Chapter 5

Impact of E-Resources and Web Technology on Reading Habits

Jyoti Verma
SSchool of Telemedicine and Biomedical Informatics, Sanjay Ghandi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, India

Sharad Kumar Sonkar
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, India

ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this chapter is to study and explore the impact of digital media and Internet on reading habits. Traditional reading habits of library users have now changed with the changing environment and working culture. People are now looking for an opportunity to read content in electronic mode via Internet, mail, etc. It reduces the burden for people to stay inside the library, and now people can even read content while travelling or while moving around the world. Traditional libraries and digital libraries supplement each other to meet the needs of various kinds of readers. Younger generation students sometimes prefer reading through the Internet or following up book reviews as such opportunities can be thought of as effective means for fostering reading habits. Reading is influenced by many factors like environment, subject, background, age, etc. Libraries are under the influence of modern technologies, which have converted the functional activities in all walks of life.

INTRODUCTION

Library is the storehouse of human knowledge, which play vital role in increasing human knowledge constantly in rapidly changes era. With the advancement of technology in every field in every second the formal knowledge acquired obsolete some point so to move with the changing time library provide wide scope to update the intellectual knowledge through advance form of electronic resource like e-Books, e-Journals, e-Magazines, e-Databases, etc. even though library is the traditional information institution it has survived in technology era with the digital resources. With the availability of more digital resources users have started utilizing in other forms besides reading. The increased use of computers has led to some modifications in the methods of academic work, such as undertaking research, writing articles, and producing teaching materials. The use of e-mail has become so popular that it is almost ubiquitous and researchers are finding it important that all
such materials and sources should also exist in
digital format. Both before and after developing
a digital library, the systems are modern with the
time and user is fully satisfied (Beixin & Fan,
1996).

E-RESOURCES AND
WEB TECHNOLOGY

E-Resources

Electronic resources are now becoming very
popular in users. E-Resources are helping in
various fields like teaching, increasing relevance
in research and creativity in finding etc. “E re-
sources term used to describe all of the informa-
tion products that a library provides through a
computer network. This includes electronic books
and journals, bibliographic databases, and library
Website pages etc.” AACR defines an electronic
resource as material encoded for manipulation
by a computerized device. “E-resources are those
resources which include documents in electronic
or e-format that can be accessed via Internet in
digital library environment. E-resources are that
electronic product that delivers a collection of
data, be it text, image collection, other multi-
media products like numerical, graphical mode for
commercially available for library and information
centre’s. These may be delivered on CD-ROM/
DVD, over the Internet and so on” (Prasanta
Kumar Deka, 2007).

- **E-books**: Electronic-books are advance
  version of printed book which is provided
  by electronic device like computers and
  Internet. It can be read at any time through
  computer, ipad, mobile etc.
- **E-journals**: An Electronic Journal (known
  as e-Journal) is that journal which pub-
  lished online. According to School of ori-
  ental and African studies University of
  London “An electronic journal is a periodi-
cal publication which is published in elec-
tronics. E-resources term used to describe electronic

  - **Electronic Preprints and E-Prints**: Electronic
    pre-print are research articles that are made available
distribution
    through the network in electronic format
    before they go through the process of peer
    reviewing whereas E-print is term general-
    ly used to describe electronically mounted
    copies of the final, peer-reviewed versions
    of journal articles.
  - **E-database**: HKIEd Library online Tutorial has defined “An e-database is an
    organized collection of information, of
    a particular subject or multi-disciplinary
    subject areas. The information of an e-da-
    tabase can be searched and retrieved elec-
    tronically.” (Sharma, 2005) Another defi-
    nition given by Bangor University Library
    & Archives Using Library E-databases
    “E-databases are online collections of re-
    sources, for example:
    - A collection of journal articles.
    - A collection of abstracts (short de-
      scriptions of articles and other
      resources).
    - A collection of newspaper articles.
    - A collection of books.
    - A collection of maps.
    - And many other online resource
      collection.

Web Technology and Internet

The Internet and its related technology have
resulted in the rapid proliferation of electronic
information. The Web has witnessed tremendous
growth in the quantity of all type of publication.
It has grown to encompass a variety of informa-
tion sources like electronic journals, electronic
pre-prints, e-prints, technical reports, databases,
library catalogue, and information on organiza-
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