

# Role of E- Resources in Today's Educational System

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**Abstract:** E-resources role includes identification of selection of information, its organization of management, storage retrieval and dissemination to right users at the right time at right place at right price and in right format. The goal of any academic libraries is to meet the teaching, research and other information needs of the user. The proliferation of the literature on all the subjects, price of journals hike in currency conversion rate and the budget crunch made the libraries depend upon each other. This leads to library co-operation, resource sharing and networks etc. At present the online databases, E-resources facilitate formation of the colleges at resource sharing among the libraries. Engineering colleges prove to be one of the major solutions to the existing problems of budget crunches among the libraries and information centers. The advent of E-publishing has brought a revolution in journal publication, subscription and access delivery mechanism.

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## Introduction

The Internet is an inseparable part of today's educational system. Colleges invest a good deal of amount on providing this facility to both the teachers and students, who are the main stake holders. Traditional library resources are insufficient to meet current requirements of users. The increasing online environment has resulted in users, who are more technology savvy and are demanding and expecting more from the library. The potential of delivering information anytime anyplace challenges libraries to re-examine how space is organized and used. It is necessary to create new modes to deliver services to the user desktops even outside the campuses using the WWW platform. As more resources are created via the web, issues arise related to search & access the same. Users would like to see their library on the internet, able to meet their all information needs not only on demand but also in anticipation of demand. Besides this they would also expect to get comprehensive information on broader range of disciplines while a engineering college library could have good collection only in their specific discipline. Again it would be a big cause of users' dissatisfaction. But to overcome this problem engineering college libraries may have to have more & more electronic resources which shall help to offer new and more qualitative services to their users

## E-Resources

Electronic Resources is one of the emerging environment in libraries & Information communication in the competitive service. E-Resources usually consist of e-books, e-Journals, articles, newspaper, thesis, dissertation, databases and CD-ROMs, which are likely to be the alternative to the print media. Emerald, Ebsco, Scopus are some of the examples of online databases. All updated information is published in these e-resources. The familiarity and use of electronic information resources in the libraries for rapid development is necessary and important. The aim of this study is to identify how electronic information resources are utilized by academic library users and specific trends that can be seen among faculties and students. Further the study also examines the use pattern, acceptance, perceived importance and satisfaction on electronic resources over print resources.

### E- Journal

Journals are a vital source of information for the scientific research and development in college Libraries and information centers. The number of periodicals at present is estimated to be 1623566 of these 25,000 are scientific, technical and medical journals, 15, 0000 are referred scholarly periodical, which are available on the net. Online access to E-journals is available either free against print subscription or for a nominal fee along with print subscription or such access is provided either by the publisher or through their aggregators.

Getting access to E-journals involves various modalities viz. identification of journals, corresponding with the publishers/aggregators, signing the agreements etc. Journal titles are increasing three fold every 15 years, and costs of journals are growing at the 2.5 times every 10 years; so it is obvious that no single library can procure all journals in a discipline. With the emergence of information technology applications and particularly Internet, there has been a shift from traditional print journals to E-Journals, Electronic journals offering tremendous possibilities and advantages over print journals; ease of use, “anywhere-any time”, accessibility, share ability, hyperlink to related text or multimedia content. E-Journals also offering solution to other major logistic problems faced by libraries such as follow up of missing issues, binding, shelving etc.

### Full text E- Resources:-

E- resources available through online database through AICTE E- Access Package. For the purpose of shared subscription e- resources following journals can mandatory subscription to all engineering institutions.

**Mandatory Subscription of e-Journal Packages for all Engineering Institutions conducting Undergraduate / Postgraduate Courses**

S. No.	Publisher	Subjects
1	IEEE	Computer Engineering + Computer Science + Electrical & Electronics Engineering + Telecommunications & related disciplines
2	ASME	Mechanical Engineering
3	ASCE	Civil Engineering
4	Mc Graw Hill	General Engineering & Reference
5	ELSEVIER	Engineering + Computer Science (Electrical + Electronics + Mechanical + Civil & Structural + Aerospace + Biomedical + Industrial & Manufacturing + Ocean Engineering + Computational Mechanical & Safety Risk, Reliability & Quality+ Computer Network and Communication, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science , Computational Theory and Mathematics, Computer Graphics & Computer -Aided Design, Information Systems, Control & System Engineering & Software.
6	ASTM Digital Library Online version	Online Dictionary Of Engineering Science And Technology Electrical & Electronics Engineering Mechanical Engineering, Civil, Metallurgical, Petroleum, Instrumentation

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### E- Resources Collection Development:-

Collection development is the selection, acquisition and processing of library materials in varied formats, meant for users' current needs and their future requirements.(5). The process of planning, selecting, acquiring a balanced collection of Library materials in a variety of electronic formats such as e-books, e journals, media and online resources.

Steps of E Resource Collection Development

- i. Selection and Deselection of current and retrospective e resources based on user Needs.
- ii. Planning strategies for continuing acquisition of e resources looking into financial constraints and their usage.
- iii. Evaluation of e resources collections to determine how it serves users need

The transition from printed information to electronic publishing has greater impact on the following functions of a knowledge centre:

Selection and maintenance of a common set of e resources for users Provision of convenient and intelligent access to subscribed e-resources. Maintenance of access to the e resource archives. The form of documents received has changed from hard copy to electronic forms. Electronic form of documents may include those in machine-readable form, CDs, and more popularly today, web based documents. The scope of these e collections being procured should therefore include the following factors:

- i. Subject content
- ii. Exposition level
- iii. Document form
- iv. Resource type
- v. Accessibility

#### **Types of E- resources organization:**

The library should develop an information resources collection and development policy consistent with the objectives of its institution or community. These information resources should satisfy through content, currency format organization and quality. For example: - INDEST consortium (5), CSIR, IIM, UGC INFONET, ICMR and FORSA.

#### **Conclusion**

College's libraries in India are facing challenges due to budget cut, reduced staff, devaluation of rupee, steep hike in conversion of foreign currencies, and escalation in cost of publication. Due to the factors mentioned above, engineering libraries are finding it difficult to buy required number of books and periodicals from AICTE notice. Electronic resources are creating a revolution in engineering college libraries. Many librarians believe that these resources have changed the principles of selection radically; some believe that they will virtually eliminate selection. Although, it is true that the art of selection is undergoing profound change, the selection of resources is still crucial for libraries & Knowledge Centers. The four basic criteria for selection - quality, library relevancy, aesthetic and technical aspects, and cost remain the same in the digital era of information. What they mean and how they are used has changed. Though the electronic resources offer ease of use, wider access, more rapid updating, cost saving over local maintenance and storage, the librarians are finding it difficult to define issues related to policy of Collection Development and Archiving of these Electronic Resources. The electronic resources require continuing management to a far greater degree than print resources do is an accepted fact. In India libraries have developed many schemes to make optimum use of library resources and to provide access to increased amounts of information resources through consortia. Realizing the importance of library consortia activities, a number of participating libraries in India are increasing day by day. The effort of UGC-INFONET and INDEST-AICTE Consortium are appreciable and will definitely strengthen higher education system in India free and or highly subsidized access to scholarly e-resources will help educational institutions in fulfill their mission in to reality. In the long run consortia approach will be much more popular in user community and that day is not so far behind when consortia approach will expand the country's information base. The professionals have to conduct more awareness program to market the new on- line services at their institutions to ensure effective utilization of subscribed e-resources.

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