behavior differs based on the status, subject discipline for subject experts, task, type of institution or workplace, age and gender. In terms of information seeking, today's researcher seems to be comfortable with using a wide variety of sources for information. Internet search engines, e-print servers, author Web sites, full-text databases, e-journals, and print resources are all used to some degree by most users. Desktop access, speed of access, and the ability to download, print, and send articles are top advantages of e-journals for all groups. Use of e-journals increases every year. Among faculty members, graduate students, and other professionals, higher use of e-journals is accompanied by a decrease in visits to the physical library. Most readings will come from a relatively small percentage of the collection, but users will read from a greater variety of titles when they are made freely and easily accessible to them. (Tenopir, 2003).

## 6.0 Conclusion

Thus the e-resources have significant roles to play in teaching and learning process and hence it is the high time for the teachers to get an awareness of these resources for their future academic growth. The e-resources available in different formats helps and supports the researcher and faculty to carry out the research and for teaching in an efficient manner and quickly, as the e-copies are available in anytime and anywhere. The production and use of OER raises a number of issues including the open licensing. This article explored the different e-resources and mechanism of use and their impact to the library professionals also, with students and faculty. Web is not yet ubiquitous, and there will certainly be many more challenges ahead. This article explored the different e-resources and mechanism of use and their impact to the library professionals also, with students and faculty.

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## E-BOOKS SEARCH ENGINES

5. **SearcheBooks** <http://www.searchebooks.com/>  
SearcheBooks searches multiple fulltext book sites
6. **eBookLocator:** <http://www.ebooklocator.com/> Search database of thousands of books.

## RESEARCH TOOLS

7. **Awesome Library** <http://www.awesomelibrary.org> “organizes the Web with 15,000 carefully reviewed resources, including the top 5 percent in education.”
8. **Electric Library** <http://www.elibrary.com> has full-text documents and images concerning: magazines, maps, books and reports, newspapers and newswires, radio, TV and government transcripts, and pictures.
9. **Electric Library's Encyclopedia.com** <http://www.encyclopedia.com>  
more than 14,000 free articles from *The Concise Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia* (3rd ed.).
10. **Information Please** <http://www.infoplease.com> Offers online almanacs, encyclopedias, and dictionaries (links under “Sources”).

## GENERAL LIBRARIES

11. **Abacci Books:** <http://www.abacci.com/books/default.asp> Digital text versions of classic literature with reviews from Amazon (txt & .lit).
12. **Alex Catalog of Electronic Texts** <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/alex> or <http://www.infomotions.com/alex/> Site contains a catalog with roughly 2,000 links of e-texts, located on various servers.