

# **A Study on Research Scholars' Perception Regarding Importance of Electronic Resources to Their Work and the Adequacy of Information Located in Them**

*Misbah Manzoor\**

## **Abstract**

The present study has been carried out to explore the research scholars' perceptions regarding the importance of electronic resources to their work and the adequacy of information located in them. Besides, this study has been carried out with the help of the descriptive research method. The sample for the present study consisted of 200 respondents. After executing the sampling frame, the required sample was selected with the help of a random sampling technique. In context to the same, it has been found that a maximum number of research scholars perceive that electronic resources are very important and information available in them is adequate.

*Keywords: e-resources, information, electronic resources, communication technology, electronic information.*

## **1.1: Introduction:**

With the advent of the digital era, there has been an improvement in the availability and usage of electronic resources within the users' community globally (**Babu&Sivaraman, 2020**). The arrival of information and communication technology (ICT) has not only been a move from the systematic one-to-one information flow of the past to a new model in which information users and providers can relate in a many-to-many, dynamic relationship but has also proven itself as a powerful tool for conveyance of electronic information resources (**Sharifabadi, 2006**). The users no longer depend upon traditional library services but believe that the wealth of information available in electronic resources can completely satisfy their scholastic needs as a better alternative to traditional print resources. Students now can take advantage of the multifarious growth of knowledge in different subjects by using electronic media, which is not possible by moving from library to library for physical tracking of these documents. They can not only have direct access to electronic information with consistency but can also get certain advantages in accessing electronic information as well, like, quick browsing, compound access, retrieval speed, sharing, print and downloading, comprehensive information

---

Department of Library and Information Science, RIMT University, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab, India.

coverage, and more so (Swain, 2010). E-resources are emerging as an important means for the dissemination of knowledge and evidently, libraries are now moving towards digital resources, as they are found to be less expensive and more helpful. These are helpful, especially to remote learners who cannot access the libraries. Due to the increasing interest in e-resources, a lot of precious collection of scholarly texts, images and sounds now exists only in electronic form and may be accessible via the Internet only (Jebaraj, 2018).

### **1.2: Review of previous literature:**

**Alzahrani (2019)** conducted a study entitled “Use and Impact of Electronic Resources at King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia”. The study showed that the use of electronic resources is very popular among the university and most of the students are dependent on electronic materials to get the relevant information. The investigator revealed that the availability of electronic resources in the library is almost sufficient for all the existing disciplines but the infrastructure to use these resources is not sufficient and can prevent the ability to meet the requirements of users. **Mohanta&Pandey (2020)** conducted a study entitled “Emerging technology used in North Indian Central University libraries: An innovative approach”. The study revealed that universities should follow the guidelines and norms so that innovative challenges of universities are helpful to guide research scholars. It was suggested that universities should take care of their research collection so that students of these universities will benefit in the field. **Nair & TS (2020)** investigated “Awareness and use of domain-specific electronic resources among research scholars in the University of Kerala”. It was concluded that in terms of information seeking, today’s researchers seem to be comfortable with using a wide variety of sources for information. **PM (2020)** carried out a study on “Use of electronic journals by research scholars of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi”. The study concluded that science scholars as well as social science scholars of both universities were using e-journals not only for research activities but also for other types of work like for preparation of assignments and seminar presentations, writing and publishing articles, to keep their knowledge up to date, etc. **Tripathi, Sonkar&Rajbanshi (2020)** carried out a comparative study of agriculture and technology universities in Uttar Pradesh. The study was entitled “Use and impact of e-resources among research scholars: A comparative study of agriculture and technology universities in Uttar Pradesh”. The study revealed that e-resources were gradually replacing the print materials of a library, so it was suggested that in the changing library context, these e-resources should be properly managed for their wide and effective use,

otherwise a major portion of the library budget, which is spent towards this will be a waste. **Mwantimwa, Mwabungulu&Kassim (2021)** conducted a study on “Academic staff and researchers' use of electronic resources in Tanzania: A comparative study.” The study found that although users are aware of the importance of e-resources, unsatisfactory use of e-resources is made. So, steps should be taken to enhance their usage. **Olatoye, Nekhwevha&Muchaonyerwa (2021)** carried out a study on “ ICT literacy skills proficiency and experience on the use of electronic resources amongst undergraduate students in selected Eastern Cape Universities, South Africa.” The researchers concluded that usage of e-resources is improper due the lack of experience and inadequate ICT proficiency of the respondents. **Ahmad &Zaidi (2022)** carried out a study on “Awareness and use of Social Science Cyber Library among research scholars of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh”. They suggested that if appropriate measures are taken, optimum usage of e-resources and higher satisfaction levels of the users can be achieved. **Rani (2022)** did a study entitled “Usability of e-resources by research scholars and faculty members in selected universities of Haryana: a comparative study”. The researcher found out that in this electronic era, the users’ information needs cannot be completely satisfied with just printed sources of information, e-resources have to be used as supplements. The researcher revealed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, usage of e-resources increased and users learned to utilize e-resources in ways which they never could. **Verma (2022)** surveyed “Use of e-resources by the P.G. students and researcher scholars of Arts Faculty, Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya Jabalpur, and M.P.: a study”. The researcher revealed that electronic information is one of the most important sources for humans to live a better life, though the requirements for electronic information may be different. **Gupta (2022)** carried out a study “Awareness and use of electronic resources by the research scholars and faculty member of Dr. C.V. Raman University, Bilaspur (Chattisgarh): a study”. The researcher revealed that e-resources have been used more in the last two decades so, e-resources collection should be enhanced in the universities to offer more resources to the users community’ frequently.

**1.3: Statement of the Research Problem:** the statement of the research problem is, “a study on research scholars’ perception regarding importance of electronic resources to their work and the adequacy of information located in them”.

**1.4: Objectives of the Study:** The purpose of the study is:

1. To explore research scholars’ perceptions regarding the importance of electronic resources to their work.

2. To explore research scholars' perceptions regarding the adequacy of information located in the electronic resources.

**1.5: Research Assumption:** The researcher presumed that most of the research scholars perceive electronic resources as very important to their work and the information located in them is quite adequate.

**1.6: Methodology:** The methodology and procedure are given as under:

- Study design: present study has been carried out with the help of the descriptive research method.
- Sample: The sample for the current study consisted of 200 respondents.
- Sampling technique: After executing the sampling frame, the required sample was selected with the help of a random sampling technique.

**1.7: Delimitation of the Study:** During the whole research process, a lot of constraints were faced by the investigator. However, the investigator made ample efforts to delimit these constraints up to a maximum extent. Consequently, the researcher delimited the present study to the Central University of Jammu and the Central University of Kashmir and the remaining universities of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir have been excluded. This study has been delimited to the research scholars only and the remaining students have been excluded.

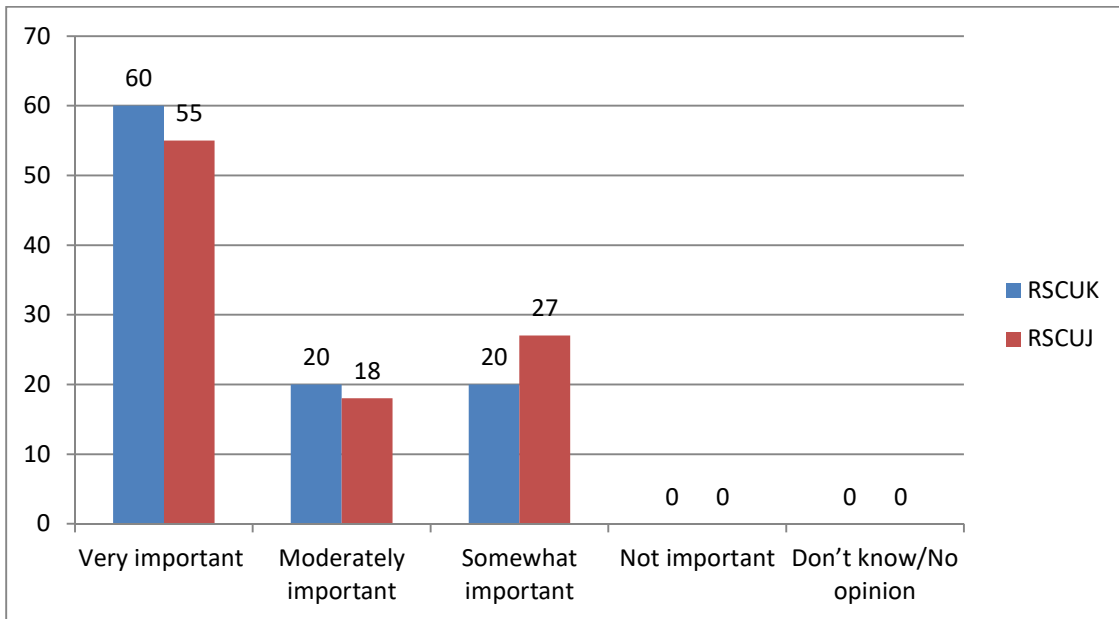
**1.8: Analysis and Interpretation of the Data:** The data has been analysed with the help of a descriptive research process. Accordingly, the analysis and interpretation of the data are given as under:

**Table 1.1: Showing perception of the research scholars regarding the importance of electronic resources to their work (N=100 each).**

Rate of importance of e-resources	RSCUK	RSCUJ	Composite Total	%
Very important	60.00	55.00	115.00	57.5
Moderately important	20.00	18.00	38.00	19.00
Somewhat important	20.00	27.00	47.00	23.5
Not important	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Don't know/No opinion	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	100	100	200	100

RSCUK= Research Scholars of the Central University of Kashmir

RSCUJ = Research Scholars of the Central University of Jammu



**Fig.-1.1: Showing perception of the research scholars regarding the importance of electronic resources to their work (N=100 each).**

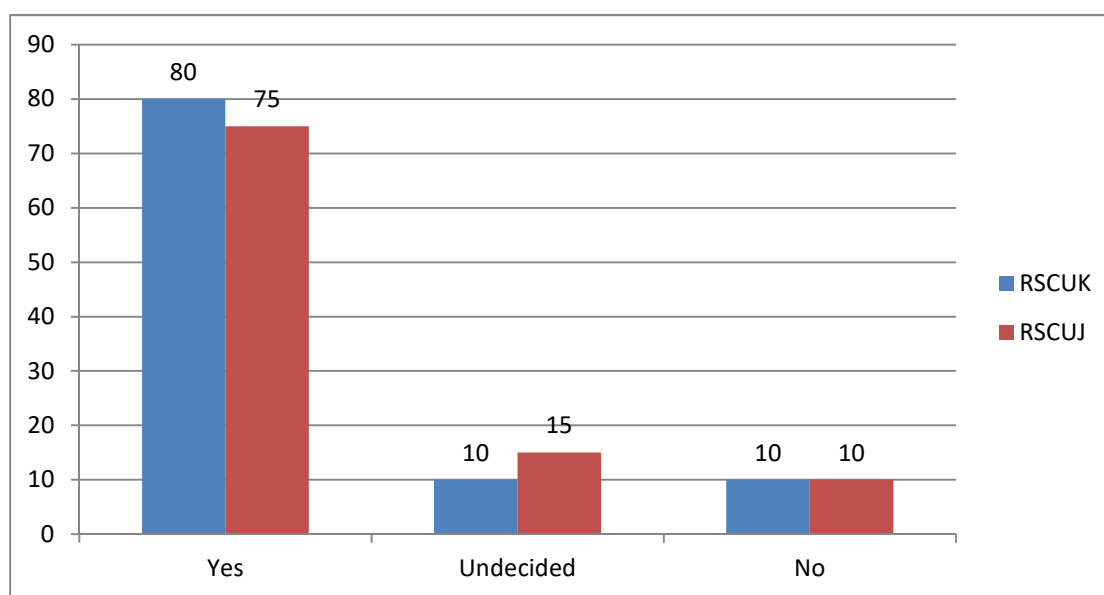
The above-reported table gives the results about the perception of the research scholars regarding the importance of electronic resources to their work. The results reveal that among research scholars of the central University of Kashmir, 60 respondents argue that e-resources are very important, 20 respondents argue that e-resources have moderate importance, 20 argue that e-resources are somewhat important, and 0 respondents argue that e-resources are not important. Coming towards the research scholars of the central University of Jammu, it was observed that 55 respondents argue that e-resources are very important, 18 respondents argue that e-resources have moderate importance, 27 argue that e-resources are somewhat important, 0 respondents argue that e-resources are not important. On composite analysis, it was seen that 57.50% of respondents argue that e-resources are very important, 19.00% of respondents argue that e-resources have moderate importance, 23.5% argue that e-resources are somewhat important, 0% of respondents argue that e-resources are not important. Therefore, from the above discussion, it is evident that maximum of the research scholars consider that e-resources are very important.

**Table-1.2: Showing perception of the research scholars regarding the adequacy of information located in the electronic resources (N=100 each).**

Information found is adequate	RSCUK	RSCUJ	Composite Total	%
Yes	80	75	155	77.50
Undecided	10	15	25	12.50
No	10	10	20	10.00
Total	100	100	200	100

RSCUK= Research Scholars of the Central University of Kashmir

RSCUJ = Research Scholars of the Central University of Jammu



**Fig.1.2: Showing graphical representation of the perception of research scholars regarding the adequacy of information located in the electronic resources (N=100 each).**

According to the results analysed in the above table, 80 respondents found information available in e-resources is adequate, 10 respondents could not decide about the same and 10 respondents argued that inadequate information is located in different kinds of e-resources. Coming towards the research scholars of the central University of Jammu, it was found that 75 respondents found the information available in the e-resources was

adequate, 15 respondents could not decide about the same and 10 respondents argued that inadequate information was located in different kinds of e-resources. The composite analysis indicated that 77.5% of respondents found the information available in the e-resources adequate, 12.50% of respondents could not decide about the same and 10.00% of respondents found the information available in the e-resources inadequate.

**1.9: Conclusion:** The present study has been carried out to explore the research scholars' perception regarding the importance of electronic resources to their work and the adequacy of information located in them. In context to the same it has been found that a maximum of the research scholars from both universities perceive that electronic resources are very important to their work and information available in them is adequate.

#### **Declaration of conflicting interests**

The author declared no potential conflicts of interest concerning the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.

#### **References:**

1. Adeniran, P. (2013). Usage of electronic resources by undergraduates at the Redeemer's University, Nigeria. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 5(10), 319-324. [DOI: 10.5897/IJLIS2013.0392](https://doi.org/10.5897/IJLIS2013.0392)
2. Ahmad, M., & Panda, K. C. (2013). Awareness and use of electronic information resources by the faculty members of Indian institutes in Dubai International Academic City (DIAC): A survey. *International Research Journal of Computer Science and Information Systems (IRJCSIS)*, 2(1), 8-17. Retrieved 13 January, 2021 from <https://tinyurl.com/y3l9c7rl>
3. Ahmed, S. (2013). Use of electronic resources by the faculty members in diverse public universities in Bangladesh. *The Electronic Library*, 31(3), 290–312. <https://doi.org/10.1108/EL-05-2011-0081>
4. Ahmad, N., & Zaidi, S. M. K. (2022). Awareness and use of Social Science Cyber Library among research scholars of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. *Journal of Indian Library Association*, 57(1), 15-26. Retrieved 1 November, 2021 from <https://ilaindia.net/jila/index.php/jila/article/viewFile/478/239>
5. Akpojotor, L. O. (2016). Awareness and usage of electronic information resources among postgraduate students of library and information science in Southern Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, 1408. Retrieved 3 January, 2020 from <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1408/>

6. Akuffo, M. N., & Budu, S. (2019). Use of electronic resources by students in a premier postgraduate theological university in Ghana. *South African Journal of Information Management*, 21(1), 1-9. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/sajim.v21i1.1026>
7. Alzahrani, J. B. (2019). Use and impact of electronic resources at King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. *International Journal of Library and Information Studies*, 9(4), 60-66. Retrieved 16 January, 2021 from [http://www.ijlis.org/img/2019\\_Vol\\_9\\_Issue\\_4/60-66.pdf](http://www.ijlis.org/img/2019_Vol_9_Issue_4/60-66.pdf)
8. Babu, K. M., & Sivaraman, P. (2020). Utilization of Electronic Information Resources and Services by the Students in the Engineering Colleges Bangalore City—A Study. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Cycle Research*, 12(8), 1076- 1091. Retrieved 03 March, 2021 from <http://www.jicrjournal.com/gallery/136-jicr-august-3119.pdf>
9. Baladhandayutham, A. (2015) Use of e-resources by research scholars and students at Dr. TPM Library in Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai: A case study, 2(3). Retrieved 7 January, 2021 from [http://www.shanlaxjournals.in/pdf/ASH/V2N3/Ash\\_V2\\_N3\\_001.pdf](http://www.shanlaxjournals.in/pdf/ASH/V2N3/Ash_V2_N3_001.pdf)
10. Bhatt, R. K. (2010). Use of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium resources by research scholars and faculty members of the University of Delhi in History and Political Science: A study. *Library Management*, 31(4/5), 319-343. <https://doi.org/10.1108/01435121011046371>
11. Chiemeké, S., Longe, O. B., Umar, S. S., & Shaib, I. O. (2007). Users' perceptions of the use of academic libraries and online facilities for research purposes in Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 9(2), 1-13. Retrieved 04 March, 2021 from <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/17209323.pdf>
12. Das, P., & Sahu, G. (2014). Use of electronic resources by research scholars: A case study of Utkal University. *International Journal of Information Library and Society*, 3(1), 59-64. Retrieved 7 January, 2021 from <https://tinyurl.com/y6es2s8e>
13. Deng, H. (2010), "Emerging patterns and trends in utilizing electronic resources in a higher education environment: An empirical analysis", *New Library World*, Vol. 111 No. 3/4, pp. 87-103. <https://doi.org/10.1108/03074801011027600>
14. Dhanavandan, S., Esmail, S. M., & Nagarajan, M. (2012). Use of electronic resources at Krishnasamy College of Engineering & Technology Library, Cuddalore. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 1(1), 1-8. Retrieved 2 January, 2021 from <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/698>



15. Egberongbe, H. S. (2011). The use and impact of electronic resources at the University of Lagos. Retrieved 31 December, 2020 from <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/472>
16. Eshet, Y. (2004). Digital literacy: A conceptual framework for survival skills in the digital era. *Journal of educational multimedia and hypermedia*, 13(1), 93-106. Retrieved 04 March, 2021 from <https://www.learntechlib.org/p/4793/>
17. Garg, R. G., & Tamrakar, A. K. (2014). Utilization of electronic-resources by the postgraduate students, research scholars and faculty members of Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. *J. Sci. Res.*, 3(2), 75-81. Retrieved 2 January, 2021 from [http://jscires.org/sites/default/files/JSciRes\\_2014\\_3\\_2\\_75\\_145621.pdf](http://jscires.org/sites/default/files/JSciRes_2014_3_2_75_145621.pdf)
18. Gautam, A. S., & Sinha, M. K. (2017). Use of electronic resources among research scholars and faculty members of university of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India: A survey. *Library Progress (International)*, 37(2), 182-201. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5958/2320-317X.2017.00019.8>
19. Gowridevi, R., Ramakrishna, K., & Sasikala, C. (2018). Use of library and information resources and services by research scholars of GITAM Deemed to be University- A study. *International Journal of Library and Information Studies*, 8(1), 453-459. Retrieved 4 December, 2020 from [http://www.ijlis.org/img/2018\\_Vol\\_8\\_Issue\\_1/453-459.pdf](http://www.ijlis.org/img/2018_Vol_8_Issue_1/453-459.pdf)
20. Gupta, N. (2022). Awareness and use of electronic resources by the research scholars and faculty member of Dr. CV Raman University, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh): A study. *Library Waves*, 8(1), 19-26. Retrieved 1 November, 2021 from <http://librarywaves.com/index.php/lw/article/download/115/107>
21. Habiba, U., & Chowdhury, S. (2012). Use of electronic resources and its impact: A study of Dhaka University Library users. *Eastern Librarian*, 23(1), 74-90. <https://doi.org/10.3329/el.v23i1.12122>
22. Jan, S., & Baba, A. M. (2016). Use of electronic resources in Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) & Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH): A study. *Journal of Applied Information Science Volume*, 4(2). Retrieved 31 December, 2020 from <https://tinyurl.com/yxqcvkkn>
23. Jebaraj, C. M. Use of e-resources by research scholars and students at Central Library in Alagappa University, Karaikudi: A case study. *International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology*, 89(1), 37-38. Retrieved 1 November, 2021 from [https://www.academia.edu/download/88317252\\_01b8ace9103ed7cc1af56d7e10ca30f37be8.pdf](https://www.academia.edu/download/88317252_01b8ace9103ed7cc1af56d7e10ca30f37be8.pdf)

24. Jeong, H. (2011). An investigation of user perceptions and behavioral intentions towards the e-library. *Library Collections, Acquisitions, and Technical Services*, 35(2-3), 45-60. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lcats.2011.03.018>
25. Joo, S., & Choi, N. (2015). Factors affecting undergraduates' selection of online library resources in academic tasks. *Library Hi Tech*, 33(2), 272-291. <https://doi.org/10.1108/LHT-01-2015-0008>
26. Madhusudhan, M. (2010). Use of electronic resources by research scholars of Kurukshetra University. *The Electronic Library*, 28(4), 492-506. <https://doi.org/10.1108/02640471011033684>
27. Mulla, K. R. (2011). Use of electronic resources by faculty members in HKBK College of Engineering: A survey. *Library philosophy and practice*, 7. Retrieved 1 November, 2020 from <https://tinyurl.com/yydoem3n>
28. Mohanta, A., & Pandey, S. N. (2020) Emerging technology used in North Indian central university libraries: An innovative approach. *The International Journal of Engineering and Science (IJES)*, 9(01), 17-40. Retrieved 4 November, 2020 from <http://www.theijes.com/papers/vol9-issue1/Series-3/C0901031740.pdf>
29. Mwantimwa, K., Mwabungulu, E., & Kassim, M. (2021). Academic staff and researchers' use of electronic resources in Tanzania: A comparative study. *International Journal of Education and Development using Information and Communication Technology*, 17(2), 55-75. Retrieved 01 June, 2021 from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1297880.pdf>
30. Nair, A. S., & TS, N. L. (2020) Awareness and use of domain specific electronic resources among research scholars in University of Kerala, 4(9), 16-27. Retrieved 1 December, 2020 from <https://tinyurl.com/y6tm6d7h>
31. Olatoye, O. I., Nekhwevha, F., & Muchaonyerwa, N. (2021). ICT literacy skills proficiency and experience on the use of electronic resources amongst undergraduate students in selected Eastern Cape Universities, South Africa. *Library Management*. 42(6/7), 471-479. <https://doi.org/10.1108/LM-08-2020-0118>
32. PM, N. A. (2020). Use of electronic journals by research scholars of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. *Journal of Indian Library Association*, 55(1), 1-13. Retrieved 7 January, 2021 from <https://tinyurl.com/y2oxxlj2>

33. Rani, S. Usability of e-resources by research scholars and faculty members in selected universities of Haryana: A comparative study. *International Journal of Library Information Network*, 7(1), 81-97. Retrieved 1 November, 2021 from <http://slp.org.in/IJLINK/volumes/IJLINK-V7I1-7.pdf>
34. Sharifabadi, S.R. (2006). How digital libraries can support e-learning. *The Electronic Library*, 24 (3), 389-401. [https://doi.org/ 10.1108/02640470610671231](https://doi.org/10.1108/02640470610671231)
35. Swain, D. K. (2010). Students' keenness on use of e-resources. *The Electronic Library*.28(4), 580-591. <https://doi.org/10.1108/02640471011065391>
36. Tripathi, B., Sonkar, S. K., & Rajbanshi, V. J. (2020). Use and impact of e-resources among research scholars: A comparative study of agriculture and technology universities in Uttar Pradesh. *International Journal of Library & Information Science*, 5(2), 108-118. Retrieved 7 January, 2021 from <http://eprints.rclis.org/39483/1/BHAWANA.pdf>
37. Verma, S. (2022). Use of e-resources by the PG students and researcher scholars of Arts Faculty, Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya Jabalpur, MP: A study. *International Journal of Progressive Research in Science and Engineering*, 3(05), 288-294. Retrieved 1 November, 2021 from <https://www.journals.grdpublications.com/index.php/ijprse/article/download/601/571>