Awareness And Use Of Open Access Resources By Research Scholars In Sri Venkateswara University: A Study

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Abstract:

Purpose: The Present study was awareness and use of open access resources by research scholars in Sri venkatewara university, A study. The main objectives of this study is to investigate the awareness and use of open access resources, such as purpose of using open access, frequency of using open access resources, problems faced for accessing resources, satisfaction level towards use of open access resources and so on.

Methodology: Questionnaire method has been adopted for collecting data from Ph.D Scholars of Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. 300 questionnaires were distributed to the randomly selected out of 270 responded.

findings: Most of the respondent facing slow internet problem for accessing open access resources, regarding university providing to better internet services to research scholars.

Key words: Awareness and Use, Open Access Resources, Research Scholars, Sri Venkateswara University
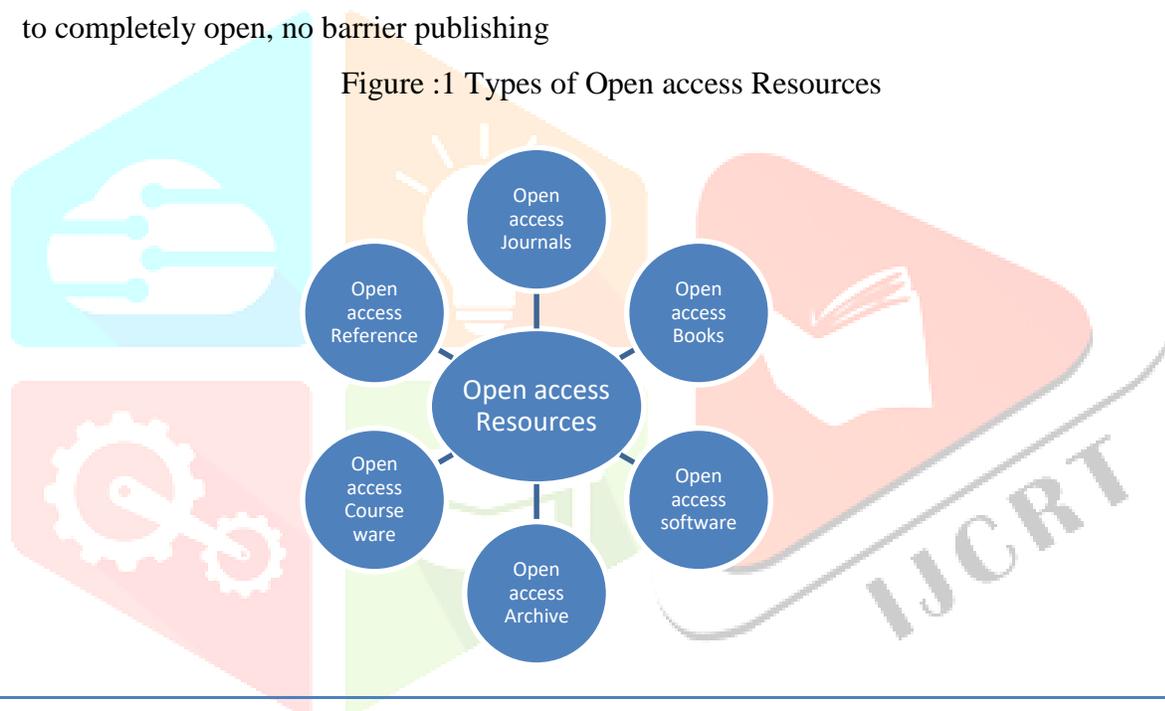
Introduction:

Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) which defined the concept of Open access in relation to journal literature as 'free availability on the public internet, permitting any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print and search to the full text of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity

of their work and the right to be properly acknowledge and cited". Budapest open access initiative, open access ensures unrestricted access to research output on the public internet. It providers provision to make use of scholarly material and grant license for non commercial use subject to proper acknowledgement of original author. Thus open access facilitate researchers to make use of the scholarly material available freely on the internet in any Open access platform like open access repositories, Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETDs) and Open Access Journals.

Open Access Resources:

- Open access refers to resources that are freely available for viewing or use. Open access is not the same as public domain and most open access creators do retain their copyrights.

- Open access is Part of continuum ranging from completely closed, subscription, purchase only access to completely open, no barrier publishing

Figure :1 Types of Open access Resources

Review of Literature

Himabindu (2022) explained that open access archiving should be given much more higher attention in policy circle, so that they would raise the profile of Indian research. Open access to scientific journals is beneficial to scholars and has wide support as a concept, but it needs viable revenue models and great commitment among its promoters.

Mahmud, Abdullah.AI & etal. (2020) The study shows that faculties used open access resource for updating subject knowledge, teaching, learning and their research works also. Directory of Open Access Journal and Directory of Open access Books were often used Open access Repositories by faculties. The faculty and students have poor experience with MOOC and Open courseware, Google scholar is the highly used Open access search engine for academic and research purpose.

Objectives of the study:

The present study has been conducted with the following objectives:

➢ To know the awareness and use of open access resources among the research scholars in Sri Venkateswara University.

➢ To find out the purpose of using open access resources.

➢ To analyze the frequency of using open access resources by the respondents.

➢ To determine the place of using open access resources.

➢ To know the preferred format for down loading and use pattern of open access resources

➢ To identify the problems associated with the use of open access resources by the respondents

➢ To know the level of satisfaction on usage of open access resources.

Analysis of data:

1. A question has been posed to the respondents to know their awareness on open access resources.

Table–1 Awareness on Open Access Resources

Awareness	Respondents	percentage
Yes	270	100%
No	-	-
Total	270	100%

It is evident from table- 1 that 270 (100%) respondents are aware on open access resources.

2. The search engines preferred by the respondents were analyzed. The percentile analysis of major search Techniques such as URL, Search engine, Subject, Keywords, Title and Boolean search the same has been given below.

Table-2 Preferred search Techniques

Search Techniques	Respondents	percentage
Uniform Resource Locator	204	75.5
Search Engine	156	57.7
Subject	195	72.2
Keywords	93	34.4
Title	216	80
Boolean search	78	28.8

(Respondents are allowed to answer more than one option)

Table-2 describes the preferred search techniques to access open access resources, 216 (80%) respondents preferred Tile search technique, followed by URL 204(75.5%), Subject 195 (72.2%), Search Engine 156 (57.7%), Keywords 93 (34.4%) and lowest number of respondents 78 (28.8%) preferred Boolean search technique.

It can be concluded that majority of the respondents preferred title search technique to access open access resources.

3. The respondents knowledge about open access resources was obtained using the variables such as Seminar/conference/workshop, Library professional, Research supervisor, E-mail, Website and Social media. The same has been analyzed. The frequency and percentile analysis are given in Table -3

Table-3 Source of Knowing about Open Access Resources

Particulars	Respondents	percentage
Seminars/Conference/Workshops	144	53.3
Library Professionals	216	80.0
Research Supervisor	165	61.1
E-mail	144	53.3
Websites	207	76.6
Social Media	264	97.7

(Respondents are allowed to answer more than one option)

It is clear from the above table that most of the respondents are known about the open access resources through social media with 264(97.7%) and followed by library professionals 216 (80.0%), websites 207 (76.6%), Research supervisor 165(61.1%), and 144(53.3%) of the respondents know about the open access resources through their E-mail and seminar/Conferences/workshops.

It can be concluded that most of the respondents are known about the open access resources through social media.

4. Awareness on open access portal for the journal by the respondents was analyzed on "Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)", "Open Access Journal Search Engine(OAJSE)", "Open Access Library (OAL)", "Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources(ROAD)" Open J-Gate Journal. The replies are given in table-4

Table-4 Awareness on Open access Journals

Open access Journals	Respondents	percentage
DOAJ-Directory of Open Access Journal	231	85.5
OAJSE: Open Access Journal search Engine	132	48.8
Open Access Library	162	60.0
ROAD: Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources	225	83.3
Open J-Gate Journal	33	12.2

(Respondents are allowed to answer more than one option)

It observed from the above table that majority of the respondents 231(85.5%) are aware of Directory of Open access Journal, followed by 225(83.3%) directory of open access scholarly resources, Open access library 162 (60.0%), Open access journal search engine 132 (48.8%), and least number of the respondents 33(12.2) aware of open J-Gate Journal. It can be concluded that most of the respondents are aware of DOAJ journal.

5. Awareness on open access portal for the Books by the respondents was analyzed on DOAB- Directory of Open access Books, OAPEN: Online Library of Open Access Books, Google Books. The replies are given in Table-5

Table-5 Level of Awareness about open access Books

Open access Books	Respondents	percentage
DOAB	231	85.5
OAPEN	132	48.8
Google Books	180	66.6

(Respondents are allowed to answer more than one option)

It is clear from the above table that highest percentage of the respondents 231 (85.5%) are aware of Directory of Open Access Books, followed by Google Books 180 (66.6%) and remaining 132 (48.8%) are OAPEN. It can be concluded that majority of the respondents are aware of Directory of Open access books.

6.   A question has been posed to the respondents to know their awareness on open access Repositories. The replies given by them are shown in table-6

Table-6 Awareness on Open Access Repositories

Open access Repositories	Respondents	percentage
Open DOAR	132	48.8
ROAR	69	25.5
Shodhganga	270	100
NPTEL	168	62.2
NDL	255	94.4

(Respondents are allowed to answer more than one option)

Table-6 indicates that cent percentage of the respondents fully aware of shodhganga Repository, followed by National Digital Library 255(94.4%), National programme on technology Enhance Learning168(62.2%),Open DOAR 132 (48.8%) and reaming Registry of Open Access Repository 69 (25.5%) are aware of open access institutional repositories. It can be concluded that cent percent of the respondents aware of shodhganga Repository.

7. A question has been posed to the respondents to know their awareness on open access Databases. The replies given by them are shown in table-7

Table-7 Awareness on open access Databases

Open access Databases	Respondents	percentage
ERIC	168	62.2
Econ BIZ	60	22.2
Pub Med	192	71.1

(Respondents are allowed to answer more than one option)

It is clear from the above table that most of the respondents 192 (71.1%) are aware of Pub Med open access database, followed by ERIC 56 (62.2%) and remaining Econ BIZ 20 (22.2%).It can be concluded that most of the respondents are aware of pub med database.

8. A question has been posed to the respondents to know their Purpose of using on open access resources. The replies given by them are shown in table-8

Table-8 Purpose of using open access resources

Purpose	Respondents	Percentage
Research work	270	100.0
Preparing seminars/conferences	150	50.0
Updating subject knowledge	219	81.1
Project work	87	31.5
Writing articles	261	96.6

(Respondents are allowed to answer more than one option)

It is clear from the above table that cent percent of the respondents make use of open access resources for their research work, followed by writing articles 261 (96.6%), preparing seminars/workshops 150(50%), and remaining only 87 (31.5%) of the respondents use open access resources for project works. It can be concluded that cent percent of the respondents are make use of open access resources for their research work.

9. A question has been posed to the respondents to know their data for usage on open access resources. The replies given by them are shown in table-9

Table-9 Frequency of using Open Access Resources

Frequency	Respondents	percentage
Daily	30	11.1
Once a week	135	50.0
Fortnight	72	26.7
Monthly	27	10.0
Rarely	6	2.2

Above table indicates that Half of the respondents 135(50.0%) are using open access resources once in a week, followed by fortnight 72 (26.7%), Daily 30 (11.1%), Monthly 27 (10.0), and remaining 26 (2.2%) are rarely. It can be concluded that half of the respondents are using open access resources once in a week.

10. A question has been posed to the respondents to know their Preferred Format of Access to Open Access Resources. The response given by them are shown in table-10

Table-10 Place of Access to Open Access Resources

Format	Respondents	percentage
Ms-Word	36	13.3
PDF	228	84.4
HTML	6	2.2

It is observed form the above table that high percentage of the respondents 228(84.4%) prefer PDF format for downloading open access resources, followed by 36 (13.3%) MS-word and remaining least number of respondents 06 (2.2%) are preferred HTML format.

It can be concluded that High percentage of the respondents prefer PDF format for downloading open access resources.

11. A question has been posed to the respondents to know their Type of information Access to Open Access Resources. The response given by them are shown in Figure: 1
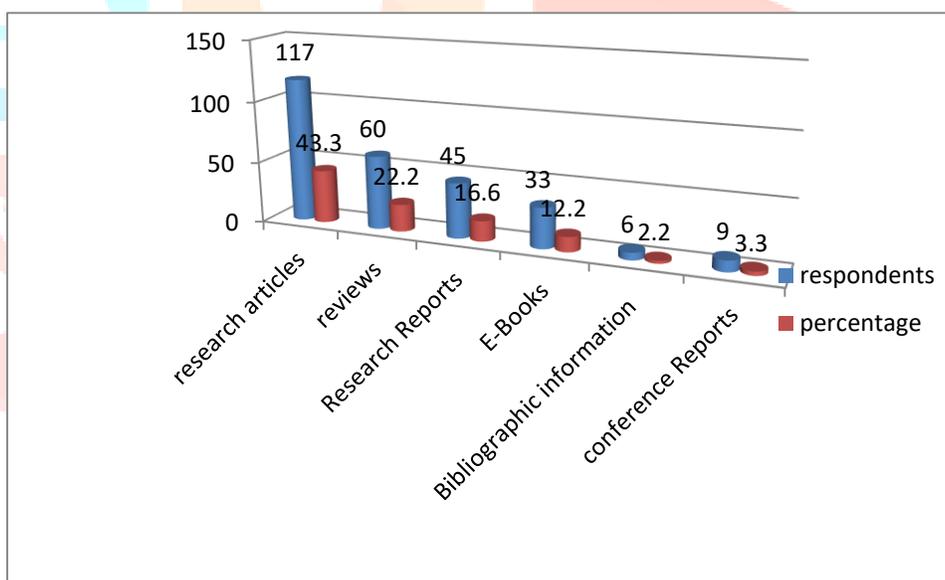

Figure: 1 depicts that 117(43.3%)are research articles preferred articles to access information from open access resources, followed by 60 (22.2%) are reviews, 45 (16.6%) are Research Reports, 33 (12.2%) are E-books,9 (3.3%) are conference reports, and remaining 6(2.2) are Bibliographic Information It can be concluded that less than off respondents are accessing information from research articles.

12. A question has been posed to the respondents to know their Problems faced while using Access to Open Access Resources. The response given by them are shown in table-11

Table-11Problems faced while using Open Access Resources

Problems	Respondents	percentage
Slow internet speed	138	51.1
Power failure	39	14.4
Lack of ICT Knowledge	15	5.6
No Proper guidance and training	30	11.1
Incomplete subject	33	12.2
Lack of information Literacy	15	5.6

Above table indicates that half of the respondents 138(51.1%) are replied that facing problems for slow internet speed, followed by 39 (14.4%) are power failure, 33 (12.2%) are incomplete subject, 30 (11.1%) are no proper guidance and training and remaining same number of the respondents 15 (5.6%) Lack of information literacy and Lack of ICT knowledge.

13. A Question has been posed to the respondents to know their Satisfaction towards the use of Access to Open Access Resources. The response given by them are shown in table-12

Table-12 Satisfaction towards the use of Open access Resources

Satisfaction	Respondents	percentage
Fully Satisfied	39	14.4
Satisfied	216	80.0
Not satisfied	15	5.5

It is clear from the above table that majority of the respondents 216 (80.0%) are satisfied from the information that they find through the use of open access resources, followed by 39(14.4%) are fully satisfied and remaining 15 (5.5%) are not satisfied.

It can be concluded that majority of the respondents are satisfied from the information that they find through the use of open access resources.

Conclusion:

The present study explored use and awareness of Open Access Resources by Research Scholars in Sri Venkateswara University. Most of the respondents are not aware of some Open Access Institutional Repositories and Databases. It is a duty of library staff to spread awareness of open access resources through different library activities. Also links to various OARs can be given on the library website. Most of

the respondent facing slow internet problem for accessing open access resources, regarding university providing to better internet services to research scholars.

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