Availability and Accessibility of E-resources under HELINET Consortium of RGUHS: Survey among Librarians

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka, Bangalore will be established a full-pledged University Library in its premises and computerize all its library operations along with the introduction of electronic library concept and health information network in the state. This will provide access for higher value of medical reference books and to various types of electronic medical databases. HELINET Consortium is a conglomeration of owning, sharing and accessing essential medical literature of core scholarly international e-journals, e-books and databases by all the colleges under this digital library network round-the-clock. Purpose: The main purpose of this is to describe the availability and accessibility of the e-resources subscribed and provided under HELINET Consortium at Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Karnataka. The study would help in designing an instrument to evaluate utilization of e-resources and their availability and accessibility. The purpose of the study was to learn what e-resources were used, how they were used (i.e. users’ skills in handling e-resources) and why they were used.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The present study has been designed on the availability and accessibility of e-resources under HELINET Consortium by the health science college Libraries affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka. The tools used for collection of data pertaining to the present study are online questionnaire, which is followed by online through google form method was designed and used. The Librarians email ID collected through RGUHS User Friendly Solution Gateway (Remote Access) under HELINET Consortium. The sample consisted of 125 librarians working in libraries attached to 125 health science education institutes. In these institutes Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, Ayurveda an Allied health services are being trained. Analysis was conducted using SPSS and MS-excel sheet and output was translated into charts, graphs, lines, frequencies and percentages.

Findings: The results of this study indicate that all libraries attached to institutes affiliated to HELINET consortium had access to Internet in their libraries. The 71% of the colleges were having Wi-Fi facility in their campus. The 72 out of 125 libraries (52.7%) affiliated to HELINET are only automated. Majority of the libraries attached to HELINET consortium uses proprietary software for automation. 117 (93.6%) libraries were having subscribed to HELINET services in their libraries.

Originality/Value: The study presents the availability and accessibility of e-resources under HELINET Consortium of RGUHS by the Librarians of the colleges affiliated to RGUHS.

KEYWORDS: RGUHS, Digital Library, HELINET Consortium, Resource Sharing, E-resources, E-journals, E-books.
1. INTRODUCTION

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka, Bangalore will be established a full-pledged University Library in its premises and computerize all its library operations along with the introduction of electronic library concept and health information network in the state. This will provide access for higher value of medical reference books and to various types of electronic medical databases. This facility would be made available to all medical colleges, health science institutions, high-tech hospitals, professionals, practitioners, students, researchers and teachers in Bangalore and all the parts of the state.

2. NEED FOR HELINET CONSORTIUM

Following are the reasons that compel libraries, users, and publishers to look for HELINET Consortium. Growth of knowledge in different subjects poses challenges for libraries in acquisition and dissemination in accordance with growing information needs of clientele. HELINET Consortium is changing demands caused by the developing technology and cope with diminishing library budgets. The gain consistency of information access in accordance with technological development and to guarantee equality of access amongst a group of libraries at all levels. HELINET Consortium deal proves to be more cost-effective for libraries. It provides end user autonomy and reliance on remote mediated information services, especially in poorly resourced and/or remote geographic areas.

3. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The colleges affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka have a vital role to play in the field of research. The main purpose of this is to describe the availability and accessibility of the e-resources subscribed and provided under HELINET Consortium at Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Karnataka. The study would help in designing an instrument to evaluate utilization of e-resources and their availability and accessibility. The present paper looks at the e-resources provided by the health science college libraries affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The HELINET Consortium being an association of like-minded libraries and in the present context to provide access to e-journals, e-books and databases. It can have its own structure of governance and can act as a board for each disciplines on behalf all members with set goals and benefits to increase the access to more e-resources. The study is designed to availability and accessibility of the library infrastructure under HELINET Consortium of RGUHS with the following objectives.

- To find out the course conducted in the institutions affiliated to RGUHS.
- To know the total number of under graduate and post graduate and post graduate diploma students of the colleges affiliated to RGUHS.
- To find out the availability of the type of internet connectivity in the college Library for accessing the HELINET Consortium.
- To know the libraries having internet with Wifi for accessing the HELINET Consortium.
- To examine the total use of HELINET services in the college library affiliated to RGUHS.
- To suggest suitable recommendations to strengthen the e-resources under HELINET Consortium.

5. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Several user studies have been carried out by students, research scholars and teachers of different institutes, colleges, and universities all around the world, focusing on the use of e-resources. In this regard (Brooks, 2002) in their study discussed the role of consortia in academic libraries its history and importance of the resources and the Illinois Digital Academic Library (IDAL) involvement and
experiences with electronic resources made available through library consortium. The research was conducted with participated libraries and the results analyzed. The conclusion affirms the validity and benefit of IDAL as experienced by member libraries. The IDAL members' customization in general with an importance placed on the ability for a library to easily access detailed usage statistics. Statistical measures are an effective means for gauging the value of consortia-provided resources. Finally, evaluated as an important factor that needs to be addressed in evaluation and during the use of databases include: content stability; proper vendor communication regarding new, halted and embargoed coverage; amount of peer-reviewed coverage, inclusion of only scholarly sources, sophisticated and inclusive linking functionality, diverse searching capability, various customization options, statistical reporting capabilities, strong customer support from vendors, and regular product enhancements. (Linda, Abbas, & K.P., 2017) tries to evaluate and compare the use and awareness of N-LIST programme by the male and female teachers of Government College Madappally. The study also verified the training provided by the library for accessing the resources. For the present study the survey method was used by administering questionnaire for collecting the data which was supplemented by interviewing the respondents. As the total number of teachers at the Government College Madappally was 70, the entire population was selected for the study. The collected data have been coded, tabulated and analyzed. The findings indicate that most of the respondents are not aware of N-LIST programme. Majority of the respondents are not satisfied with the training provided by the library. The study highlights the need for intensifying the awareness of N-LIST programme among the teachers.

6. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study has been designed on the availability and accessibility of e-resources under HELINET Consortium by the health science college Libraries affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka.

7. METHODOLOGY

The “Survey Method” of research was used to collect data from the Librarians of the colleges affiliated to RUHGS. The tools used for collection of data pertaining to the present study are online questionnaire, which is followed by online through Google form method was designed and used. Survey Questionnaires were sent through email to each Librarian to fill the data through online method. The Librarians email ID collected through RUHGS User Friendly Solution Gateway (Remote Access) under HELINET Consortium. The sample consisted of 125 librarians working in libraries attached to 125 health science education institutes. In these institutes Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, Ayurveda an Allied health services are being trained. Analysis was conducted using SPSS and MS-excel sheet and output was translated into charts, graphs, lines, frequencies and percentages.

8. FINDING OF THE DATA ANALYSIS

This article highlights the courses conducted by colleges under study, number of under graduate and post graduate students, age of the library, type of internet connectivity available in the library, no. of libraries using the library software, no. of users visiting the library and availability of computers, use of HELINET services, no. of computers used for accessing HELINET, no. of HELINET users per day. The details are given below.

The affiliated colleges of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka taken for the study are conducting faculty wise courses. The course-wise distributions of samples of the study are Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Unani, Yoga and Naturopathy and Allied Health Sciences.
Table 1: List of courses conducted in the institutes from where the sample of librarians were taken

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Number of institutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayurveda</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homoeopathy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unani</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoga and Naturopathy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapy</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allied health sciences</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 presents the data pertaining to the courses conducted in the libraries of educational institutions affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka. The college Librarians affiliated to RGUHS have provided the data of conducting the courses of various disciplines like the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Unani, Yoga and Naturopathy and Allied Health Sciences under Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka. It is comprehensible that most of the institutions are conducting the courses of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, Physiotherapy and very few colleges are conducting Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Allied health sciences courses.

Figure 1: Courses conducted by the colleges under study

A study of the data in Figure 1 indicates the faculty wise distribution of respondents. The college-wise analysis displays that 36 colleges are conducting courses in the Faculty of Medicine, 27 Colleges are conducting a course in the Faculty of Dentistry, 22 colleges are conducting a course in Pharmacy, 65 colleges are conducting nursing course, 17 colleges are conducting Physiotherapy course and 20
colleges are conducting Allied Health Sciences course. The data collected from colleges offering Ayurveda and Homeopathy courses are 8 and 2 respectively.

8.1 Total Number of Undergraduate Students in Colleges

Students enroll in colleges as soon as they join the course to retrieve various resources from the college library. The students are undergraduate, post graduate and Post graduate diploma students.

![Figure 2: Number of Undergraduate Students in Colleges](image)

The above figure 2 shows that 30 colleges have the highest number of 101-200 undergraduate students in colleges affiliated to RGUHS. 29 colleges have the average number of 201-300 students. 18 colleges have students at a low of below 100 and at a high of 401-500 students. Only 3 colleges have above 701 undergraduate students. 6 colleges have an average of 501-600 and 601-700 students.

![Figure 3: Number of Undergraduate Students in Colleges](image)
The figure 3 shows that 42 colleges have the highest number of 11-50 post graduate students in colleges affiliated to RGUHS. 21 colleges have the average number of 1-10 students. 14 colleges have students ranging from 51-100. 10 colleges have 101-150 post graduate students. The least of 6 colleges each have 151-200 or above 200 post graduate students.

8.2 Number of Post graduate Diploma Students

Table 2: Number of Postgraduate Diploma Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No postgraduate diploma students</th>
<th>80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 or below</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 50</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 to 100</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101 to 150</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 150</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 lists the number of post graduate diploma students affiliated to RGUHS. 26 colleges have the lowest number of below 10 post graduate diploma students. 10 colleges have 11 to 50 students, 3 colleges have 51 to 100 students, and 2 colleges have 101 to 150 post graduate diploma students. Only a minimum number of 4 colleges have more than 150 post graduate diploma students.

8.3 Age of Libraries attached to health education Institutes

Figure 4 shows the response to the query regarding the age of the libraries attached to health education institutions.

![Age of libraries attached to health education institutes](image)

Figure 4: Age of Libraries attached to health education Institutes

Majority of the libraries are coming under the age group of 11-15 because Scrutinize the entire respondents from all the libraries attached to health education institutions shows that 31 libraries have come under the age group of 11-15 followed by
8.4 Type of Internet Connectivity available in the Library

The frequency of using the type of Internet connectivity available in the library should change according to the facilities and services provided by the colleges affiliated to RGUHS. Appropriate guidance and effective training to the Librarians regarding the available internet connectivity will help gain access to relevant information. It also helps to increase the frequency of using internet connectivity to reach its extreme level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connection type</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broad Band</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>57.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibre Optics</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leased Line</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In accordance with the Table 5.3 it is found that different purposes are served by internet connection type and their frequencies vary from college to college. Broad band connection (57.6%) and leased line connection (16%) are the two highly utilized connection types in the college library as they are the fastest means and they make it easy to access information under HELINATE consortia. Thus the 57.6% affiliated college libraries are using Broadband connection, 13.6% libraries are using cable connection, 12.8% libraries are using Fibre Optics and 16% libraries are using Leased Line connection.

8.5 Libraries having Internet with WiFi

Figure 6: Libraries having Internet with Wifi

Figure: 6 shows the response received from the query regarding libraries having internet with Wi-Fi. It has been noticed that students require Wi-Fi facility for immediate search result. According to the response, majority of the colleges (71%) affiliated to RGUHS have Wi-Fi facility. However, about 26% of the colleges have responded negatively about the provision of internet with Wi-Fi facility.
### 8.6 Librarian Response towards the Total Use of HELINET Services

#### Table 4: Use of HELINET Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are you using HELINET Services?</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>125</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above shows the statistics of respondents who make use of HELINET services. 93.6% of the respondents have responded positively to using HELINET services. In contrast to the positive response, 6.4% of the respondents do not use HELINET services.

![Average number of users for HELINET per day](image)

**Figure 7: Average number of users for HELINET per day**

The line graph above, in figure 7 shows the average number of people who use HELINET per day. RGUHS has subscribed to e-resources under HELINET consortia since 2004. This data was retrieved in the year 2016-2017. 25 colleges have more than 50 users every single day. 13 colleges have only 1-5 users every day which is the least number of users. 19 colleges have 6-10 users, 8 colleges have 11-15 users, 11 users have 16-20 users, 13 colleges have 21-25 users, 4 colleges have 26-30 users, 2 colleges have 31-35 users, 9 colleges have 36-40 users and 9 colleges have 41-50 users. Out of 125 colleges affiliated to RGUHS 12 colleges have not responded to the query.

#### Table 5: Number of computers for HELINET Access

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of computers for HELINET Access</th>
<th>Number of HELINET users per day</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>11-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above table 5 depicts the number of people who use computers that are available for the sole purpose of using HELINET services. Only 6 colleges have more than 15 computers that are used exclusively for accessing HELINET services. 31 colleges have on 1-5 computers for the same purpose. 25 colleges have 6-10 computers and 50 colleges have 11-15 computers for HELINET access. Out of 125 colleges, 13 colleges have not returned with the number of computers they have for HELINET services.

Out of 125 colleges affiliated to RGUHS, 25 colleges have more than 50 users of HELINET per day which is the highest number of users. 32 colleges have the least number of users of only 1-10 users every day. 19 colleges have 11-20 users, 17 colleges have 21-30 users, 11 colleges have 31-40 users and 9 colleges have 41-50 users every single day. 12 colleges have not responded to this query.

9. FINDINGS

The following findings are result of data analysis regarding the use of e-resources under HELINET Consortium.

- All libraries attached to institutes affiliated to HELINET consortium had access to Internet in their libraries.
- As much as 71% of the colleges were having Wi-Fi facility in their campus.
- As many as 72 out of 125 libraries (52.7%) affiliated to HELINET are only automated.
- Majority of the libraries attached to HELINET consortium uses proprietary software for automation.
- As many as 40 libraries associated to HELINET consortium had footfalls between 51 to 100 on a daily basis.
- As many as 117 (93.6%) libraries were having subscribed to HELINET services in their libraries.
- Majority of the respondents were aware of the e-journals subscribed through the HELINET consortium.

10. SUGGESTIONS

The suggestions for maximum optimal utilization of HELINET Consortium at RGUHS based on the respondent opinions. The following suggestions are put forward to improve the use of HELINET Consortium.

- It is suggested to give training / orientation program in the area of e-journals, e-books and databases under HELINET Consortium of RGUHS for their utilization.
- Majority of the respondents suggested conducting training and workshop to the students and faculty members on how to use and access the e-resources under HELINET Consortium at RGUHS.
- Most of the users are suggested to provide high bandwidth internet connectivity, Wifi Connection to use and access the e-resources under HELINET Consortium.
- It is proposed to give hands on training to users, so that they get more practical exposure.
- It is recommended to introduce remote access facility in their mobile app, so that they can save their time.
- In the frequency of visiting the library and time spending in the library by the users in the colleges affiliated to RGUHS, Bengaluru is not satisfactory. Hence, the authorities should take essential measures for the extreme utilization of e-resources provided under HELINET Consortium.

11. CONCLUSION

The study has proved that the HELINET consortium is an essential service for the health science institutes and has been subscribed by the libraries attached to such institutes. However, need for awareness and orientation sessions are required among the academia of such institutions to make the services of HELINET to be more impactful and useful.
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REFERENCES


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