

Use of E-Shodh Sindhu (N-LIST College Component) by faculty of DAV College Ferozepur: An analytical study

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Abstract

Purpose: Libraries around the world are using their current global network to promote better, faster, and cheaper ways to make electronic information resources available to information seekers of all kinds. INFLIBNET has revolutionized the development of the appropriate infrastructure for libraries (especially academic libraries) that are part of the network environment. The development of E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST) program for college plays a significant role to promote higher education. Lot of information at nominal subscription is available to the member college, which they can access with a single click. The study aimed to examine the use of E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST College Component) by faculty of DAV College Ferozepur.

Methodology: Questionnaires methods were used to collect the required data from the period of April 2023 to July 2023. The data was collected by using random sampling. The collected data is analyzed with the help of excel and represented by using graphs and figures.

Findings: The findings of study came out with certain noted facts and figure and wide-ranging suggestion to promote the usage.

Keywords: E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST), INFLIBNET, e-journals, e-Books, faculty.

1. Introduction

Libraries and information centers are an integral part of any academic/research institution. Traditional settings are changing over time and tend to move with change, meeting the needs of modern users. The Internet has revolutionized the way scientists collaborate and communicate. There is a shift from traditional printed matter to electronic material. “Electronic resources have become a powerful medium for

academic communication. The library subscribes to print journals as its primary source of research. Printed journals are used to disseminate information, build permanent archives for research, and give authors professional recognition. Electronic journals are defined as digital publications that specialize in publishing on the Internet. (Saikia, 2011).” The use of e-resources in education has dramatically changed the process of education and learning. Electronic resources play an important role in making a difference in academics. In today's situation, all types of libraries, including academic libraries, public libraries, and special libraries, carry out their day-to-day academic research by making available not only printed materials, but also other Internet resources such as e-books, e-journals and databases. Electronic resources impact university library services, especially in terms of their effect on subscriptions, accessibility, distribution, and academic use. E-resources also increase the use of library resources and services and enhance academic and research activities. “E-Resources provide customers with value-added information services and the ability to provide access to a variety of digital information resources. They improve the quality of learning and access to learning materials. These resources are the driving force behind the formation of strong academics. It is very convenient to access and use vast amounts of information.” (Velmurugan & Amudha, 2015). The present study covers different aspects of e-resources through 15 tables which are used by the faculty and study will give fruitful results in all the aspects mentioned in headings.

2. E-ShodhSindhu

The MHRD has formed E-ShodhSindhu on the recommendation of an Expert Committee after merging three consortia, namely UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, NLIST and INDEST-AICTE Consortium. The E-ShodhSindhu provides access to current as well as archival 15,000 core and peer-reviewed journals and a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different disciplines from a



Figure 1: Home page of E-ShodhSindhu (Source: <https://www.inflibnet.ac.in/ess/index.php>)

large number of publishers and aggregators to its member institutions including centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges that are covered under 12(B) and 2(f) Sections of the UGC Act (<https://ess.inflibnet.ac.in/about.php>).

2.1 E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST College Component)

The project entitled "National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST)", started in 2010. The E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) is being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT Delhi under the overall guidance of a National Steering Committees of the two Consortia that guide and steer the activities of the E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) program. The INFLIBNET Centre acts as a Monitoring Agency for implementation, monitoring, and execution of the entire program. In the year 2014, The E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST) Program starting in function as a college component of the E-Shodh Sindhu. In E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) program, colleges have access to e-resources like 6000+ e journals and 199500 + e books and 6,00,000 e-books through NDL. A very nominal fee is charged for its membership to access various e-resources. (<http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in/> -Dec, 2023)

The screenshot displays the N-LIST website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Login', 'Licences and Fairuse', 'FAQs', 'Contact Us', 'Write Comment(s)', and 'Request an Article'. A phone number '+91 79 2326 8243/44' is also visible. The main header features the N-LIST logo and the text 'National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'About', 'Members', 'E-Resources', 'How to Join?', 'Operation', 'UserGuide/help', 'Register', 'College Status', 'Search', and 'Downloads'. The main content area is divided into several sections: a 'Welcome to N-LIST Website' section with a 'Member's login' button; an 'Announcement' section regarding the registration of new colleges and renewal of existing ones, with membership fees of Rs 5750.00 (2000 + Service tax) for existing colleges and Rs 34,500 (30,000 + Service tax) for new colleges; an 'Important email contacts' section; a 'Print Fee Receipt/Invoice' and 'Quotation[2017-18]' section; a 'N-LIST Winner of The e-Library Award' section; a 'Total No of users: 967640' section; a 'College Administrator LOGIN' button; a 'Top 10 College Users' list; a 'What's New?@NLIST Programme' section; and a 'Trial access to World Scientific Publication and University Publishing Online through Cambridge University Press-ebooks' section. The footer contains the text 'e-ShodhSindhu; Consortium for Higher Education Electronic Resources | e-PGPATHSHALA: e-content for PG Courses' and '© 2016 e-ShodhSindhu/N-LIST Programme at INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, INDIA, feedback to: Webmaster'.

Figure 2: E-ShodhSindhu N-LIST College Component (Source: <http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in/> (Dec, 2023)

2.2 Current status

As on December 2022, there are 4181 beneficiary college, total 699442 active users and 38368 users activated in the current month who access E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST) e-resources. E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST) program has access to e-journals, e-books, and Bibliographic database detail as under:

Table 1: E-journal details of E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST) program

E-Journals (Full text)	
American Institute of Physics	18 titles
Annual Reviews	33 titles
Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)	1 title
Indian Journals	180+ titles
Institute of Physics	46 titles
JSTOR	2500+ titles
Oxford University Press	262 titles
Royal Society of Chemistry	29 titles
H. W. Wilson	3000+ titles
Cambridge University Press [224 titles]	2010-2016

Table 2: E-book details of E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST) program

E-Books	
E-brary	185000 + titles
EBSCoHost-Net Library	936 titles
Hindustan Book Agency	65+ titles
Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) Books	382+ titles
Oxford Scholarship	1402+ titles
Springer eBooks	2300 titles
Sage Publication eBooks	1000 titles
Taylor Francis eBooks	1800 titles
Myilibrary-McGraw Hill	1124 titles
South Asia Archive	through NDJ
World e-Books Library	Now Available through NDJ only

3. Literature review

Ramesh & Rajendra (2018) in their study revealed that both electronic and printed resources are relevant. Because some printed publications are more expensive than e-resources, they cannot be purchased, and thus are not available in libraries. In such instance, The E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST) proves imperative for higher educational institutions. It has excellent research books, journals, databases, and other material of national and international standard. These are very helpful for teaching-learning, especially in higher education.

Hanchinal (2019) examined the use of E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST) e-resources and questionnaire method was used to collect primary data from 20 selected colleges of Arts, Commerce & Science of Mumbai suburb. The data collected from 200 respondents revealed that 50% of respondents were using e-resources of E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) Program and 50% of them were not using them. The study also suggested that college management also needs to pay more attention and enhance the infrastructure of the library. This will act as a key factor to promote usage as 89 respondents do know about E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST) e-resources. The study strongly recommends the subscription of E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST) for higher academic institutes as it is the major information source for college students at a reasonable cost.

Nagu & Navanath (2019) explained that E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) will become a fundamental consortia platform in India especially for higher education. The study is limited to 11 colleges that have subscription of E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) consortia in Kolhapur city affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur. College libraries act as a nodal media for imparting a linkage among E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) resources and college students. College libraries assist their users in accessing e-resources. Institutional libraries not only subscribe to such programs but also arrange orientation to enhance the use. Maximum libraries established technological infrastructural centers to assist the e-resources of journals, e-books, e-database.

Yadav, Singh, & Verma (2020) revealed that 86.57% respondents accessed JSTOR e-journals and 49.25% EBESCO. 43.28% respondents accessed e-resources 2-3 times in a week followed by daily (23.88%), weekly (22.39%) and occasionally (8.96%).

Rani & Kaur (2021) in their study revealed that 100% of the respondents were aware about e-resources. 60.30% respondents always prefer to use 'author name' for searching e-resources followed by often use author name (21.90%) for the same. 70.30% respondents search through Title followed by often use title (22.40%). 58.90% respondents used 'keywords' always followed by often use (24.20 %). 41.60% respondents always used Year of publication followed by sometime (26%) and often (22.80%). 53.40% respondents always followed by often (26%). 62.10% respondents used subject always followed by often (26.90%) used e-journal.

4. Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the study are as under:

- To create awareness about E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) program among faculty members.
- To know the use of e-resources available through E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) program.
- To find out the faculty members preferred search strategy to access E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources.
- To examine the problems faced by the faculty members in accessing e-resources.
- To suggest ways and means to promote the optimal use of e-resources.

5. Research methodology

A well-designed questionnaire was used to collect data from the faculty members of DAV College of women, Ferozepur (affiliated with Panjab University, Chandigarh) for eliciting their responses towards use of e-resources available through E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST). The data was collected by using random sampling. It was found that total 45 faculty member were available in the record as other contract faculty were relived and among them 39 questionnaires were distributed with the help of the college librarian and other library staff. Out of these 38 questionnaires were received back with response of the faculty members of the college as under. The collected data is analyzed with the help of excel and represented by using graphs and figures.

Table 3: Response rate

Category	Questionnaire Distributed Faculty	Response	Total (%)
Users Status			
Number of Users	39	38	32 97.44%

A total of 39 questionnaires were distributed personally to the faculty members of the college under study. Out of these, 38 (97.44%) filled in questionnaires were received back. Among these respondents, 4 are Associate professors and 34 Assistant Professors and all of them visit the college library regularly.

5. Data analysis

Table 4 shows that all the respondents (i.e., 100 %) visit college library and use e-resources to fulfill their information need.

Table 4: Visit to college library and use of e-resources

Statement	Yes	No
Visit to college library	38 (100%)	-
Use of e-resources	38 (100%)	-
Total	38 (100%)	-

Table 5: Frequency of Library Visit and e-resources usage

Frequency	Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Occasionally	Total
Library Visit	06 (15.79%)	15 (39.48%)	12 (31.58%)	05 (13.16%)	38 (100%)
E-resource usage	04 (10.53%)	07 (18.43%)	07 (18.43%)	20 (52.64%)	38 (100%)

Table 5 reveals that 39.48% of respondents visit the library weekly followed by fortnightly (31.58%). On the other hand, only 15.79 percent respondents pay a regular visit to library. The percentage of passive users who visit library rarely is comparatively very low i.e. 13.16 %. In case of frequency of usage of e-resources the collected data shows that 52.64 percent respondents use E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources occasionally and below 20 percent respondents use daily, weekly and fortnightly.

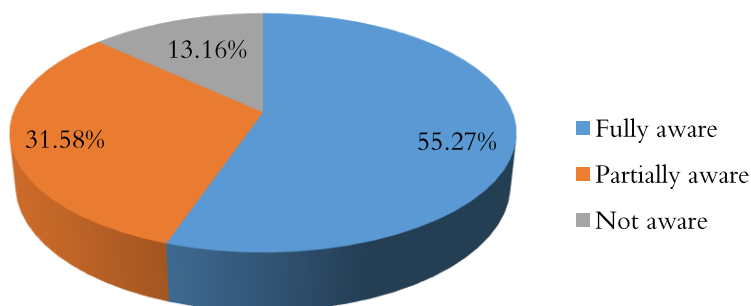


Figure 3: Awareness of E-Shodh Sindhu under E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) program

Awareness among the library users about the E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources is clearly seen from the above figure 3 which reveals that 55.27 per cent respondents are fully aware of E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources whereas 31.58 per cent respondents are partially aware about it. Surprisingly, 13.16 per cent of respondents are not aware of it.

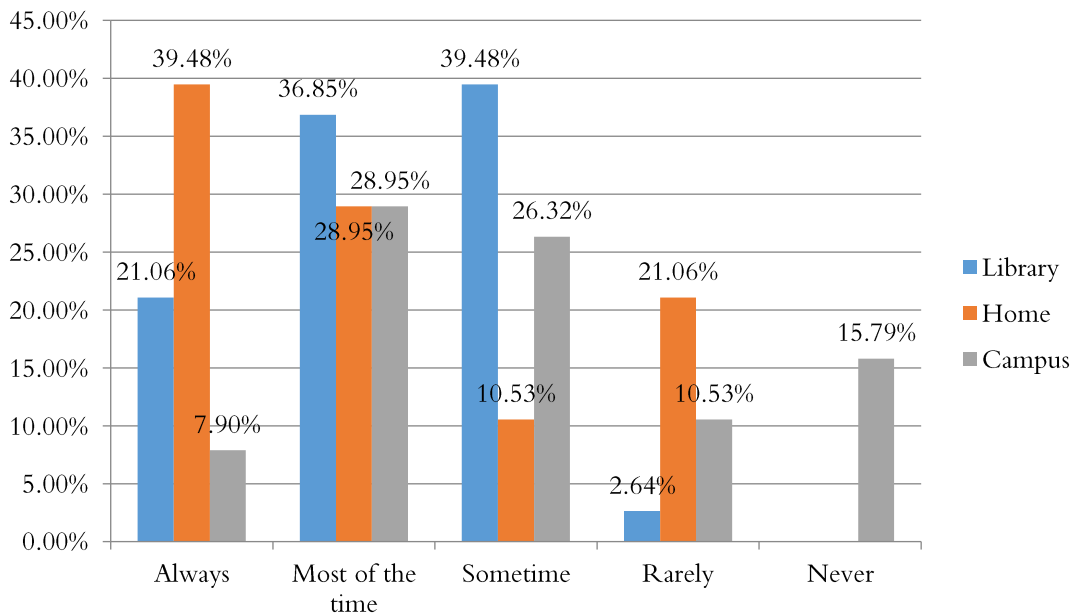


Figure 4: Place of accessibility

Figure 4 shows the respondents who always access e-resources from library (21.06%), home (39.48%) and campus (7.90%). On the other hand, respondent who most of the time access from library (36.85%), home (28.95%) and campus (28.95%) followed by sometime from library (39.48%), home (10.53%), campus (26.32%) and rarely from library (2.64%), home (21.06%), campus (10.53%). 15.79 percent respondents never access from campus.

Table 6: Mode of awareness

Mode of awareness	Faculty
Through college website	02 (5.27%)
Through library orientation program	04 (10.53%)
Through library staff	30 (78.95%)
Through teachers	20 (52.64%)
Through colleagues	26 (68.43%)

Table 6 reveals that 78.95 percent respondents are getting awareness about E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources through library staff followed by 68.43

percent from colleagues and only 10.53 percent through library orientation programme and college website (5.27%). It is clear that college library is working actively to promote the use of e-resources in the library.

Table 7: Average time spent on accessing e-resources per week

Average Time	Faculty
Less than 1-5 hrs	38 (100%)
6-10 hrs	-
11-15hrs	-
More than 15 hrs	-

Data collected in table 7 revealed that 100 percent of respondent use e-resources for less than 1-5 hours per week.

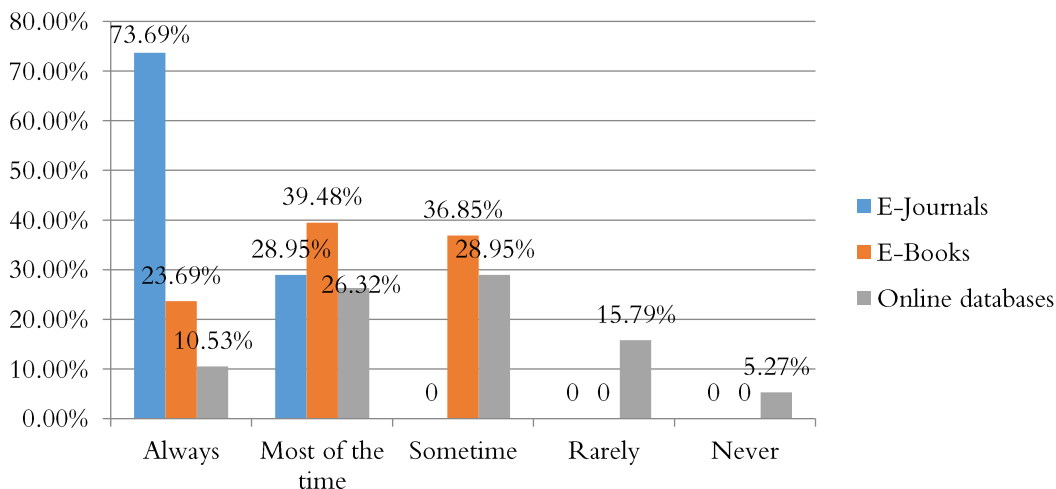


Figure 5: Preferences to find the relevant information while searching E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources

Figure 5 reveals that e-journals are more preferred in E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources, as 73.69 per cent always and 28.95 per cent most of the time use e-journals in E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources. While in the case of e-books 39.48 respondents use it most of the time, 36.85 per cent sometime and 23.69 per cent always. On the other hand, 5.27 percent of respondents never use online databases, 10.53 percent use always.

Figure 6 reveals that the maximum number of respondents preferred to access e-resources by searching most of the time title (65.79 %), keywords rarely (52.64%) and always author (44.74%). While 34.21 per cent respondents use subject to access e-resources most of the time.

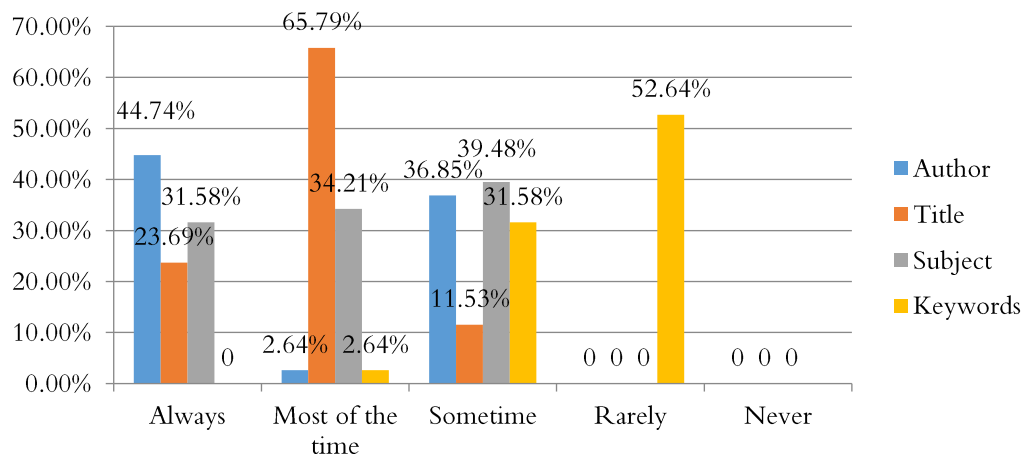


Figure 6: Field preferred to access E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources

Figure 7 shows that maximum numbers of respondents prefer to access Indian (52.64%) and JSTOR e-journals (39.48%) while 39.48 percent sometime go for Cambridge University Press. On the other hand, 36.85 per cent respondents use Oxford University Press followed by Annual Reviews 34.21 per cent and JSTOR (31.58%) most of the time. And less than 25 per cent respondents access American Institute of Physics, Institutes of Physics, and Royal Society of Chemistry.

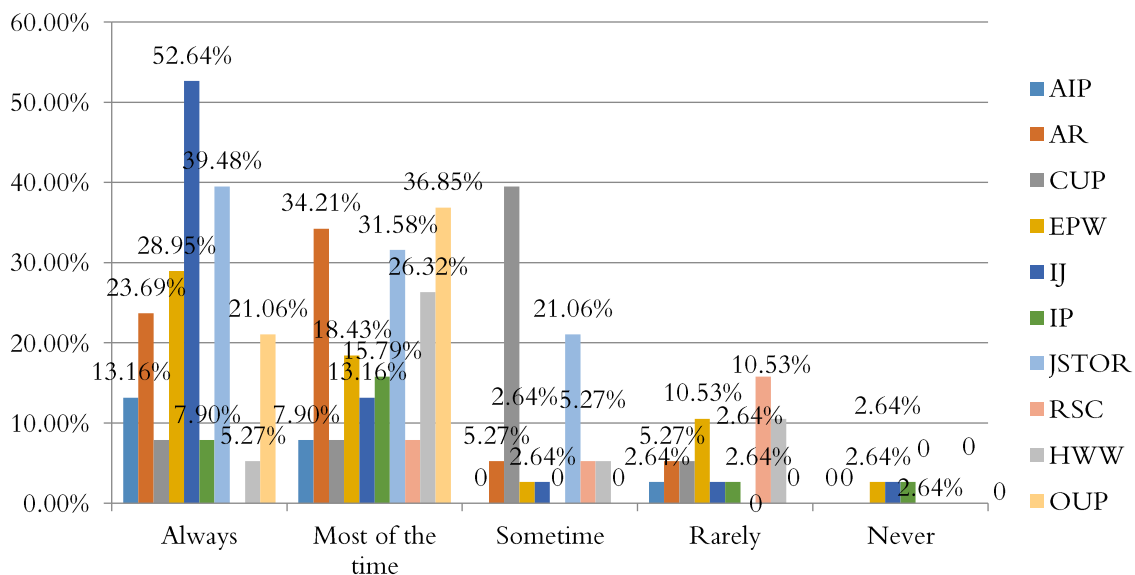


Figure 7: Area of users' interest (E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) program e-journals Publishers)

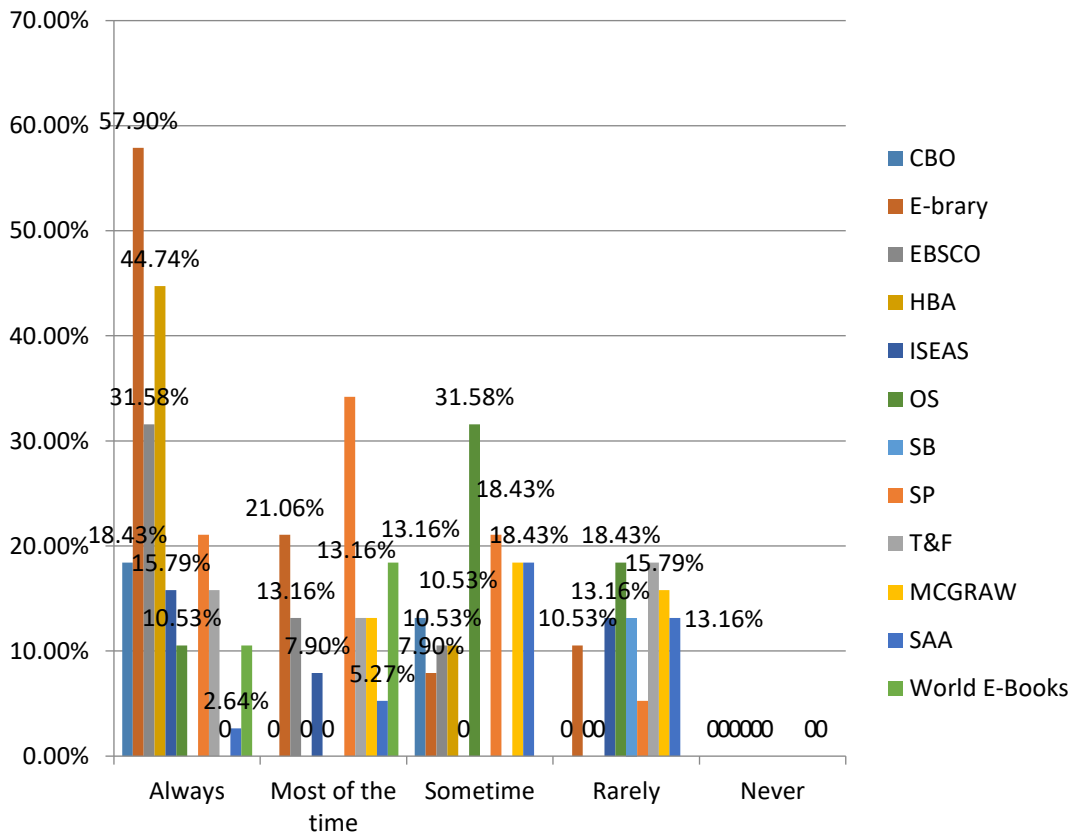


Figure 8: Area of users' interest (E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) program E-Books Publishers)

Figure 8 reveals that maximum number of respondents always access E-brary (57.90%) and Hindustan Book Agency (44.74%) e-books. 34.21 per cent respondents access books from Sage Publication most of the time and 31.58 per cent Oxford Scholarship sometime. Less than 20 per cent access Cambridge Books Online, Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) Books, Springer eBooks, Taylor Francis eBook, Mylibrary-McGraw Hill, South Asia Archive and World E-Books.

Table 8 shows that 50.0 per cent respondents face the problems of poor internet connectivity most of the time at institutional level and 52.64 per cent respondents face lack of training always at personal level. And less than 40 per cent respondents face problems like frequent power failure, less number of computer terminals, lack of skilled supporting staff and no proper guidance from library staff at institutional level. On the other hand, virus/ unwanted programmes, retrieval of irrelevant information, limited e-resources in E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) are other notable issues.

Table 8: Problems faced while accessing E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources

Problems	Always	Most of the time	Sometime	Rarely	Never
At Institutional Level:					
Frequent Power failure	05 (13.16%)	03 (7.90%)	09 (23.69%)	01 (2.64%)	-
Less number of computer terminals	15 (39.48%)	16 (42.11%)	-	-	-
Poor Internet Connectivity	09 (23.69%)	19 (50.0%)	04 (10.53%)	-	-
Lack of skilled supporting staff	04 (10.53%)	10 (26.32%)	05 (13.16%)	04 (10.53%)	-
No proper guidance from library staff	03 (7.90%)	06 (15.79%)	11 (28.95%)	03 (7.90%)	05 (13.16%)
At Personal Level:					
Lack of training	20 (52.64%)	05 (13.16%)	03 (7.90%)	-	04 (10.53%)
Virus/ Unwanted programs	09 (23.69%)	08 (21.06%)	07 (18.43%)	-	-
Retrieval of irrelevant information	-	06 (15.79%)	05 (13.16%)	04 (10.53%)	-
Limited e-resources in E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST)	03 (7.90%)	07 (18.43%)	04 (10.53%)	05 (13.16%)	-

The data collected in table 9 shows that 100 per cent of respondents agree that the online orientation programs were organized by the library.

Table 9: Organizing training program/webinar during lockdown to facilitate the use of e-resources.

Training/Webinar	Faculty
Yes	38 (100%)
No	-

Figure 9 shows that 52.64 per cent respondents consider such training program useful followed by somewhat useful (28.95%) and moderately useful (7.90%) On the other hand, 10.53 per cent respondents consider that such programs are of no use to them.

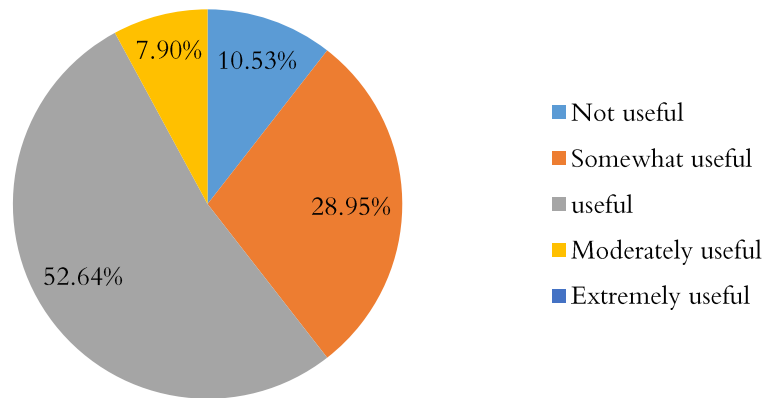


Figure 9: Rating of online training program/webinar based on the respondents' experience

Figure 10 shows that all respondents consider E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources in online teaching learning most essential (26.32%) followed by essential (57.90%) and only 15.79 per cent are neutral.

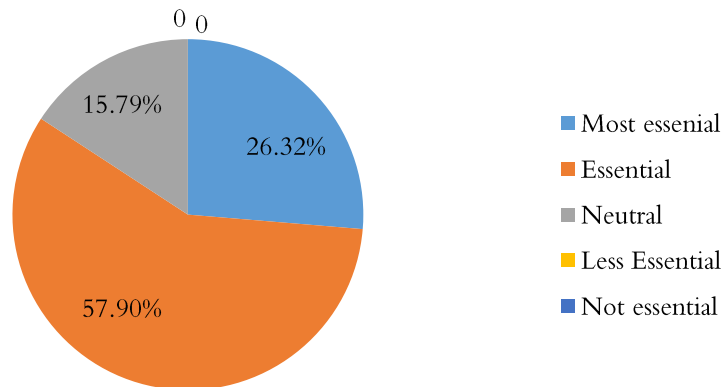


Figure 10: Importance of E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources in online teaching learning

7. Findings of the study

- All the respondents (i.e. 100 %) visit college library to fulfil their information need.
- 39.48 per cent of respondents visit the library weekly followed by fortnightly (31.58%). On the other hand, only 15.79 per cent of the respondents pay a regular visit to library.
- 52.64 per cent respondents use E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources occasionally and below 20 per cent respondents use daily, weekly and fortnightly
- 55.27 per cent respondents are fully aware of E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources whereas 31.58 per cent respondents are partially aware about E-ShodhSindhu (N-LIST) e-resources.
- 62.50 per cent respondents use E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources occasionally and below 20 per cent respondents use daily, weekly and fortnightly.
- 39.48% respondents always access E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources from home and 36.85% most of the time from library.
- 78.95% respondents are always aware about E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources through library staff and 68.43% through their colleagues.
- 100% respondents spent 1-5 hours to access E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources.
- 73.69% respondents always prefer journals and 39.48% most of the time books in E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources.
- Access e-resources by searching author always (44.74%) most of the time title (65.79%) and sometime (39.48%) subject.
- Respondents prefer to access Indian (52.64%) and JSTOR e-journals (39.48%) while 39.48 per cent sometime go for Cambridge University Press. On the other hand, 36.85 per cent respondents use Oxford University Press and JSTOR (31.58%) most of the time. Below 25 per cent respondents access American Institute of Physics, Institutes of Physics, Royal Society of Chemistry and H.W. Wilson.
- Majority of respondents always access E-brary (57.90%) and Hindustan Book Agency (44.74%) e-books and 34.21 per cent respondents most of the time access books from Sage publication. Below 20 per cent access from Cambridge Books Online, Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) Books, Springer eBooks, Taylor Francis eBook, Myilibrary-McGraw Hill, South Asia Archive and World E-Books.
- 50.0 per cent respondents face the problems of poor internet connectivity at institutional level and 52.64 per cent respondents face lack of training at personal level.

- 52.64 per cent respondents consider such awareness/training programme as useful followed by somewhat useful (28.95%) and moderately useful (7.90%)
- All respondents consider E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources under E-ShodhSindhu in online teaching learning most essential (26.32%) followed by essential (57.90%) and only 15.79 per cent are neutral.

8. Conclusion

Libraries around the world are using their current global network to promote better, faster, and cheaper ways to make electronic information resources available to information seekers of all kinds. INFLIBNET has revolutionized the development of the appropriate infrastructure for libraries (especially academic libraries) that are part of the network environment. DAV College, Ferozpur library is providing the E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources to its faculty members since 2010. The study concludes that assistant professors use E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources more often than associate professors. The recognition of E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources among faculty members by library staff is a major achievement of college library. Initiatives taken by the librarians to raise awareness should also be commended. The library uses new technology to manage resources and provide better service to users. The majority of faculty members visit the library and also use E-SHODHSINDHU (N-LIST) e-resources. Most of them are using it from their homes as they have the password to access it. E-SHODHSINDHU (NLIST) e-books, e-journals, online databases are regularly used by college faculty members in a great number. Indian journals, Oxford University, Press JSTOR, Springer, and Sage are accessed by the faculty members in a great number. Faculty members face some problems like irrelevant information in E-SHODHSINDHU (NLIST) e-resources, lack of search skills, a smaller number of computer terminals in the library and lack of training to access e-resources, and college library is doing well in this direction to solve these problems. Faculty members of the DAV College, Ferozpur are overall satisfied with the E-SHODHSINDHU (NLIST) e-resources and they access it.

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