

THE AWARENESS AND USAGE OF E-RESOURCES AS SUPPORT MATERIAL IN STUDENT ASSESSMENT AT UTM PUNCAK PERDANA

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to identify the electronic resources has an effect on the student's assessment, especially for the learning and teaching process. This paper proposes electronic resources as supporting material in the student studies in order to help them to locate and acquire their desired information on and off-campus. This paper also discusses the current revolutionary of Information technology (IT) phenomenon, which required the library institution to prepare the variety of electronic resources for their user.

Keywords: University student, electronic resources, printed resources, information technology (IT)

INTRODUCTION

Information Technology (IT) is important in every aspect in our daily life. Enhanced by their accuracy, speed, space saving and cost effectiveness to bring people to information (Aderibigbe and Ajiboye, 2013). Majority printed material is now accessible in electronic form. By converting the material into electronic-based it is accessible and world-wide share. Due to represent a new generation of users that very comfortable with the accessibility and new technology that bring them to the information easily and rapidly direct to. The library organization needs to make consideration to bring new facility and services to satisfy the need of their users, on bring up the electronic resources, like e-book, e-magazine, e-journal and many more.

The largest population served by the library is the student. Students can be categorized into undergraduates' student, postgraduate taught student and postgraduate research student. These type of user, are one of the reason why library need to enrich their collection in variety options. Electronic resources refer to library collection and materials provided in a digital format accessible remotely through the web at everywhere and anytime with help by electronic devices or gadget, such as e-book, electronic journal article, online magazine, dissertation and theses, and digital archives. According to Tripathi and Jeevan (2013), said that e-resources can be defined as electronic information repositories, collection of electronic journals, indexes, and collection of e-publication.

The user more prefer on electronic resources it is because, their class assignment and research requiring variety of credible an accurate and reliable information sources. It is also very helpful for off-campus student. Replacing the print media is very helpful with

the presence of in e-resources, likes CD-ROMs, OPAC and Web. According to Tripathi and Jeevan (2013), said that there were three categories of e-resources, there were consist of e-journal or electronic journal which are counterpart of print journal that being converted to electronic version; e-book or electronic book which are monograph present in electronically and lastly e-databases which in full text, bibliographic, and numeric that embracing on wide variety of aspect or subject.

ISSUES

In this paper, several issues are discussed regarding on how well the user aware the electronic resources has an effect on student performance and student assessment. Based on our observation from the research articles, there is some challenges may occur among the user community. Which is:

- Having too much resource would lead to confusing the user to choose the appropriate information.
- Discomfort when reading the electronic resources throughout the monitor or PCs.
- Not all the subject field is available in e-resources.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objective of this study will be to evaluate university student's the awareness and their usage of electronic resources, search behaviour, and limitation faced by the users.

There some element of sub-objectives was listed:

- To discover the material the user currently used from UiTM library in electronic format.
- To examine the limitation faced by student in the searching of e-resources at UiTM Puncak Perdana
- To investigate the level of awareness of postgraduate students towards electronic resource.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

These research questions have been considered in order to guide this study:

- What is the material the user currently used from the library in electronic format?
- What are the limitation faced during access and use of e-resources?
- What is level of awareness of postgraduate students towards electronic resource?

LITERATURE REVIEW AND PROPOSED FRAMEWORK

The evolution of the internet has brought us to access to electronic resources (Akussah, Asante and Adu-Sarkodee, 2015). Uses of information technologies, like the internet has brought major transformation of the way information is create, store, and access (Ahmed, 2013).

Through the rapid advancement and usage of the internet-based technologies, has spreading of information resources in digital format become popular. The internet brings influence to education sector as it is being used for various purposes. It has restructured information seeking techniques used for learning, teaching process. The internets guarantee that learners are actively participates in teaching and learning process, and greater access to education materials.

Online library resources refer to library collection and materials provided in a digital format accessible remotely through the web at everywhere and anytime with help by electronic devices or gadget, such as e-book, electronic journal article, online magazine, dissertation and theses, and digital archives. According to Tripathi and Jeevan (2013), said that e-resources can be defined as electronic information repositories, some will be collection of electronic journals, some are just indexes, and some are collection of electronic publication.

Figure 1 is a proposed theoretical framework that will be used to guide this research. Based on the previous study, the proposed theoretical framework illustrates Dependent variable is the outcome brought by the independent variable, which is The Usage of E-source in students Assessment. Independent variable which is something that brings change in a situation. We have two Independent variable, consist of; Benefits of electronic resources and Limitation faced by the user in using e-resources.

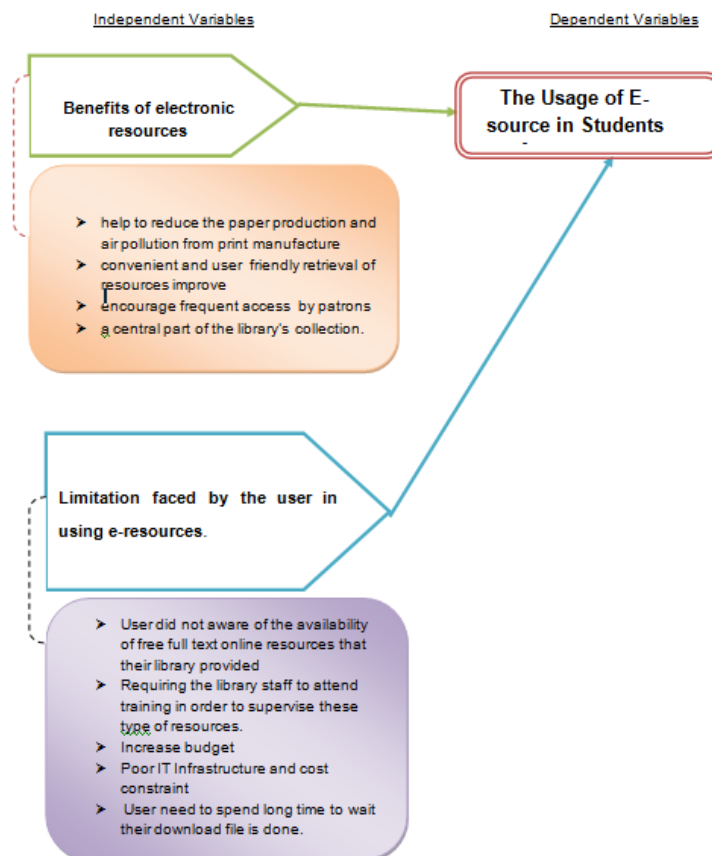


Figure 1: Proposed theoretical framework

Benefits using of electronic resources

Effectiveness is the ability to be successful and produce the intended result. By using electronic resources, it is important to take advantage of the technology's environmentally friendly characteristic such electronic resources help to reduce the paper production and air pollution from print manufacturer (Yungwei and Jackson, 2014). At this revolution has implemented, there have been prediction of a future paperless, (Jervis and Masoodian, 2014).

Likewise, Electronic resources are popular with their accessibility features, convenient and user friendly retrieval of resources improved and enhanced the utilization of library and encouraged frequent access of resources by patron, according to Tripathi and Kumar (2014). With the new technology, it is possible to access a variety of information and knowledge sources with the simplicity, independent of time, easy to use (Makori, 2015).

According to Ukachi (2015), electronic resources are referring to all the information materials in the library that can be accessed electronically accompanying with Information Communication Technology (ICT) facilities. Electronic resources are

increasingly important to all aspects, and all level of education. There is variety of electronic resources used by the academic institutional, such as e-book, e-journal, e-magazine and so on. According to Tripathi and Jeevan (2013), said that there are three categories of e-resources which are importance to use in higher education and research libraries, such as e-journal which are electronic comparable of print journal; e-book which are monograph available for electronic access and e-database which are full text, bibliographic, numeric and many more.

Indeed, the availability of e-journal has increased exponential growth in this decade. Tripathi and Jeevan, (2013), said these materials have become a central part of the library's collection. The implementing of electronic resources in the academic library bring up the new look of pattern of library information and services provision, as well as pattern of acquisition, organization and dissemination of information (Ukachi, 2015). According to Tripathi and Kumar (2014), the academic library around the world have been experiencing paradigm shift in procuring, storing and retrieving resources along the existence of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) application. Of course, e-resources relieve libraries of storing and retrieving duties.

Internet revolution has witnesses thousand of publication that made available in electronic form. Featuring on facilitating access to online article is free of charge (Makori, 2015). Yet, the academic library itself need to subscribe any related or relevance sources that will be used by the patron. So, the user will get free access into the electronic resources, like e-book, e-journal, online database, open access and so on.

Limitation faced by the user in the access and use electronic resources.

Limitation is the act of controlling and especially reducing something (Cambridge Dictionary, 2016). Here we understand whether the e-resources are very helpful and interactive on student learning process, but the user will encounter on several limitation. There seem to be a challenge among the user community especially student (Akussah, Asante and Adu-sarkodee, 2015). According to Bankole (2013), said that the user at Library of Olabisi Onabanjo University, they did not aware of the availability of free full text online library resources.

Thus, development and growth in electronic publishing has created a need a new skill in using full-text, multimedia and hypermedia (Aderigibigbe and Ajiboye, 2013). Using electronic resources required the library staff to attend training. In order to supervise these types of resources, at the same time to help their patron. Library user education program that commonly organised by the library is Information Literacy Programs. The American Library Association defines information literacy as a set of abilities requiring individual to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information.

Perpustakaan Tun Abdul Razak (PTAR), UiTM library usually will invite the freshman or new student to attend Information Literacy program classes and only will happen once.

Waider-Spahr Library claimed the librarian will support the patron defining characteristics as “a community of inquiry” through program which develop skilful approaches to seeking and using information. This program also, (Ukachi, 2015) cover the knowledge of one’s information concerns and need, and the ability to identify, find, access, evaluate, and use information. Likewise, it is to help librarian in academic libraries to determine the information needs of users, and how much users know about how to find information and knowledge organization (Aderibigbe and Ajiboye, 2013). Indeed, it is important the library need to develop the effective user education programs to enhance the use of electronic resources.

In addition, the growing of library collection in the establishing the electronic resources, the academic libraries has to increase their budget (Tripathi and Jeevan, 2013). The library needs to maintain their collection at the same time to fulfil their patron demand to information, subscriptions transaction need to be done. As we know, academic institution nowadays is always trying to consider investment in order to provide technology information development initiative as well as the providing the electronic resources for their user communities to enhance the learning process (Ukachi, 2015). Academic community in Bangladesh has encounter limitation in order to access the electronic information resources due to poor of information technology (IT) infrastructure and cost constraint (Ahmed, 2013). According to Bankole (2013), said that due to slow internet connectivity, the patron also claimed that they need to spend long time to wait their download file is done

Analysis Review

As our research is focusing investigate awareness and usage electronic information resources by postgraduates’ students. There were similarities that we found on previous study with our research proposal topic. The action should be taken to persuade the student especially to use electronic resources, the behaviour of user and their searching pattern. Implementing Information literacy program in order to give training and share skill of ability to identify, find and access, evaluate and use the desire information.

But, undergraduate student as a patron of university libraries in Nigeria is lack of information literacy skills (Ukachi, 2015). It is why the user cannot perceive optimal searching in electronic resources in their library. Several studies of user acceptance on electronic resources have been identified. Student agreed on without using Electronic Information Resources (EIR) in their academic activities, they will suffered (Aderibigbe and Ajiboye, 2013).

According to Al-suqri (2014), said that majority patron who perceived that electronic book were easier to use. The effect of individual difference on users’ perception of electronic resources in term of ease of use, usefulness and usage that lead the patron to choosing the electronic resources as references (Xianjin, Jinchao and yalan, 2014). According to Akussah, Asante and Adu-Sarkodee (2015) , the reason of encouraging

the user to use electronic database it is because of their level of awareness, time and frequency, preferred database and satisfaction level to e-resources that available in their academic library.

There are few factor dimensions in user satisfaction toward e-resources, such as their feature, usability and learning facilities provided (Yungwei and Jackson, 2014). According to Makori (2015), said that access to library and information services has moved beyond local to global flat form where technology help to solve the problem client face in using electronic material.

In order to maintain the availability and relevancy of information would be provided as e-resources, the usage of statistic would help in calculating and estimate the users' behaviour in an online environment especially in searching, (Tripathi and Jeevan, 2013). The kind of statistic would be how many times searchers were made, number of session, number of full-text being downloaded, and so on. In addition, to calculating the trend of searching and downloaded material, they also use statistic technique. The seasonal use of electronic sources is when large number of downloading. It is before the examination and acute number around long study break (Tripathi and Kumar, 2014).

Moreover, said Johnston, Berg, Pillon and Williams (2015), they adopting e-textbooks by two e-textbooks publisher. Which is Flat World Knowledge (FWK) and Nelson Education, they meet the need of learning material with flexible digital product. They found using FWK and Nelson Education it very easy and interesting; in fact the student is more prefer to print out the learning material. Oliveira (2012), said those who use e-books they are generally satisfies because they can copy and print it out. Also PDA accessibility, more title in areas of studies and better e-book reader and it is portable, instant access, light weight and able to store large amount of material. The usage of e-book it depends on various purposes. According to Martino Sehn and Fragoso, (2015), the user prefers reading through online are for leisure but not educational.

In contrast, previous studies discover on the patron at public universities in Bangladesh are not satisfies with the current level of university subscribed e-resources (Ahmed, 2013). It is because the limited number of titles, they cannot easily access to previous issues, limited only for certain information, they able to access when they off campus, limited computer facilities and also the internet connection is very slow. Above all, this limitation are causing by the poor Information technology (IT) infrastructure. Of course, the users are not willing to use the electronic resources. Other user perception toward e-resources, according Oliveira (2012), is due to lack of awareness, not knowing how to get it, eyestrain due to reading through PCs, and difficulty to read. That is the problem encounter by student who more prefer on hard book.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

The aim of this study is to investigate postgraduates' student perception of electronic resources, their search behaviour and usage pattern, including to discover the material they need available from UiTM library in electronic format, to examine the limitation

faced by student in the access and use of electronic resources at UiTM Puncak Perdana and to investigate the level awareness of the user toward electronic resources that being provided at their library collection. We hope this study will help the user to find, identify, select and obtain their desire information.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, this study is important to be conducting in future to help the users, especially the university students. The significance of this study is to help the university student is attempt to find out its relevance to the usage of electronic information resources available in the library. However, this work will create awareness of the electronic resources for user especially university student in their study and searching relevant material.

It will help the user to know the appropriate electronic sources should be use. In addition, this paper wants to help the user acknowledge other electronic resources like e-journals, e-book and e-database. In the academic for sure there were vast types of electronic sources are being provided. In Perpustakaan Tun Abdul Razak (PTAR) UiTM library they already provide variety type of e-resources. In order, to help and enriched their collection for the users. Throughout of this study, we also hope the user can maximize the uses of electronic resources that available in the library. In order to satisfied their searching of information regarding their study assessment and daily tasks.

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