

Original Research Article

Attitude of students about e-resources for academic and research work in Agriculture universities of Uttar Pradesh

ABSTRACT

e-resources are now an essential part of all intellectual activities in higher education. Realizing the value of e-resources, the majority of Indian colleges have made generous investments to give students access to these materials to assist learning, teaching, and resources. Every country's finest learning and intellectual centres are universities, and university libraries are what fuel all of these centres' intellectual pursuits. The present study aims to study on attitude of students(Post-Graduate and Ph.D level) about e-resources in Academic and Research work of agriculture universities of Uttar Pradesh. The study was conducted during 2022 in the state using a structured questionnaire and data were collected through Online Google Form. About 240 responses were received and analysed. Out of total respondents' 26 percent were females while 74 percent were males, 23-29 years of age (57.50%) and 46% belonged to rural background. To measure the attitude of students towards e-resources, the scale was developed by the investigator for data collection from the students. Majority of the students had medium level of attitude. Students from four agriculture universities, had more or less similar attitude towards e-resources which might be due to more or less same awareness about various e-resources available in their universities. It was found that most of the students strongly agreed with the fact that "e-resources are useful to update the knowledge globally" with 92 MPS. Students of agriculture universities had a positive and favourable attitude towards e-resources but required proper exposure and training at the right time for the better utilization of all e-resources.

Key words: Attitude, e-resources, Wikipedia, ICT and training.

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INTRODUCTION

Electronically stored information is referred to as a "e-resource," and it can be accessed through electronic networks and systems. e-resources are now an essential part of all intellectual activities in higher education. Realizing the value of e-resources, the majority of Indian colleges have made generous investments to give students access to these materials to assist learning, teaching, and resources. Every country's finest learning and intellectual centres are universities, and university libraries are what fuel all of these centres' intellectual pursuits. University libraries are progressively expanding their access to e-resources as they represent a significant portion of global intellectual research output. Although universities have made significant investments in the infrastructure for teachers, researchers and students to use electronic resources, there have been relatively few attempts to explore attitude of students about e-resources in universities and colleges. Hence, a need was felt to know the attitude of the students about e-resources in universities and colleges. Keeping this objective in mind, a study was conducted by Kumari Asha, H.C Singh, Ashwani Kumar Verma and Rohit (2022) with students in academic and research work of Agriculture universities of Uttar Pradesh.

Comment [n2]: Sentences are similar to abstracts
Write down the facts on the use of electronic resources at the college and the desired expectations
Write down the problems encountered in students now and write down the das sollen

METHODOLOGY

Considering the different locations of the students, a structured questionnaire was designed using an online survey tool viz., Google Form for collecting data and ex-post facto research design was adopted in the investigation. Questionnaires were sent through g-mail and social media platforms like WhatsApp. The state of Uttar Pradesh was purposively selected for study. Out of five Agriculture universities in the State, four universities, which had been operating for the last ten years were selected for study. Only the agriculture faculty was specifically chosen from among them since PG and Ph.D programmes have been successfully offered by this faculty for the past 10 years. Sixty students (Post-Graduate and Ph.D. level) from each designated college were chosen at random from the list that had been created. In total, 240 Post Graduate and Ph.D. students made up the study's sample used.

Comment [n3]: write it down
The formulation of the problem or the purpose of this research

Comment [n4]: write it down
1. Type of research
2. Research design
3. Number of samples/respondents
4. Research steps
5. Data collection techniques
6. Data analysis techniques

To know the attitude of respondents towards e-resources, an arbitrary scale was developed that contains a set of statements under the various categories. The scale consists of 17 statements, out of which 14 positive and 3 negative . The statements can

be administered on a five point continuums as followed by (Likert 1932) viz., Strongly agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree and Strongly disagree with a score of 5,4,3,2 and 1, respectively for positive statements and reverse scoring for negative statements. The maximum score amounted to 85 and minimum score was 17.

The total attitude score of each respondent was obtained by adding all the scores of their responses of all the statements. Thereafter, the scores of each individual was calculated and categorized into three categories viz. Low category (<65.37 score), Medium category(65.37-77.23 score) and High category(>77.23 score) using mean and standard deviation. Attitude of respondents mean percent score for each statement was calculated and ranked accordingly. In order to find out the significant difference between the respondents of selected universities about attitude towards use of e-resources, Analysis of Variance-One way method was applied and interpretations was done accordingly.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The basic socio-economic and academic status of the respondents is presented in Table 1. It was found that the majority of the respondents were males (74%); had 23-29 years of age(57.50%):Rs.1,00,000 to 6,00,000/ annual family income(54.58%): belonged to rural background(46%): had medium level of competence(53%): 54% students received no training : parents occupation was Government jobs (31%) and 39% students fathers were Graduate.

Table:1 Socio-economic and Academic status of students

N=240

| Characteristics | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Gender | | |
| Male | 178 | 74.17 |
| Female | 62 | 25.83 |
| Age | | |
| < 23 years | 52 | 21.67 |
| 23-29 years | 138 | 57.50 |
| >29 years | 50 | 20.83 |
| Annual Income | | |
| < 1,00,000 | 53 | 22.08 |
| 1,00,000-6,00,000 | 131 | 54.58 |
| > 6,00,000 | 56 | 23.33 |
| Family background | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|----|
| Rural | 111 | 46 |
| Semi-Urban | 72 | 30 |
| Urban | 57 | 24 |
| ICT Competence | | |
| Low | 53 | 22 |
| Medium | 126 | 53 |
| High | 61 | 25 |
| Training received | | |
| No | 129 | 54 |
| Yes | 111 | 46 |
| Family occupation | | |
| Farming | 62 | 26 |
| Farming +other occupation | 49 | 20 |
| Private sector /Business | 55 | 23 |
| Govt. sector | 74 | 31 |
| Fathers Education | | |
| Ist -Middle school | 41 | 17 |
| Ninth -Higher secondary school | 54 | 23 |
| Graduation | 94 | 39 |
| Above Graduation | 51 | 21 |

Similar studies also reported that majority of respondents' families (40%) were engaged in farming and belonged to rural areas, had 23-29 years of age, medium level of annual family income, had been exposed to training which is required to use of e-resources (Chaubey, 2015; Oresanya and Oresanya, 2016; Yadav, 2018; Mishra, 2020). Few studies revealed that majority of the respondents were female (61.98%); and residing in Urban areas (Meinam et. al., 2023).

Classification of students (Post-Graduate and Ph.D.

level) according to their level of Attitude toward e-resources: It was found that the majority (58.75%) of the students of agriculture universities in Uttar Pradesh had medium level of attitude followed by 23.75 per cent of them with the high level of attitude and rest 17.50 per cent of them were found with low level of attitude (Table 2).

Table 2 Classification of students (Post-Graduate and Ph.D level) according to their level of Attitude toward e-resources

N=240

| S.No. | Attitude level | CSAUAT, Kanpur | ANDUAT, Ayodhya | SVPUAT, Meerut | SHUATS, Prayagraj | Total |
|-------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|
|-------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|

| | | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % |
|----|--------------------------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|-----|-------|
| 1. | Low(<65.37score) | 13 | 21.67 | 9 | 15 | 8 | 13.33 | 12 | 20 | 42 | 17.50 |
| 2. | Medium(65.37-77.23score) | 34 | 56.67 | 40 | 66.67 | 35 | 58.33 | 32 | 53.33 | 141 | 58.75 |
| 3. | High(>77.23score) | 13 | 21.66 | 11 | 18.33 | 17 | 28.34 | 16 | 26.67 | 57 | 23.75 |
| | Total | 60 | 100 | 60 | 100 | 60 | 100 | 60 | 100 | 240 | 100 |

$\bar{X}=71.29$ s.d =5.92

The reason for the vast majority of the students with a positive attitude towards e-resources might be that they were more focused on their academic and research activities and understood the scope of ICT/e-resources in the present and future time to develop their career.

Similar findings have also been reported by **Sivathaaram et al. (2014)**, **Oresanya and Oresanya (2016)** and **Mishra (2020)** who indicated that majority of the students had a positive attitude towards online shopping.

Statementwise Attitude of students (Post-Graduate and Ph.D. level) towards e-resources.

A perusal of data presented in Table 3 reveals that most of the students strongly agreed with the fact that “e-resources are useful to update the knowledge globally” with 92 MPS, and it was ranked first by the students, this was followed by the statements namely “e-resources are useful in improving our professional competence by providing appropriate knowledge about that particular profession” and “e-resources are very effective in providing current information in their respective disciplines” with 91, 90.17MPS and ranked second and third, respectively by the students. Thus, it can be concluded that students of agriculture universities had a positive and favourable attitude towards e-resources but require proper exposure and training at the right time for the better utilization of all e-resources.

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Table 3 Statementwise Attitude of students (Post-Graduate and Ph.D level) toward e-resources

N=240 (Multiple responses)

| S.No. | Attitude statements | CSAUAT, Kanpur | | ANDUAT, Ayodhya | | SVPUAT, Meerut | | SHUATS, Prayagraj | | Total | |
|-------|---|----------------|------|-----------------|------|----------------|------|-------------------|------|-------|------|
| | | MPS | Rank | MPS | Rank | MPS | Rank | MPS | Rank | MPS | Rank |
| 1. | e-resources are unable to meet the increasing demands of scholars | 71 | XV | 64 | XVI | 71 | XVI | 73 | XV | 69.75 | XV |
| 2. | Maximum use of e-resources for academic purposes | 83.67 | XII | 84.67 | XIII | 84.33 | XIII | 81 | XIV | 83.42 | XIII |
| 3. | Practical use of e-resources like e-books, e-journal can give desire and relevant information | 85 | XI | 87.67 | VIII | 89.67 | IV | 86.33 | IX | 87.17 | IX |
| 4. | Electronic information resources(EIR) offer today's students different opportunities from their predecessors | 83.33 | XIII | 85 | XII | 85 | XII | 83.67 | XII | 84.25 | XII |
| 5. | Using EIR (electronic information resources) is not as exciting as using print resources | 60.33 | XVII | 62.33 | XVII | 64.33 | XVII | 65.67 | XVII | 63.17 | XVII |
| 6. | Seeking information through internet is easy process | 87.33 | VIII | 89.67 | V | 89 | VII | 89 | IV | 88.75 | V |
| 7. | Providing e-resources by username and password can be easily hacked by anyone | 65 | XVI | 66 | XV | 72.33 | XV | 73 | XV | 69.08 | XVI |
| 8. | e-resources are useful in improving our professional competence by providing appropriate knowledge about that particular profession | 91.33 | I | 90 | IV | 90.33 | II | 92.33 | I | 91 | II |
| 9. | e-resources allow users to access and modify the information in their desired format | 80 | XIV | 78.33 | XIV | 83 | XIV | 82.67 | XIII | 81 | XIV |
| 10. | e-resources have the potential to conserve fragile/precious original materials | 88.33 | VI | 88 | VII | 86.67 | XI | 87.67 | VI | 87.67 | VIII |
| 11. | e-resources are very effective in providing current information in their respective disciplines | 89 | III | 91 | II | 90 | III | 90.67 | II | 90.17 | III |
| 12. | e-resources help to contact the authors /editors through email for further information | 86.67 | IX | 86.67 | X | 87.67 | IX | 87 | VIII | 87 | X |
| 13. | e-resources help to provide reference materials anytime for successful completion of assignments | 89 | III | 89 | VI | 89.67 | IV | 88.33 | V | 89 | IV |
| 14. | Different e-resources enable the user easy search of required information | 89 | III | 87.67 | VIII | 89.33 | VI | 87.33 | VII | 88.33 | VI |
| 15. | e-resources are updated easily with new articles and journals | 88 | VII | 90.33 | III | 88 | VIII | 86.33 | IX | 88.17 | VII |
| 16. | e-resources are useful to update the knowledge globally | 90.67 | II | 92.67 | I | 94 | I | 90.67 | II | 92 | I |
| 17. | e-resources help the readers to access the information quickly compared to print material | 85.33 | X | 86.67 | X | 87.33 | X | 84.67 | XI | 86 | XI |

Thus, it can be concluded that students (Post-Graduate and Ph.D. level) of agriculture universities had a positive and favourable attitude towards e-resources but require proper exposure and training at the right time for the better utilization of e-resources.

The present findings are in line with the findings of **Sepahpanah et al. (2015)** and also supported by **Mishra (2020)** who indicated that majority of the scholars agreed that Electronic information sources provide predecessors different opportunities for career development and resources make life easier and comfortable by e-shopping, e-ticket, e-banking etc.

Comment [n6]: Join the previous sentence

Comparison of Attitude among the students (Post-Graduate and Ph.D. level) of selected agriculture universities: Analysis of Variance-One way test (F-test) was used for comparison of students. Data presented in Table 4 shows that calculated F value was 0.66, which is found to be less than the tabulated value which is statistically non-significant. Thus, the null hypothesis (H_0) "there is no significant difference among the students (Post-Graduate Ph.D.) with respect to their attitude towards e-resources" was accepted and alternate hypothesis (H_1) was rejected. It is inferred that students from our agriculture universities had more or less similar attitude towards e-resources.

Table 4. Comparison of Attitude among the students (Post-Graduate and Ph.D. level) of selected agriculture universities

| Universities | Count | Sum | Average | Variance |
|-------------------|-------|------|---------|----------|
| CSAUAT, Kanpur | 60 | 4239 | 70.65 | 36.23 |
| ANDUAT, Ayodhya | 60 | 4259 | 70.98 | 30.56 |
| SVPUAT, Meerut | 60 | 4325 | 72.08 | 34.52 |
| SHUATS, Prayagraj | 60 | 4288 | 71.47 | 39.95 |

| Source of Variation | SS | Df | MS | F | Fcrit |
|---------------------|---------|-----|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| Between Groups | 69.85 | 3 | 23.28 | 0.66^{NS} | 2.64 |
| Within Groups | 8334.15 | 236 | 35.31 | | |
| Total | 8403.99 | 239 | | | |

NS: Non-significant

Comment [n7]: Explain! Why not significant
Look for references that support the results of this study

The probable reason for similar nature of attitude of students of selected universities may be that they possessed more or less same awareness about various e-resources available in their universities.

The similar findings have been reported by **Mishra(2020)**.

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CONCLUSION

It was found that majority of the students of agriculture universities in Uttar Pradesh were males (74%), had 23-29 years of age (57.50%), Rs.1,00,000 to 6,00,000/ annual family income (54.58%), belonged to rural background(46%). Majority of the students had medium level of attitude. Students from four agriculture universities, had more or less similar attitude towards e-resources which might be due to more or less same awareness about various e-resources available in their universities. Students of agriculture universities had a positive and favourable attitude towards e-resources but require proper exposure and training at the right time for the better utilization of all e-resources.

Comment [n9]: Write simply without numbers according to the problem formulation or objectives in the introduction

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Comment [n10]: Add references from reputable international journals

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