

Usage of Electronic Resources in ICAR Institutions in Tamil Nadu: A Study

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Abstract - The present study describes the usage of electronic resources in Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutions in Tamil Nadu. This study reveals about availability of electronic resources, frequently use of electronic resources, purpose of using electronic resources and various types of questions raised from the users. This study concludes that most of the users are benefited through electronic resources for research in the agricultural related fields.

Keywords: Electronic Resources, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

I. INTRODUCTION

In India more than 50 Agriculture Research Institutions are under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for creating new knowledge and new ideas in agriculture plants and related products. ICAR committed to provides all the latest technologies and new services to the agricultural research institutes for the benefit of the scientists and other staff members. In 2006, Government of India launched the National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) [1] for collaborative development and agricultural innovation through ICAR jointly with farmer and private organization. In 2007 Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) [2] developed Consortium for Electronic Resources in Agriculture (CeRA) through NAIP [3]. CeRA subscribes electronic resources and create electronic access culture among scientists, teachers in ICAR Institutes and Agriculture Universities. This paper is to study the usage of electronic resources in Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutions in Tamil Nadu.

II. AIM AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This paper aims to analyze the usage of electronic resources, providing types of electronic resources, frequently used electronic resources, purpose of using electronic resources, the way of search techniques for using electronic resources, how to learn to electronic resources, and how to obtain journal articles from the library by the users.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Veeranjaneyulu (2010) described this paper as a study of various methods to develop the existing research and

development information resources based on ICAR institutes / Universities [4]. The agricultural libraries are expected to make use of the available technologies to meet their user information requirements.

Kumbar (2005) carried out a study and reveals that the utilization of electronic resources by research scholars in CFTRI, Mysore [5]. 75.71% of respondents indicate the electronic resources have changed the way of doing research.

Rokade (2006) carried out the present paper succinctly and describes that the evaluation of electronic information services in the light of current status of its services and INFLIBNET (Information Library Network) services in agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra [6]. It has been concluded that a thorough study of the electronic information services are preferred by the users to the other types of services. It is recommended that the INFLIBNET should also include the ICAR under its coverage and should provide electronic information services to all the agricultural university library users in India in collaboration with ICAR.

T. Kavitha, S. Mohamed Esmail and M. Nagarajan analyzed the use of Electronic Health Services by the Professional of Puducherry Medical College [7]. G. Sasireka, S. Gopalakrishnan and R. Karpagam studied the librarians' opinion regarding the usage of electronic journals by the users of selected engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu [8].

IV. METHODOLOGY

In this study 59 samples are taken from the library users of four ICAR Institutions in Tamil Nadu. The structured questionnaires are prepared for this study. Questionnaires are distributed to the library users and received. The collected questionnaires are grouped, coded, tabulated and analyzed by using appropriate statistical techniques.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table I reveals that there were 59 users responded to this study. In this 36 (61% were male and 23 (39%) were female.

Now-a-day's most of the libraries are providing the electronic resources like e-journals, e-books, e-newspaper, e-reports, e-databases etc for the users. Most of the research

TABLE I INSTITUTION-WISE RESPONDENTS

S.No.	Institute Name	Male	Female	Total Number of Users
1	Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture, Chennai	12	11	23
2	Central Institute of Cotton Research, Coimbatore	6	4	10
3	Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore	10	5	15
4	National Research Centre for Banana, Tiruchi	8	3	11
Total		36	23	59

and development libraries are providing all type of electronic resources through internet, intranet for the respondents. This table analyzes the respondent's opinion about various types of e-resources available in the library.

Table II analyzes that most of the libraries (18.64 %) are providing online databases (indexing and abstracting

service) available in the library, and 3.38% of libraries are not providing the online databases (indexing and abstracting service). 25.42 % of the libraries have e-reference sources in the library, followed by 3.38% of libraries not providing the e-reference sources in the library. 15.25% of the libraries are providing unique free e-journals and 1.69% of the libraries are not providing the unique free e-journals in the library. 13.55% of the libraries provide full text e-journals, and 1.69% of libraries are not providing full text e-journals. 13.55% of the Libraries provide electronic books and 3.38% of libraries are not providing e-books.

Scientists are frequently using the e-resources like e-books, e-journals, conference proceedings, technical reports, e-databases, theses and dissertations etc. for their research. This table analyzes the respondent's opinion about use of e-resources in the library.

TABLE II TYPES OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY

S.No.	Electronic Resources	Yes	Percentage of Respondents	No	Percentage of Respondents
1	E-Books	8	13.55	2	3.38
2	Full Text E-Journals	8	13.55	1	1.69
3	Unique Free E-Journals	9	15.25	1	1.69
4	Electronic Reference Sources	15	25.42	2	3.38
5	Online Databases Indexing & Abstracting Service	11	18.64	2	3.38
Total		51	86.44	8	13.56

TABLE III USE OF E-RESOURCES

S.No.	E-Resources	Yes	Percentage of Respondents	No	Percentage of Respondents
1	E-Books	6	10.16	2	3.38
2	E-Journals	8	13.55	2	3.38
3	Conference Proceedings	10	16.94	3	5.08
4	E-Databases	6	10.16	2	3.38
5	Technical Reports	7	11.86	2	3.38
6	Theses & Dissertations	9	15.25	2	3.38
Total		46	77.97	13	22.03

Table III analyzes that most of the respondents (10.16 %) are frequently using the e-books in the library and 3.38% are not using e-books. 13.55 % of respondents are using the e-journals and 16.94% of the respondents are using the conference proceedings.

10.16% of the respondents are frequently used e-databases and 11.86% of the respondents are using the technical reports. 15.25 % of the respondents are frequently using the theses & dissertations and 3.38% are not using the same.

Table IV Purpose Of Using E-resources

S.No.	Purpose	Yes	Percentage of Respondents	No	Percentage of Respondents
1	Research Work	25	42.37	-	0.00
2	Publishing Article/Books	8	13.55	2	3.38
3	Keeping Up to date in Subject Area	8	13.55	1	1.69
4	Finding Relevant Information in the Specific Area	6	10.16	1	1.69
5	Getting Current Information	5	8.47	2	3.38
Total		52	88.14	7	11.86

TABLE V SEARCH TECHNIQUES USED FOR ACCESSING OF E-RESOURCES

S.No.	Search Engine	Yes	Percentage of Respondents	No	Percentage of Respondents
1	A General Purpose Search Engine	18	30.50	1	1.69
2	A Specific Journal Website	15	25.42	1	1.69
3	Multi Journal Search Website Links to Full Text	11	18.64	1	1.69
4	Online Citation Index	6	10.16	1	1.69
5	Local Reference Room / Stacks	4	6.77	1	1.69
Total		54	91.53	5	8.47

Table IV analyzes that most of the respondents (42.37 %) are using the e-resources for the purpose of research work. 13.55% of the respondents used the e-resources for publishing articles and books, followed by 13.55% of the respondents are using e-resources for keeping up to date in subject area. 10.16 % of the respondents are using e-resources for finding relevant information in the specific area and 8.47% of the respondents are using e-resources for getting current information.

All the information seekers know the way of search techniques for using internet and view e-resources in many ways. But the scientist have a very good knowledge in using internet and view e-resources through general purpose search engine, specific journal website, multi journal search website, online citation index and local reference room / stocks. This table shows the respondent's opinion about the search techniques using for e-resources.

Table V analyzes that 30.50% of the respondents are accessing e-resources through general purpose search engine and 25.42 % of the respondents are accessing e-resources through specific journal website. 18.64% of the respondents are accessing e-resources through multi journal website links to full text, followed by 10.16 % of the respondents are accessing e-resources through online citation index. 6.77% of the respondents are accessing e-resources through local reference room/stocks.

Basically, all of them know how to use the e-resources from various ways like trial and error, self study, family friends, guidance from computer staff and guidance from computer skilled staff.

Table VI analyzes that 30.50% of the respondents have learned to use e-resources through trial and error and 20.33% of the respondents are learnt to use e-resources through self study. 13.55% of the respondents are learning to use e-resources through family friends and colleagues and 10.16% of respondents are learned to use e-resources under the guidance of library staff. 11.86% of the respondents are learnt to use the e-resources through guidance from computer skilled staff.

Table VII shows that 10.16% of the respondents are obtaining articles from personal subscription, 11.86% of the respondents able obtain articles by reading the library copy.

13.55% of the respondents are able to obtain articles from photocopy of library's print copy and 8.47% of the respondents obtain articles from personal subscription to e-version. 16.94% of the respondents are obtain articles from library's e-version and 13.55% of the respondents are obtain articles from free e-version. 6.77% of the respondents are obtain articles from inter library loan (ILL), 8.47% of the respondents are obtaining articles from document delivery service and 1.69% of the respondents are obtaining articles from other methods.

TABLE VII THE WAY TO OBTAIN JOURNAL ARTICLES

S.No.	From	Yes	Percentage of Respondents	No	Percentage of Respondents
1	Personal Subscription	6	10.16	1	1.69
2	Read Library's Copy	7	11.86	-	-
3	Photocopy from Library's Copy	8	13.55	2	3.38
4	Personal Subscription to e-Version	5	8.47	-	-
5	Library's e-Version	10	16.94	1	1.69
6	Free e-Version	8	13.55	1	1.69
7	ILL	4	6.77	-	-
8	DDS	5	8.47	-	-
9	Other	1	1.69	-	-
Total		54	91.53	5	8.47

VI. CONCLUSION

In Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes are providing all types of electronic resources in the library through CeRA (Consortium for electronic resources in Agriculture). The ICAR scientists and other staff members are benefited from the library electronic resources and it will improve the research output and raise the status of the institutions.

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