Use of Digital Resources and Services in Punjab Agricultural University Library, Ludhiana: A Study

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Abstract

This study is an attempt is an attempt to describe the use of digital resources and services by the library users of Punjab Agricultural University Library. Due to the advancement in the ICT, users' preference have also been changed, they demands timely and readymade information at their door steps. The traditional library collect is going to transforms into digital collection. So, library of agricultural university of Punjab is also providing these services to their users according to their demands. Internet plays a vital role in providing digital resources to the users. It is essential that every user who wants to take the benefits of digital/e-resources should be familiar with the internet. The present will analysis use of digital resources by the library users, their views about digital resources and problems faced by them in using these resources. This study reveals that 94.74% respondents are computer literate, 86.84% of users know about the digital resources. 50% users use the libraries' digital resources in their daily life, Majority of users have no problems in using digital resources. 95% have the view that print resources can't be replaced by e-resources.

Keywords: Digital Resources, Agriculture University of Punjab, E-books, E-journals, E-Databases.

1. INTRODUCTION

The main objective of every library is to fulfill the information needs of the users with the combination of all types of resources it may be print as well as in digital form.

Now a day Information Technology (IT) has changed the concept of libraries. The adaptation of IT into academic libraries has revolutionaries the way they acquire, store and disseminate information to their users (Aderibigbe et al. 2012). Digital resources are now playing a crucial role in every library. The influence of IT in library functions and services has led to emergence of virtual library and e-library (Henderson 1992). These resources show the way to the library users in the information society. Current achievements in the field of computer and communication technologies have offered tremendous opportunities for learning by electronic means (Rozina, 2002). Everyday new technological advances affect the way information is handled in libraries and information centers (Krubu et al. 2011). Most of the previous studies show that information resources are very important and valuable for research, teaching and learning. Now in the online system, students can access class notes, submit assignments and also join a discussion group with other learners (Oyedemi 2005, 10-11). Growth and diversity of electronic resources has led many to predict the extinction of printed journals in the near future (Okello-Obura, 2008). The impacts of altered usage patterns and increasing expenditures by scientific libraries on electronic resources have heightened interest among scientific libraries to measure the usage of electronic services (Franklin 2005). In today's knowledge society, information is an essential ingredient and a valuable source. In the present era, information is available in different formats like print, non print or digital. Digital resources are building blocks in the development of agricultural universities. The present study was conducted to analysis the use of digital resources by the different library users like students, teachers/scientists or research scholars.

2. MOHINDER SINGH RANDHAWA LIBRARY
Punjab Agricultural University Library named as Mohinder Singh Randhawa Library (e-Pustkalya) was established with a meager collection of 200 books in 1959 in College of Agriculture. However, at present it has beautiful five storey building with covered area of 93,320 sq. ft., centrally air-conditioned and surrounded by lush green lawns. Library has 760 seating capacity in its Five Reading Halls. The aim of the library is to provide rich knowledge to its users and to extend it further through information technology, automation and networking.

   M.S. Randhawa library is a central library at the main campus and there are more than 52 branch libraries. All the regional centers and each department have their own library and reading room facility. Main library is managed by 51 staff members and these get regular training on the latest developments in the library. Training programmes are regularly arranged by the library and also sent for attending workshops/conferences/seminars for improving skill and development of the library staff. All the ultra modern facilities are available with the library for the proper functioning and speedy dissemination of information to their users. Library has good collection of print as well as digital resources. It is housed with 245935 book collection 216 latest subscribed journals and 103417 back volumes of journals 36628 thesis collection. It has also good collection of digital resources which includes 51 e-books 31556 e-journals1035 CD-ROMs and subscription of many online databases.

This digital collection can be accessed within the campus as well as in the hostels. Library is fully automated with LibSys 4 software and providing Web-OPAC and other services.

3. METHODOLOGY

To find out the required information, survey method has been decided to use. This method is most commonly used in social and behavioral science. The sources of data collection were both primary and secondary. So, the survey method is mainly used to collect primary data with the help of structured questionnaire, interviews and observation. And for the collection of secondary data, available and relevant documents to the study such as periodical reports, circulars, and official documents of the university, official web sites, journals pamphlets, and text books were used. To approach to the respondents, direct personal visit was made to the university and data was collected from the Librarian and library users. The questionnaire, written in English was send/distributed to 130 respondents in different universities. But only 114 filled and usable questionnaires were collected. The personal meetings with the library users and library staff were conducted and get an idea about their expertise and views about the library. The study is based on the primary data through interview with the librarians, library staff and library users. Personal observation and two types of questionnaires were designed to obtain the data from the libraries and library users.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study include:

- To find out the category of users of digital resources
- To find out the purpose and utilization of digital resources by the library users
- To find out the preference of digital resources by the library users
- To find out the problems faced by the library users in searching information through digital resources
- To suggest the measures for improving access to digital resources in libraries

5. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Pareek, (2013) found in the study on information seeking behavior and library use pattern of researchers in the Banasthali University and revealed that IT based information resources are less used in comparison to print resources by the research scholars. Mostly they use books and e-journals for their research work. It was also noted that there was little use of e-resources because of little awareness of it among the research scholars. Salaam (2013) found out in the study on use of library electronic information resources by academic staff at Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria and revealed that 93.8 percent users are aware and 29.3 percent respondents are fully satisfied with the services of EIR (electronic information sources) provided by the library. It is revealed that respondents are satisfied with the services provided by the library but some of the

respondents feel some problems regarding the internet speed because they feel some problems while downloading the articles from the databases available in the library. So there are some recommendations for the library for arrangement of training programs for the users as well as for the library staff for upgrading their skills and knowledge. Okorie (2012) Availability and use of Electronic Resources in Agriculture Universities Libraries and find out the advantages of E-resources as a means of easily and rapidly access of books, journals , magazines, thesis and images of various types are now widely recognized that are related to the particular topic or subject. Ansari (2010) Study the Use of Electronic Resources among the academics of the university of Kashmir and analyzed that academician are unable to use the electronic resources available in the libraries because of the problem of networking and lack of training to the users to use the e-resources. Kindilchie and Samarraie (2008) Electronic Information Resources use by Qatar University Faculty. Found out that majority of faculty members have good knowledge of computer systems and they use the e-resources for their personal use. Use of e-resources for the purpose of teaching and research is very limited. Akobi (2007) found out in the study on research scholars of faculty of Agriculture and Institute of Agriculture Research, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria revealed that TEEAL (The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library) is the collection of core journals in the field of agriculture and proved very useful for research for the developing countries like Nigeria. He found that 94.6 percent respondents were aware of TEEAL collections. Razaand and Upadhyay (2006) find out in thier study that all the users were aware about e-journals in AMU. Many users use e-journals from their departmental labs and computer centers. The problems faced by the users are lack of training and slow speed of internet. Doraswamy (2005) familiarity and use of the available electronic Information resources by the students in U.R. Siddhertha Engineering College Library, Vijay Wada.: concluded that some of the students use CD-ROM and most of the students use electronic information resources for the communication purpose. The main problem faced by the students in using the e-resources is that lack of training and time.

6. ANALYSIS PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

After collecting the data, it is analyzed and interpreted with the help of statistical methods. The data is purely collected with the help of above mentioned methodologies. The results of the study are as follow:

User's Profile

M.S. Randhawa Library has all types of members among them Under Graduate, Post Graduate, Research Scholars and Faculty members. Respondents of this research study is describes in table 1.

Table 1 shows the user wise break up of library users. Table shows majority of respondents i.e. 39.5 % are PG students, followed by it i.e. 23.7% are research scholars and there is equal number of UG and faculty members i.e. 18.4% each.

Table 1: User Wise Break Up.

Types of Respondents	Responses	%
UG	21	18.4
PG	45	39.5
Research Scholars	27	23.7
Faculty	21	18.4
Total	114	100

Use of Library services

Respondents are categories according to period of use of the university library that is describes in table 2

Table 2: Use of Library Services

Time Duration in Years	No. of Respondents	%
1-2	45	39.5
3-5	39	34.2
6-10	06	5.3
More then 10	24	21
Total	114	100

Table 2 shows the years of use of library services by the respondents. Data shows that majority of users i.e. 39.5% are using library services from 3-5 years, followed by it 34.2% users are using the library services are from 1-2 years. There is least percentage only 5.3% are using library services from 6-10 year
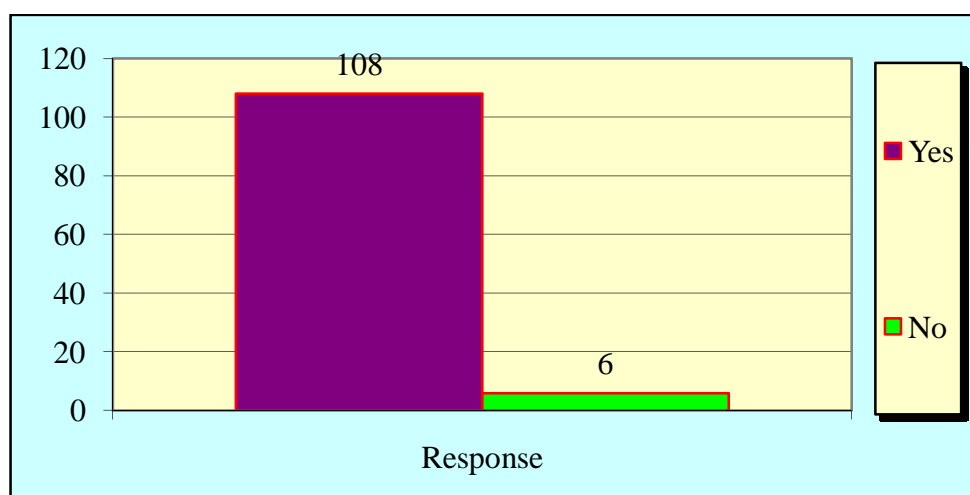
Computer Literacy

Fig. 1: Computer Literacy

Fig. 1 shows the computer literacy among the library users. Figures show that 108 respondents i.e. 94.74% are computer literate.
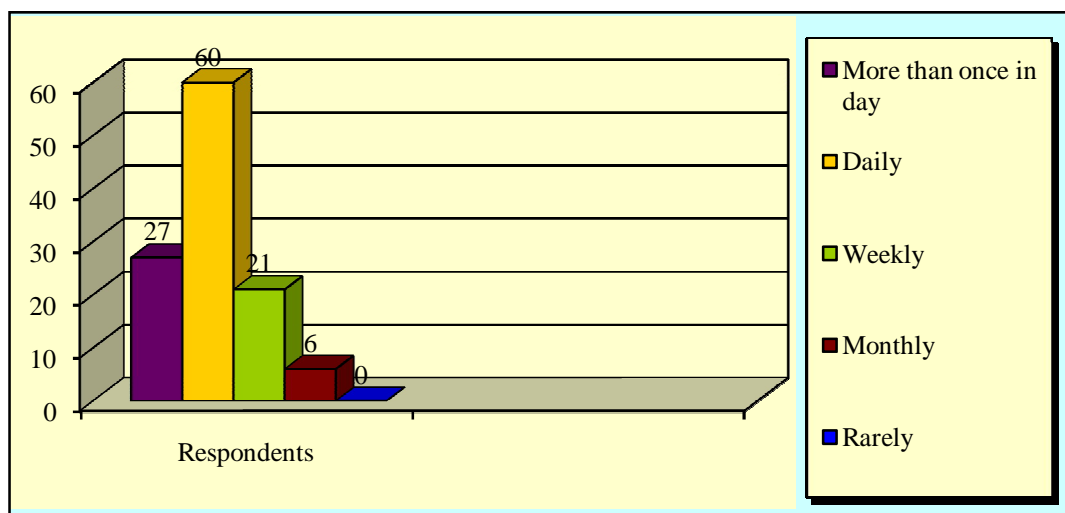
Frequency of Internet Use

Fig. 2: Frequency of Use of Internet.

Fig. 2 shows the frequency of use of internet by the respondents. It is found that majority of respondents i.e. 52.63% are using internet daily. There is no one who uses intent rarely.
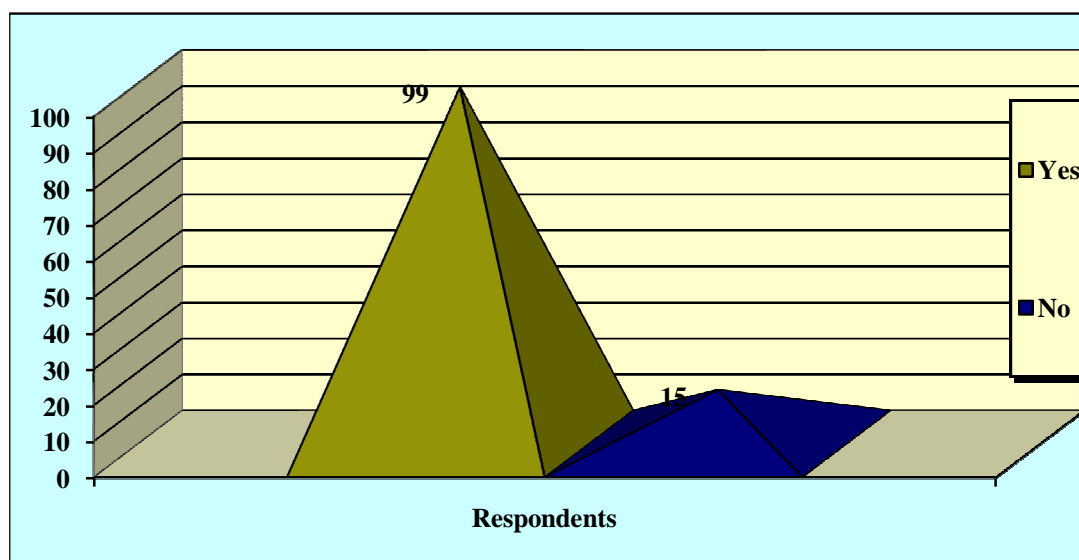
Awareness of Digital Resources

Fig. 3: Awareness of Digital Resources.

Fig. 3 shows the awareness of digital resources among the respondents. The figures of the collected data shows that 99 i.e. 86.84% respondents are aware about the available digital resources of the library.
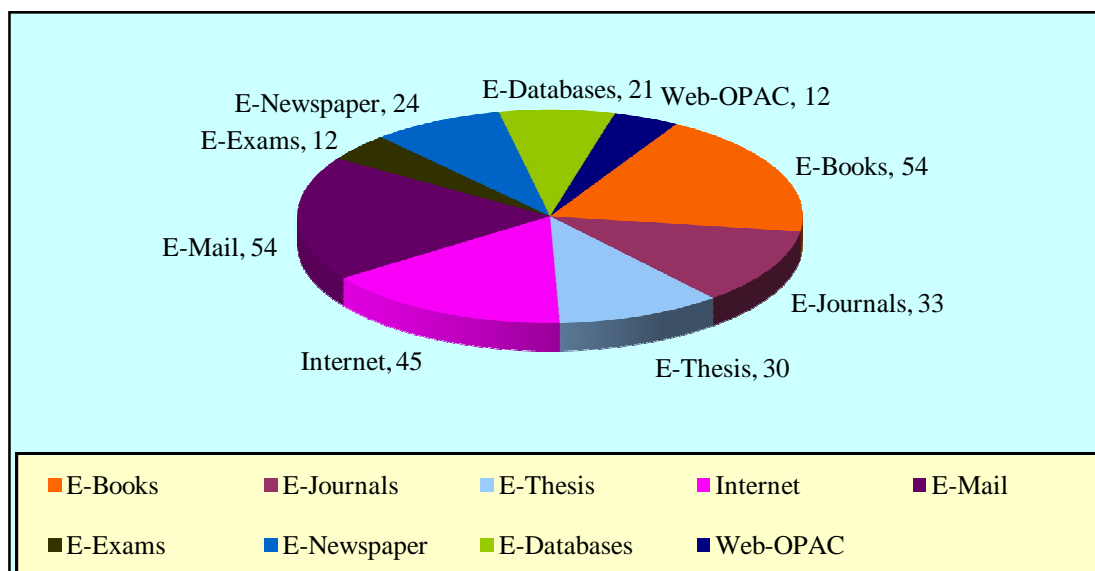
Uses of Digital Resources

Fig. 4: Use of Digital Resources.

Fig. 4 shows the use of digital resources by the respondents. It is revealed that there is maximum i.e. 47.37% respondents use E-books and E-mails, followed by it Internet is used by 39.47% respondents. E-journals are used by only 28.95% respondents and E-databases are used by only 18.45%. The least use is for Web-OPAC as well as E-Exams i.e. 12% only.

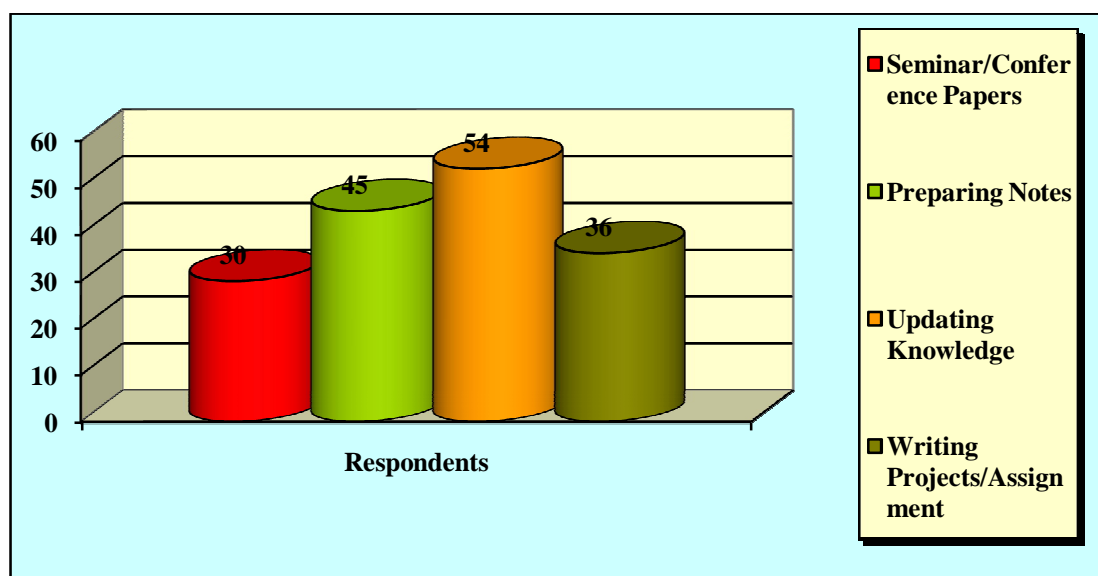**Purpose of Using Digital Resources**

Fig. 5: Purpose of using Digital Resources.

Fig. 5 shows the purpose of the respondents for using of digital resources. Majority of respondents i.e. 54 (47.37%) use digital resources for updating their knowledge. And only 30 (26.32%) uses the digital resources for preparing papers for seminars/conference.

Frequency of Using Digital Resources

Table 3: Frequency of Using Digital Resources.

Frequency	No. of Respondents	%
Often	57	50
Once in a Week	36	31.6
Once in a Month	18	15.8
Sometimes	3	2.6
Never Use	0	0
Total	114	100

Table 3 shows the frequency of use of digital resources by the respondents. Table shows that 50% respondents often use digital resources it means that they use in their daily routine. And there is no one who never uses these resources.

Comparison of Digital Resources with Print Resources
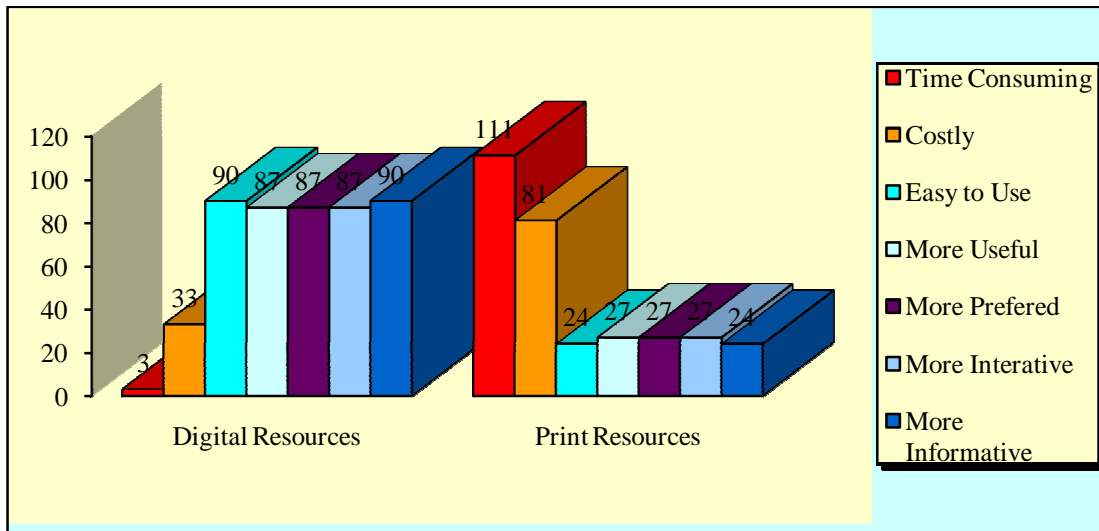

Fig. 6: Comparison between Digital and Print Resources.

Fig. 6 shows the comparison of digital resources with the print resources. Fig. shows that 111 (97.37%) respondents have the view that print resources are time consuming. 71% have the view that print resources are costlier then the digital resources. 79% respondents have the view that digital resources are easy to use and these are more informative. 76% respondents have the view that these resources are more useful, more preferred and more interactive then the print resources.
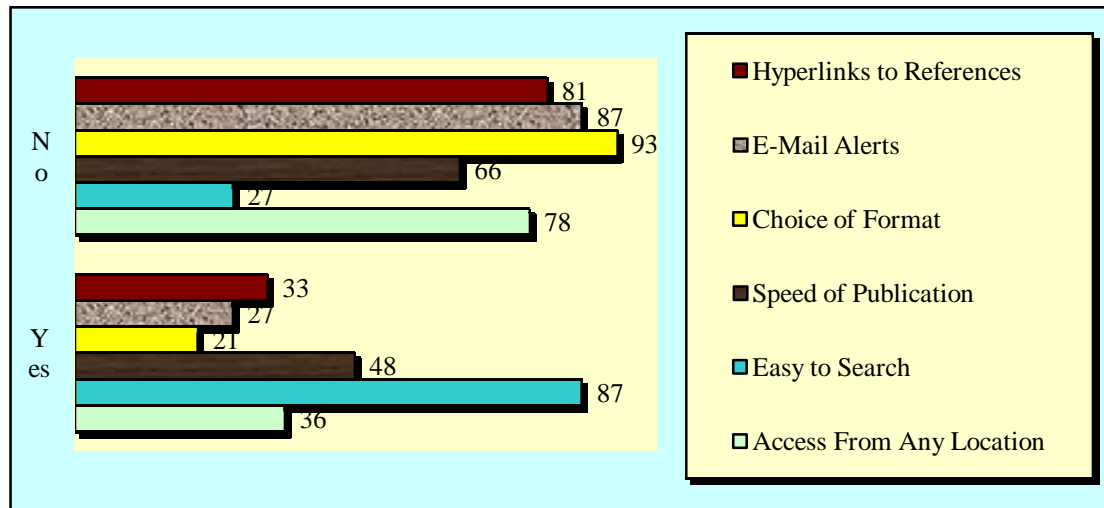
Best Features of Digital resources over Print Resources

Fig. 7: Best Features of Digital Resources over Print Resources.

Fig. 7 shows the best features of digital resources over print resources. Fig. shows that 76% respondents have the view that digital resources are easy to search, but these are not easy for email alerts. 82% have the view that these are not according to the choice of format. 68% have the view that these can't be accessed from any location. 58% have the view that these don't provide speedy publication of articles.

Difficulties in Using Digital Resources
Library users face some problems while using digital resources. These problems may be due to the non familiarity of the users with the available digital resources or may be due to not getting proper support of the library staff or may be insufficient resources available in the library. Users problems are describes in the Fig. 8.
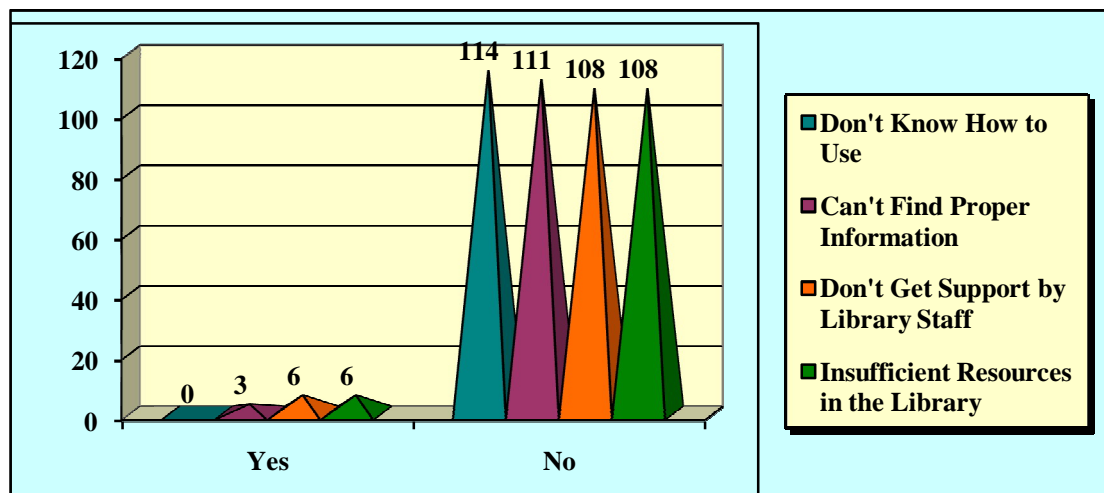

Fig. 8: Difficulties in Using Digital Resources.

Fig. 8 shows the difficulties in using the digital resources by the library users. Fig. shows that 100% users know that how to use the digital resources of the library. 97% have the view that they can find out the required/proper information from the available resources. 95% says that they get proper support from the library staff and there are sufficient digital resources in the library.

Replacement of Print Resources with Digital Resources
It is very difficult and important question that "Is digital resources can replace the print resources of information?" Then the strong response got from the respondents that "Digital resources can't replace the print resources"
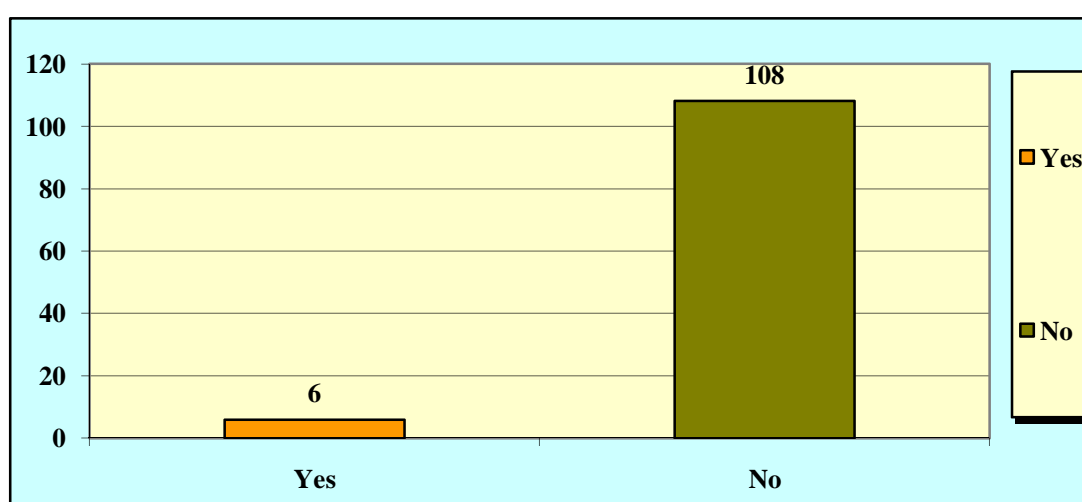

Fig. 9: Replacement of Print Resources with Digital Resources.

Fig. 9 shows the replacement of print resources with the digital resources. Fig. shows that 95% have the view that print resources can't be replaced with the digital resources of information.

7. CONCLUSION
39.5% of the respondents are using library services from the last 3-5 years.
94.74% respondents are computer literate and 52.63 % respondents use the internet daily and there is no one who has never uses the internet.
86.84% respondents are aware about the available digital resources of the library.
47.37% respondents use E-books and E-mails, followed by it Internet is used by 39.47% respondents. E-journals are used by only 28.95% respondents and E-databases are used by only 18.45%. The least use is for Web-OPAC as well as E-Exams i.e. 12% only.
54 (47.37%) use digital resources for updating their knowledge. And only 30 (26.32%) uses the digital resources for preparing papers for seminars/conference.
50% of the respondents use the digital resources in their daily routine.
76% respondents have the view that digital resources are easy to search, but these are

not easy for email alerts. 82% have the view that these are not according to the choice of format. 68% have the view that these can't be accessed from any location. 58% have the view that these don't provide speedy publication of articles.

100% users know that how to use the digital resources of the library. 97% have the view that they can find out the required/proper information from the available resources. 95% says that they get proper support from the library staff and there are sufficient digital resources in the library.

95% have the view that print resources can't be replaced with the digital resources of information.

8. SUGGESTION

From the above finding it is seen that there in not proper use of digital resources even there is sufficient resources available with the library and majority of users are also aware about these resources. But according to the finding it can be suggested that library should organize orientation programs to increase awareness and importance of digital resources. Library has also need to increase accessibility of these resources by increasing computer terminals, WiFi facility and increasing of budget for the digital collection. One thing more that library should conduct users' survey to know the needs of the users.

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