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# An Analytical Study of Awareness and Uses of E-Resources at IIMT University, Central Library, Meerut

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### ABSTRACT

The study sought to determine how postgraduate students and research scholars in the faculty of arts at IIMT University used electronic resources. To gather the needed data, a questionnaire was given to Post-Graduate Students and Research Scholars. 200 questionnaires in all were given out to the Faculty of Arts sample, and 175 valid samples were obtained. The study discovered that the majority of users are aware that e-resources are available. The data suggests that many of the respondents use the linking functionality on the library website to look for electronic materials.

**Keywords:** - Internet, Email, Search Engines, File Format, Library Website

### INTRODUCTION

Huge advancements in communication technologies helped influence the twentieth century. The most important trend affecting scholarly communication this century has been the development and use of information technology. The use of computers for information processing has given rise to a number of goods and services. As a result, the academic world has drastically changed over the past several years, taking on new dimensions influenced by technology-driven applications. In recent years, libraries have seen a significant metamorphosis in both the growth of their collections and the organization of their services. As a result, libraries are utilizing technology to reinforce and speed up access to academic knowledge that is not locally held. Collection development strategies and practices have undergone a sizable alteration during the past few years. In a traditional library system, print-based materials are complemented by invaluable research tools known as electronic resources. Her list of benefits for using them includes: access to information that could otherwise be out of the user's reach owing to money or location; access to more recent information; and the availability of extensive links to other similar sites. Therefore, it is now conceivable to imagine completely different ways of organising the collections and services the library has traditionally offered due to the rapid rise and development of electronic information technologies. These emerging technologies provide potential methods to reduce costs and revolutionist information access as libraries approach a financial crisis point in collection development.

### ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Information is represented electronically via electronic resources. They come in a variety of formats, including electronic books, digital libraries, online journals and magazines, online tutors, and online tests. These online resources have taken on the role of a source of information due to their efficient presentation using multimedia capabilities. Information is delivered through electronic resources in the form of full-text databases, electronic journals, image collections, multimedia on CD, tape, the internet, and the online, among other formats. E-resources can include things like e-journals, e-discussion boards, e-news, data archives, online chat rooms, and e-mail. Electronic information sources include a wide range of items, such as CD-ROMs, databases, mailing lists, and electronic periodicals, all of which can be utilised and occasionally modified by computers.

### ABOUT IIMT UNIVERSITY

Since its founding in 2016, IIMT University, Meerut has effectively developed distinctive frameworks for supporting a learning environment that is centered on the needs of its students and is characterised by a solid academic foundation, traditional teaching methods, persistent research, and innovation. It is among the top private institutions in north India and the top 10 universities in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The IIMT University has a distinguished history in the sphere of education and enjoys widespread acclaim from business, academia, and the general public. We are heavily reliant on technology, from the acclaimed Blackboard LMS to high-speed internet connection available everywhere on campus. A technology-driven, competent management of the University ensures all-around quality.

University Grants Commission (UGC), a statutory authority of the Government of India created for the coordination, determination, and maintenance of standards of university education in India, has granted recognition to IIMT University.

All IIMT students are guaranteed academic success by having access to high-quality instruction from knowledgeable and experienced faculty members who use an effective, research-based teaching strategy and uphold the high teaching standards through deliberate professional development at all levels. The IIMT University in Meerut supports inclusive learning methods that take into account the needs of students with different backgrounds, learning preferences, and academic prowess.

Our students regularly engage in hands-on learning, which is intended to develop future leaders, innovators, and professionals who are not just academically qualified but also passionate about their field. The academic programme of IIMT University is exceptional and inspiring, and it is built to meet high international standards. Flexibility, experiential learning, and an interdisciplinary focus are combined with a wide range of programmes.

The IIMT University is a destination of choice for young people who want to advance and realise their career and personal goals.

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## CENTRAL LIBRARY

The IIMT University features a sizable central library with over 2,000 books on a variety of topics that are arranged and accurately classified for reading. More than 150 well-known national and international journals, online databases, and publications are available through the institution's subscriptions. Several computers in the library are connected to the World Wide Web, giving it access to the most recent research papers, resources, and information for reference. The highest quality information services are guaranteed by a knowledgeable and effective librarian. A book bank facility is another thing the institution keeps up. Printing and photocopying services are also available at the library. To explain the many services offered by the library as well as how to borrow books and other reading material, there is a library orientation session. Regular library hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday through Saturday), however for the benefit of students, those hours are extended to 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. when exams are in session. The library also offers spacious reading spaces for staff members and students. The university also has libraries for 15 of its schools or divisions.

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## E-RESOURCES

The IIMT University Library provides access to electronic resources, including data on the Internet. Users have never-before-seen opportunities to increase their access to information thanks to electronic resources. Every library user gets access to information on any topic that piques their interest or meets their needs. J-Gate, IEEE, DELNET, EBSCO, and REFREAD are just a few of the subscription services that the institution is a member of. The campus library provides an interlibrary loan service for the benefit of faculty and students, and the library has made the ILL service accessible through DELNET.

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## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In order to assist teaching and research activities in tertiary educational institutions, the importance and range of electronic resources are widely acknowledged for general communication, information retrieval, and instructional delivery. The literature also demonstrates that a lot of significant studies have been carried out on how professors, researchers, and students use internet resources across the globe. Most users have a positive attitude towards using electronic resources, especially CD-ROMs, and students appear to like using them and run across few problems.

[Dillip K. Swain](#) (2010) The current study focuses on how enthusiastic business school students in Orissa (India) are about using electronic resources and makes an effort to gauge the quality of electronic information services provided by the primary information reserves of the respective business schools using a sample of respondents. Additionally, it aims to identify the obstacles to using e-information and offer suggestions for enhancing services and e-resource consumption.

R. PRIYADHARSHINI and A.JANAKIRAMAN (2015) present The awareness, utilisation, and availability of the electronic resources at the Agricultural College and Research Institute in Madurai are discussed in this research. Electronic journals and books are now used more frequently than ever before. The study focused on how Post Graduate Students, Ph.D. Scholars, and Faculty Members used various kinds of electronic information resources, user awareness, access to, and use of, those resources that were publicly available. This study examines the contribution of the internet to the accessibility of information resources through various search engines (such as Google, AltaVista, MSN, Yahoo, etc.), as well as offline databases on CDs and DVDs that may be accessed without the assistance of the internet.

Kulveen Kaur and Kiran Kathuria (2016) demonstrate how the spread of e-learning around the world has been fueled by the availability of various information and communication technology (ICT) tools and accessibility of electronic information resources. The utilisation and knowledge of the numerous e-resources available in the library at Punjab Agricultural University are the main topics of the current paper. Analyses are also done on the utilisation of consortiums and e-databases. The study's results showed that because of numerous advantages including simple downloads and quick searches, electronic resources have become a crucial portion of information. Even though electronic resources have made research easier, respondents still favour information that is available in both print and electronic formats.

Mrs. N. SIVAKAMI and Dr. N. RAJENDRAN (2019) The data in this study demonstrate how faculty members at the Arts and Science Colleges in the Erode District are aware of, can access, and use the online resources that are available to them. Data from the faculty members of the colleges of arts and

sciences was examined and gathered using the questionnaire approach. 280 Valid Samples were gathered from a total of 300 Questionnaires that were given out to the sample of faculty members from arts and science colleges. As a result, 280 people (93.33%) in total responded to the study. Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used to analyse the data that had been gathered. The research presented in this study demonstrates that, in terms of gender, the majority of Male respondents use E-Journals (20.83%) as a tool frequently, whereas Female respondents utilise E-Books (26.25%) among Faculty Members. The majority of male users (86.59%) and female users (84.48%) were aware that there were electronic resources available. According to the analysis, the majority of respondents (31.43%) only use online resources for lecture notes. Since the majority of academic libraries require an increasing amount of research, this is crucial.

Navin Kumar Soni, Savita Rani, Avdhesh Kumar and Jitendra Shrivastava (2020) demonstrate that the study was an attempt to determine how customers of the Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS) TIRC Library used electronic and print journals, books, and other services. The pattern of library service utilisation was investigated by INMAS through a questionnaire survey. 121 users responded to a total of 150 questionnaires that were issued at random to scientists and service officers, the DRTC (Defence Research Technical Cadre), and research scholars of INMAS. The study's findings indicate that users were quite knowledgeable about the library's services, actively engaged in the development of the book and journal collections, and felt more at ease and preferred using electronic information sources. As electronic journals and resources became available in libraries, users are using it more frequently than ever before. The users also make extensive use of printed resources.

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## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

A growing number of periodicals are getting interested with the Web in the current era of information explosion. The majority of social science libraries have altered the way that people view functions and services today. The world is quickly becoming more electronic. The researchers made the decision to carry out this study in order to gauge how often researchers and graduate students at IIMT University's faculty of arts use electronic resources.

### *Objectives of the Study*

The following are the primary goals of the current study:

1. To determine whether users are aware of the e-resources that are provided.
2. To research the function and application of electronic resources.
3. To determine how frequently e-resources are used.
4. To determine the obstacles and issues users have when utilising e-resources.
5. To investigate how satisfied users are with the accessibility and scope of online resources.
6. To research the e-resources' preferable format.
7. To research how satisfied users are with the infrastructure that allows them to access electronic resources.
8. To provide relevant recommendations for enhancing the services and facilities connected to the usage of e-resources.

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## **Methodology**

A structured questionnaire was created with the aforementioned goals in mind to gather information from the Faculty of Arts, IIMT University's e-resource users. The questionnaire asks numerous questions about knowledge of and use of electronic resources. 200 questionnaires overall were given to researchers and graduate students in the faculty of arts for this purpose. 175 genuine questionnaires were collected from the 200 that were circulated; the data was then evaluated, collated, analysed, and presented in the form of this report.

### *Scope and Limitation*

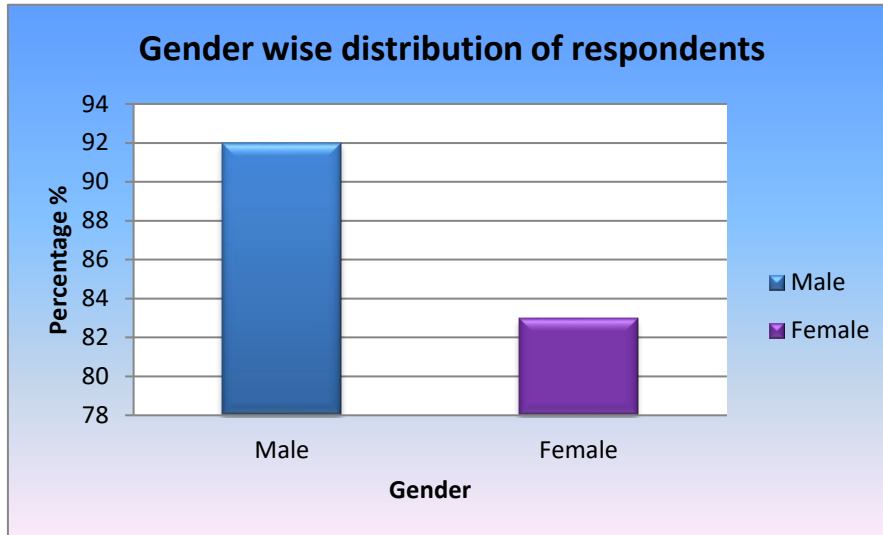
The current study focused on the research scholars, graduate and post-graduate students, and professors of arts at IIMT University. The eleven departments that make up the Faculty of Arts are English, Hindi, History, Political Science and Public Administration, Economics, Sociology, Philosophy, and Physiology.

### *Data Analysis*

The final phase of research is data analysis. This is the connection between unprocessed data and noteworthy findings that lead to conclusions. Analyses must be goal oriented in order to produce results.

**Table 1: Gender wise distribution of respondents**

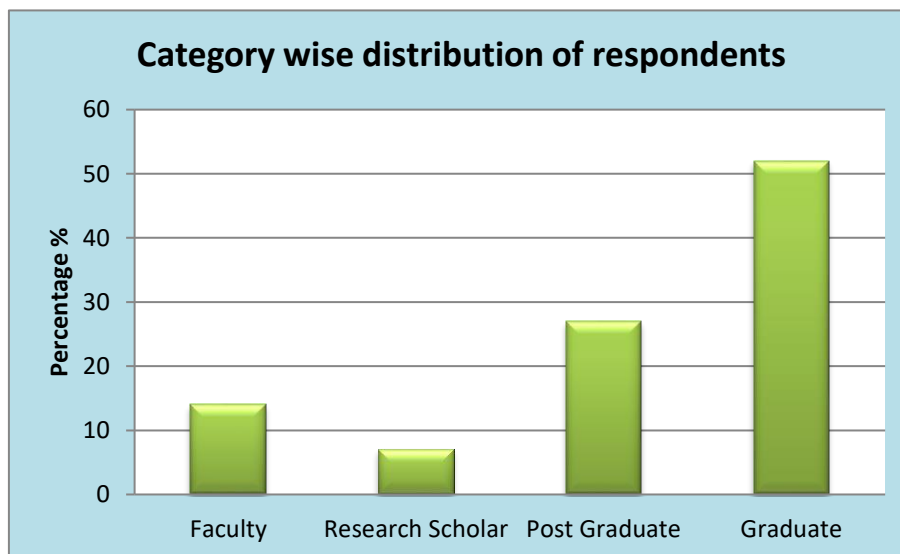
Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
Male	92	53
Female	83	47
Total	175	100

**Figure 1:** Gender wise distribution of respondents

As can be seen from Table 1, the personal detail portion of the questionnaire includes information about gender and other qualifications. The study's population, which included 47% women and 53% men, can use the e-resources made available by the library for a variety of purposes, as indicated in Table 1.

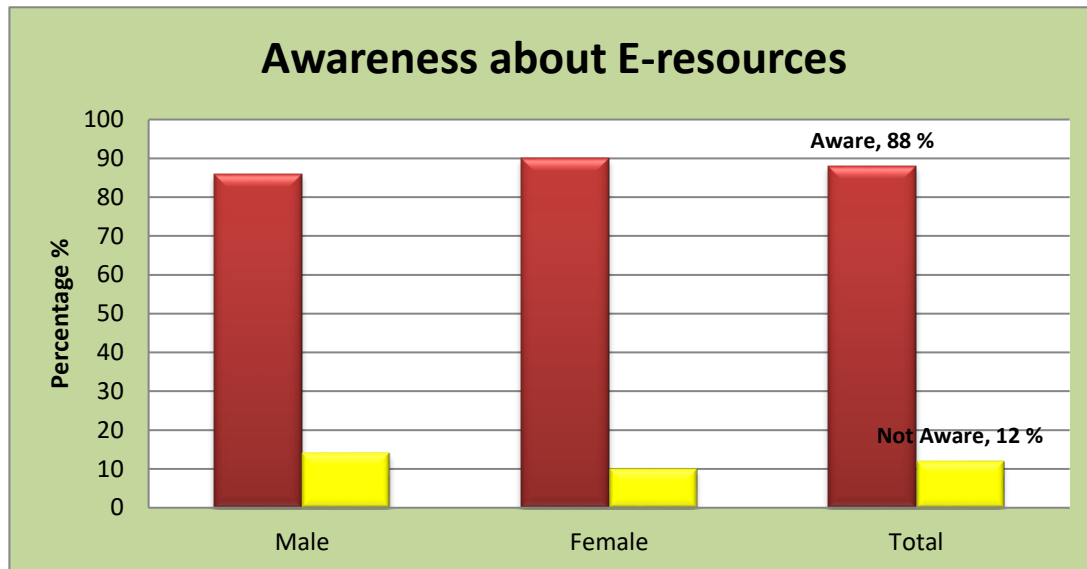
**Table 2: Category wise distribution of respondents**

Academic Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Faculty	24	14
Research Scholar	12	7
Post Graduate	47	27
Graduate	92	52
Total	175	100

**Figure 2:** Total 175 responded out of which 52% were graduate students, 27% were post graduate, 7% were research scholars and 14% were faculty members.

**Table 3: Awareness about E-resources**

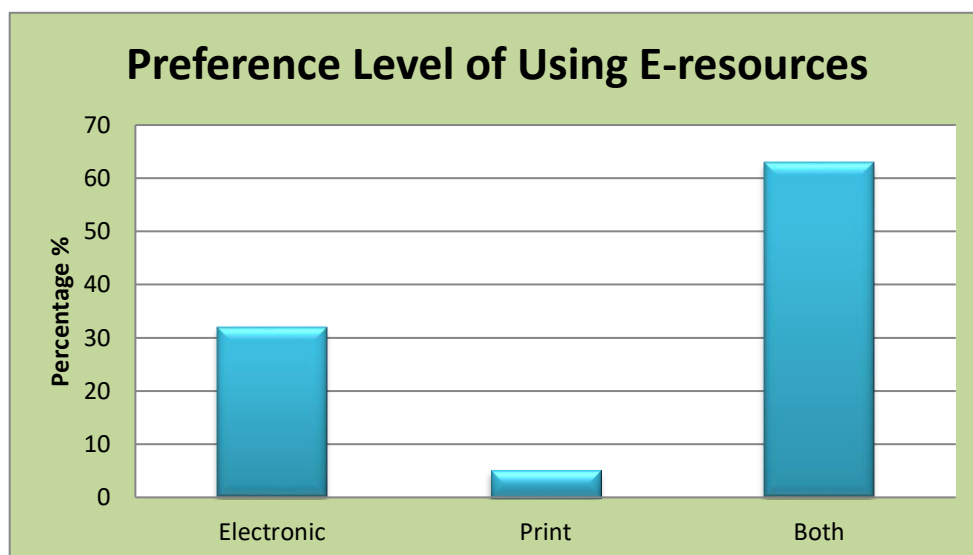
Gender	Aware	Not Aware
Male	79 (86%)	13 (14%)
Female	75 (90%)	8 (10%)
Total	154 (88%)	21 (12%)



**Figure 3:** This graph demonstrates how aware the respondents were of the e-resources offered by the library. Only 86% of the male respondents were aware of the availability of e-resources, compared to 90% of the female users who were. It is clear that female respondents are more knowledgeable about e-resources than male respondents.

**Table 4: Preference Level of Using E-resources**

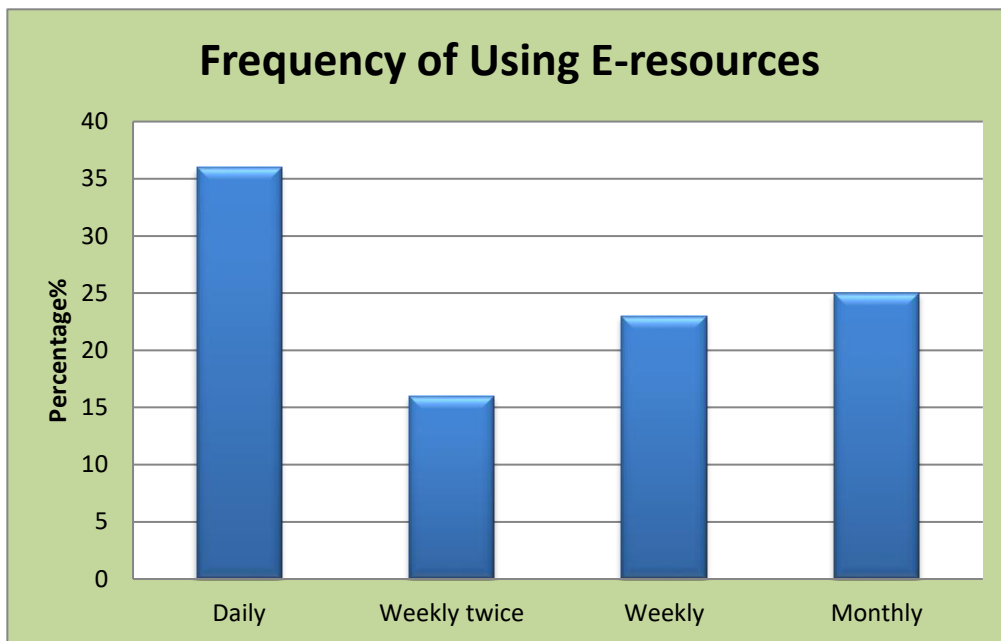
Type	Number	Percentage
Electronic	57	32
Print	8	5
Both	110	63
Total	175	100



**Figure 4:** This graph shows that 63% of respondents desire to have access to both versions of the material, however just 8% of users prefer reading the printed version and 32% prefer using the electronic version.

**Table 5: Frequency of Using E-resources**

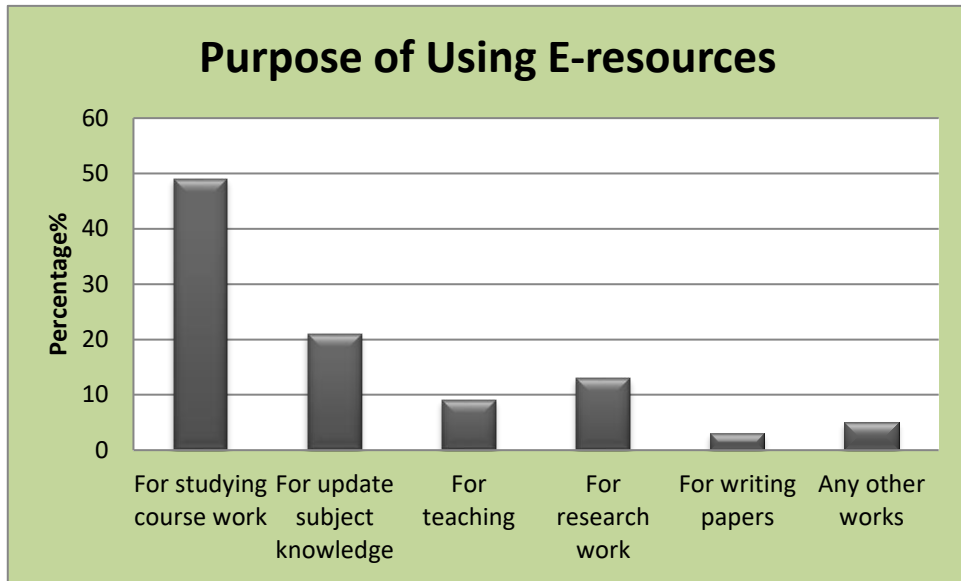
Duration	Number	Percentage
Daily	63	36
Weekly twice	28	16
Weekly	40	23
Monthly	44	25
Total	175	100



**Figure 5:** How frequently do you use online resources, to that question? Different modes of responding were used by the respondents (Table 5). The majority of respondents (36%) accessed online resources on a daily, monthly (25%) or weekly basis. Few respondents (16%) accessed online resources twice a week.

**Table 6: Purpose of Using E-resources**

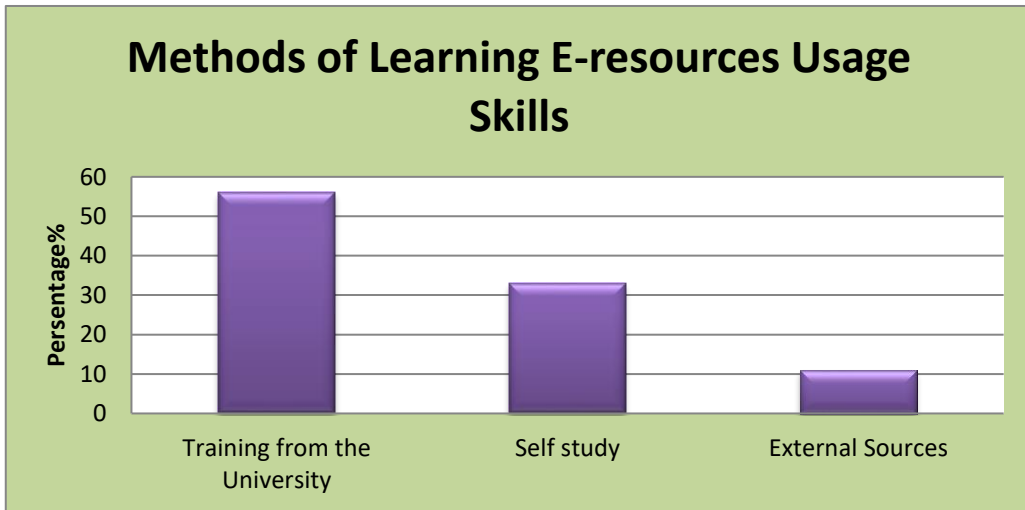
Purpose	Number	Percentage
For studying course work	85	49
For update subject knowledge	37	21
For teaching	16	9
For research work	23	13
For writing papers	5	3
Any other works	9	5



**Figure 6:** Table 6 shows that 49% of respondents use online resources to research their course material. E-resources are used by 13% of respondents for research projects and 21% of respondents to update their subject knowledge. 3% of users use online resources to write papers, 9% of respondents use them for teaching, and 5% of respondents use them for other tasks like tests.

**Table 7: Methods of Learning E-resources Usage Skills**

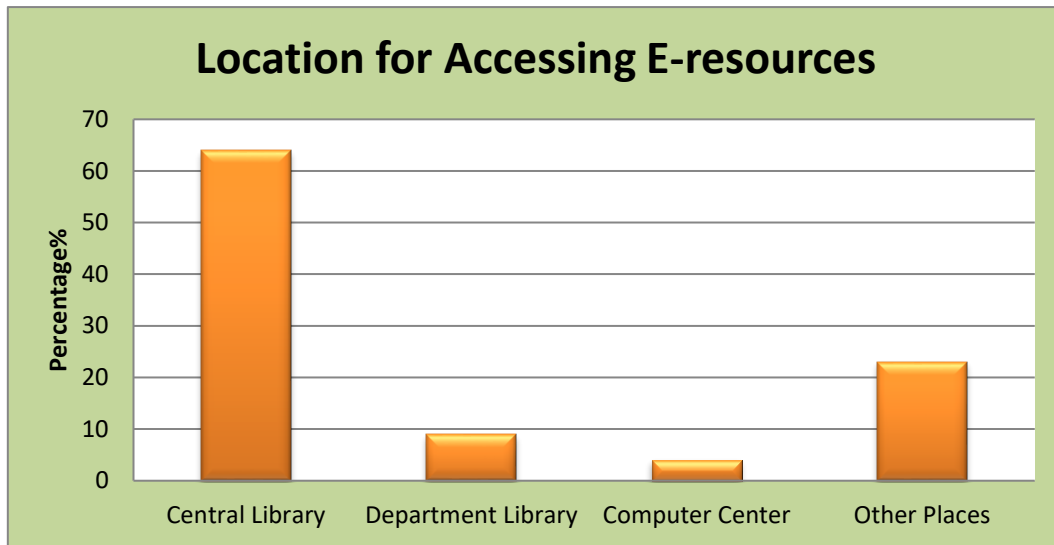
Method	Number	Percentage
Training from the University	98	56
Self study	58	33
External Sources	19	11
Total	175	100



**Figure 7:** According to Table 7, more than half (56%) learned how to use an online journal through university training, whereas 33% learned by doing their own research. Only 11% of people learned skills from outside sources.

**Table 8: Location for Accessing E-resources**

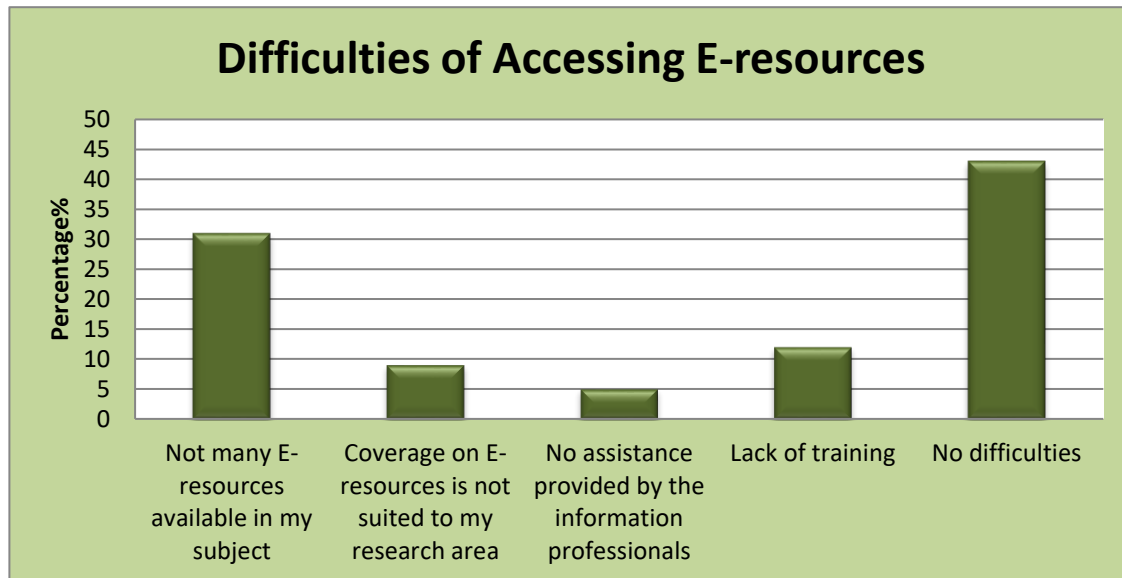
Location	Number	Percentage
Central Library	112	64
Department Library	16	9
Computer Center	7	4
Other Places	40	23
Total	175	100



**Figure 8** shows the question asking respondents to choose their preferred place to access online information. According to the study of table 8, 64% of the respondents selected the central library, followed by 9% at the department library, 4% at the computer centre, and 23% from other locations where they had access to e-resources.

**Table 9: Difficulties of Accessing E-resources**

Reasons	Number	Percentage
Not many E-resources available in my subject	54	31
Coverage on E-resources is not suited to my research area	16	9
No assistance provided by the information professionals	9	5
Lack of training	21	12
No difficulties	75	43

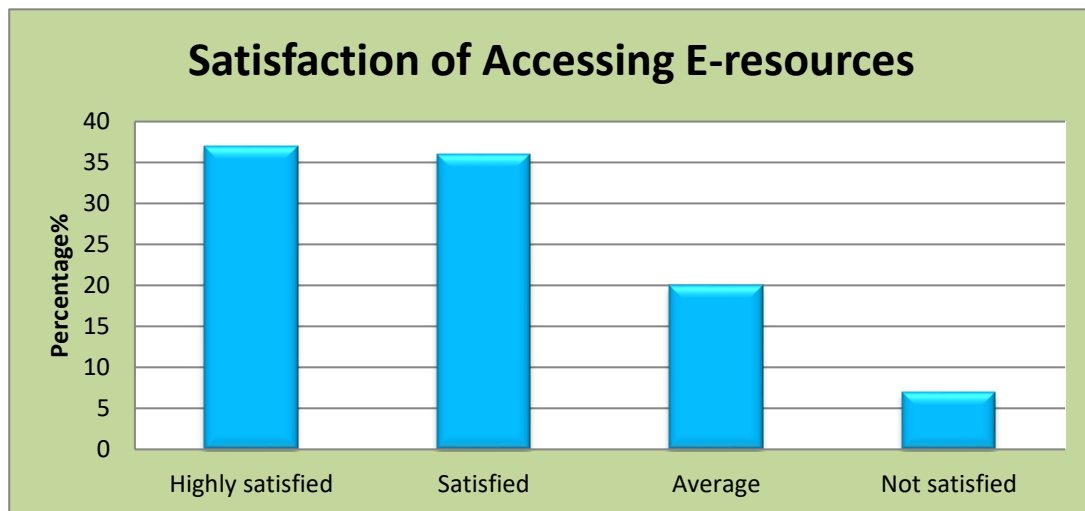


**Figure 9:** Despite the fact that academic and research communities now frequently employ electronic resources; Table 9 lists the specific issues that users have to deal with. It was noted that most respondents have no trouble utilizing online resources for their specific areas. Some respondents indicated that they were having difficulties finding e-resources that were appropriate for my field of study due to a lack of training, the absence of support from information specialists, and a dearth of relevant e-resources.



**Table 10: Satisfaction of Accessing E-resources**

Level	Number	Percentage
Highly satisfied	65	37
Satisfied	63	36
Average	35	20
Not satisfied	12	7
Total	175	100



**Figure 10:** To find out how satisfied users were with the infrastructure for accessing e-resources, a question was posed. It was found that the majority of respondents 37% are very satisfied with the infrastructure the library provides for accessing e-resources at various levels, while just 7% of respondents express dissatisfaction with it.

**Table 11: Behavior of Library staff**

Level	Number	Percentage
Excellent	82	47
Very Good	49	28
Good	35	20
Fair	9	5
Total	175	100



**Figure 11:** The majority of respondents (47% and 28%, respectively) say the behavior of library staff is excellent or very good.

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## Recommendations

This study demonstrated that the graduate, postgraduate, research scholar, and faculty of arts students at IIMT University frequently use electronic resources. It also demonstrated how most students and researchers rely on electronic resources to find the pertinent information they need. However, it became clear that the value of e-resources for practical purposes falls short of the costs incurred to acquire them.

Numerous ideas can be made to enhance the University's facilities and services for the efficient use of electronic resources.

1. Update and expand the collection regularly: Libraries should continuously review their e-resource collection and acquire new materials to keep it up-to-date and relevant. This will make the collection more attractive to users and increase usage.
2. Improve accessibility: Libraries should ensure that their e-resources are easily accessible and user-friendly. This means providing clear instructions and links to the resources, as well as investing in a user-friendly interface.
3. Offer training and support: Libraries should offer training and support to help users navigate and effectively use the e-resources. This could include workshops, online tutorials, and personal assistance.
4. Promote the collection: Libraries need to make a point of highlighting the accessibility and value of their online resources. This can involve promoting the library website's resources in social media posts and targeted marketing initiatives.
5. Work together with other libraries: Libraries can work together to share their e-resource collections, which lowers costs and broadens user access.
6. Ask for feedback: Libraries should ask for user feedback to determine any areas where the collection of electronic resources can be improved. Surveys, focus groups, or meetings with library patrons can all be used to do this.
7. Increase the variety of e-resources available: Libraries should investigate providing e-resources other than the standard e-books and e-journals, such as online databases, streaming media, and educational materials.
8. Increase funding: Libraries should set aside funds and resources to purchase and maintain electronic materials. This displays their dedication to offering their users excellent, pertinent resources.

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## Conclusions

The traditional techniques of scholarly information study, storage, retrieval, and communication have changed due to the rapid development of information and communication technologies, particularly the internet and electronic resources. The internet has become the most effective method for storing and retrieving information nowadays. Users must use various technological and digital resources in order to retrieve pertinent information. The survey revealed that users of the IIMT University Central Library had greatly benefited from using electronic resources in their research and development projects. New electronic gadgets and formats have converged thanks to the information communication technology's quick development. Various types of electronic resources contain information that has been incorporated in a number of different methods and formats. In this area, thorough research has not yet been conducted, especially on IIMT University Central Library patrons' use of online electronic resources. The study clearly shows that the younger generation has accepted electronic resources, yet consumers' frequency of use of these resources has been shown to be at an ideal level. Many of the respondents are not aware of or have not accessed online resources such as abstracts, indexes, OPACs, and theses and dissertations, which are crucial for their research and study. Therefore, the library can organise user awareness activities and orientation programmes in this area.

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