Electronic Resource Management in Libraries:

Challenges and Opportunities

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Abstract:

In the rapid development of internet era working system in every business and industries changes. Library and information field is also included in that. Libraries develop their sources and services digitally. But they do not proper understanding of these resources. The current paper is aims to find out challenges and opportunities to manage electronic resource available in their libraries. For the study data have been collected from 150 college librarians with the help of questionnaire and it is concluded that proper management support and staff training is need to manage electronic resources in systematic way.

Introduction:

Rapid development in Information communication and technology had great impact on every field. It has great impact on education, business, industries and all other fields. Their working criteria changed. Library and information field also adopt the technology. Libraries are always at front to adopt the new changes. Starting from computerizing their sources and services, they also started digitizing their resources. Tremendous change and introduction of internet not only affect the business, it also affects the general public. Their behavior towards utilizing the services changed. In case of information industries people start getting information on internet. With the help of internet people get the information on their finger tips at any time and at any place.

In this situation if libraries do not change, their existence will be in question. Computerizing the services take place but it is not enough. In digital era, information were digitized. Libraries started keeping electronic resources like electronic books, electronic journals, E-database etc. Now a days there are so many electronic resources available. These resources are varying according to their subjects. Just introducing the electronic resources does not fulfill the matter. Provide quick access to this resources need proper maintenance of the same.

The main aim of current research work is to find out how to manage these e-resources for its quick and best usage, define the whole aspect of electronic resource management. The management includes the planning , policy and work flow issues. The best e-resources management has many advantage for the academic institution. But at the same time there are certain limitations that libraries have to face.

Review of Literature:

Robert L. Bothmann and Melissa Holmberg said about the management of electronic resources with a view to planning, policy and workflow. In the current research it is found that many libraries attempt to transfer their print resource into electronic resources. While, lack of knowledge to manage these resources result into chaos and lack of control. In the present research work the challenges, methods and impact of electronic resource management are described. The author described method and ideas of managing electronic resources.

Chandel, A S and Saikia, Mukesh in the article said about advance in computer technology and introduction of e-resources and its increasing usage changed the library work from physical to virtual. It is found that users preferred to use electronic resources more than physical resources. In spite of its many advantages there are certain problems for the same. These problems are like acquisition, maintenance, management etc. The paper highlights the issues, develop the procedure to manage e-resources.

Ryan Weir, Geoffrey P. Timms, George Stachokas and Regina Koury in the article, "Ebrarians: Meeting the Challenges of E-resources Head on! New Professionals Discuss the Management of Electronic Resources" narrated four different electronic resources. These are paying for electronic resources, collection development of e-resources, management and delivery of e-resources and education and training of e-resources. Problems faced by librarian in different topic have mentioned. After analyzing the data it was concluded that higher education and library and information science needs to do more to help and prepare for future electronic resources librarian for the complex challenges of their work. (Ryan Weir)

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Objectives:

1. To identify the availability of electronic resources in the library.

2. To identify condition of electronic resources in the library.

3. To identify problems in managing electronic resources.

4. To identify different method of e-resource management adopted by librarians.

5. To find out advantages and challenges faced to implement e-resources in libraries.
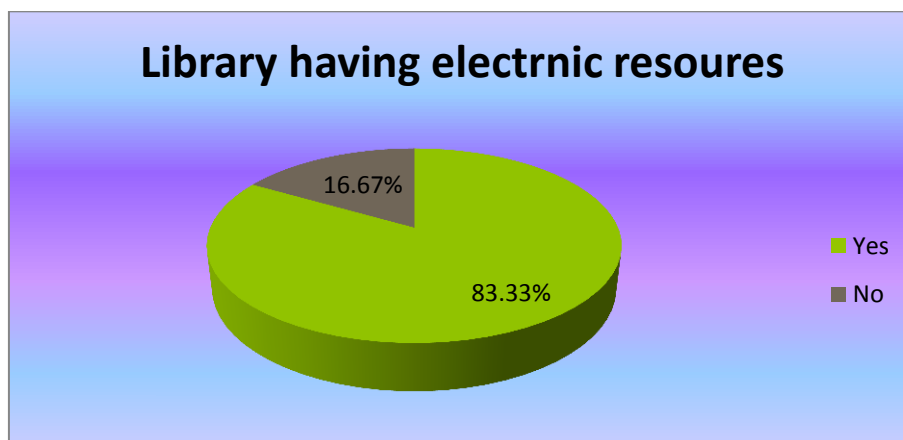
Research methodology:

For studying the electronic resource management data have been collected from 150 librarians of Management College. Out of that 120 questionnaires received back. Primary data have been collected from various literatures to find out the method adopted by different librarians to manage electronic resources.

Data have been analyzed with the help of tabulation and graphs.

Objective: 1 To identify the availability of electronic resources in the library.

Particular	Yes	No
Library having electronic resources	83.33%	16.67%

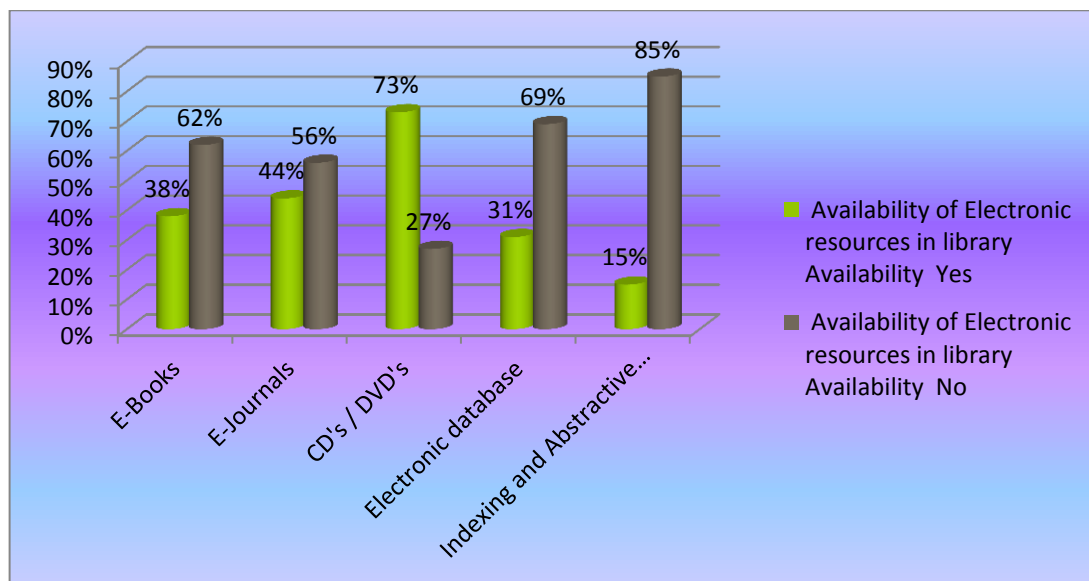83.33% libraries have electronic resources. Whereas 16.67% libraries do not have electronic resources.

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* Availability of Electronic resources in library

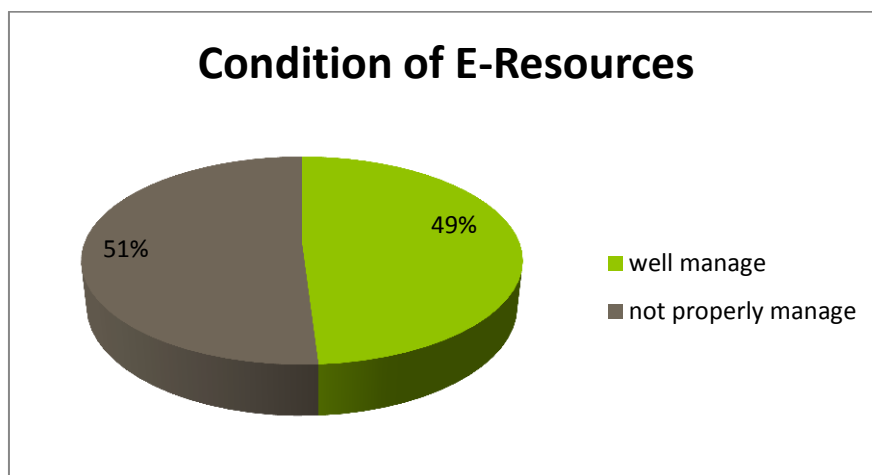| Availability of Electronic resources in library		
Particular	Availability	
	Yes	No
E-Books	38%	62%
E-Journals	44%	56%
CD's / DVD's	73%	27%
Electronic database	31%	69%
Indexing and Abstractive Services	15%	85%

From the above table and chart it is found that 38% library electronic books are available whereas 62% libraries does not have e-books, 44% have e-journals whereas 56% does not have, 73% have CD's and DVD's have electronic resources whereas 27% does not have CD's DVD's, 31% libraries have electronic database whereas 69% does not have electronic database, 15% have indexing and abstracting services whereas 85% does not have it.

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Objective: 2 To identify condition of electronic resources in the library.

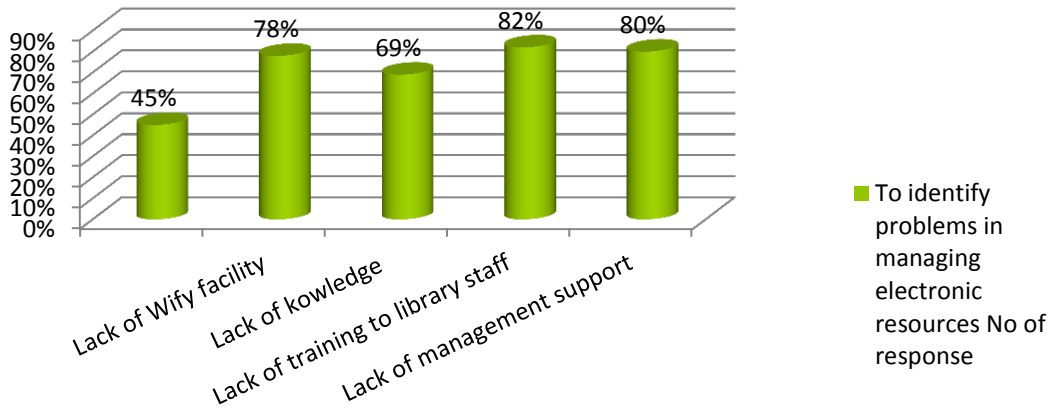| **Objective: 2** To identify condition of electronic resources in the library.		
Particular	well manage	not properly manage
Condition of E-Resources	49%	51%

It is found that 49% electronic resources are well managed in the library whereas 51% are not properly manage.

Objective 3 To identify problems in managing electronic resources

To identify problems in managing electronic resources	
Problems	**No of response**
Lack of computer with internet facility	45%
Lack of Wify facility	78%
Lack of knowledge	69%
Lack of training to library staff	82%
Lack of management support	80%

To identify problems in managing electronic resources No of response

From the above chart we can find that users and library staff are facing many problems in facing electronic resources. Considering each of them individually, 82% said that lack of training is the major issue for no proper maintenance of electronic resources. 80% said that its lack of management support, 78% said its lack of Wi-Fi facility, 69% said lack of knowledge and 45% said it's because of lack of computer with internet facility are some of the hurdles to manage electronic resources.

To identify different method of e-resource management adopted by librarians.	
Different method of electronic resources	No. of response
CD ROM	68%
DVD ROM	32%
Hard disk	12%
cloud storage	0%
Website	78%

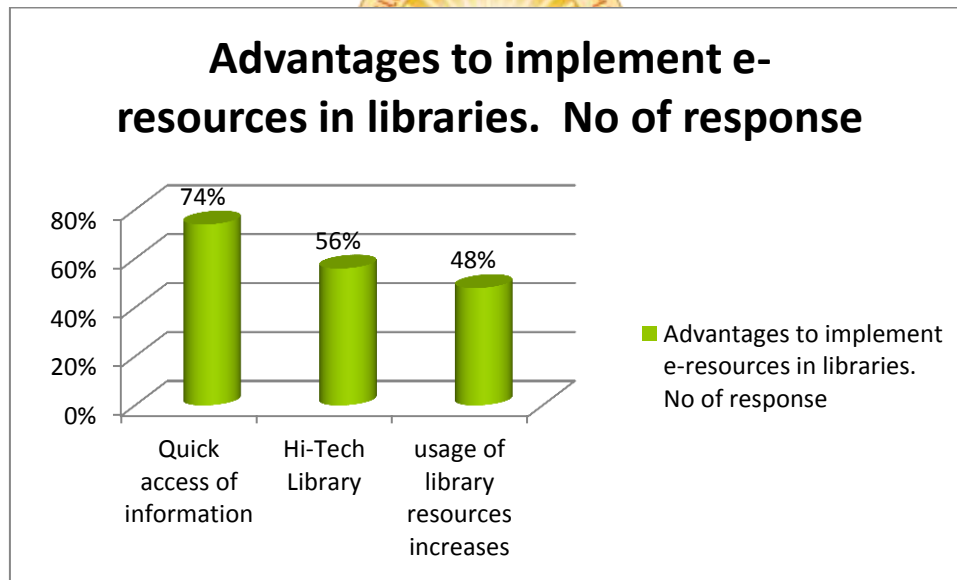**An International Multidisciplinary Research e-Journal**

Different methods are adopted to manage electronic resources. Maximum 78% libraries are managing these resources through their library website, 68% libraries manage their electronic resources through CD ROM, 32% DVD ROM, 12% e-resources manage on hard disk.

To find out advantages and challenges faced to implement e-resources in libraries.

To find out advantages and challenges faced to implement e-resources in libraries.	
Advantages	No of response
Quick access of information	74%
Hi-Tech Library	56%
usage of library resources increases	48%

The main advantages of implementing electronic resources in libraries, 74% said that due to this information can be accessed quickly, 56% said proper management of library resources make the high-tech library. And 48% said that because of that library usage is increased.

Limitations of managing e-resources

Limitation of electronic resource management in library	
Limitations	**No of response**
low internet connectivity	76%
limited space to accommodate print and e-resources	53%
less computer available to access e-resources	83%

Mainly three limitations found for electronic resource management

Maximum libraries does not have enough computer to access e-resources, 76% libraries do not have proper internet of Wi-fy connectivity and 53% libraries does not have enough space to accommodate both print and electronic resources.

Conclusion:

After analyzing the data it is found that maximum libraries are posses' electronic resources. But when looking into the management of these resources library staff is not properly trained to manage these resources well. So that its usage can be increased. For managing these resources management support to develop proper system for the same is also necessary which is not there. Maximum resources are stored in CD ROM and DVD ROM libraries does not have proper IT literate staff who can manage these resources on cloud or have proper library website from where everyone can get the link to access the same.

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