

User Awareness and Attitude towards on Open Access Resources in GFGC Libraries in North Karnataka: A Case Study

Ramesh S. Puttannanavar¹; Dr. Ningappa N. Arabagonda²

Assistant Librarian, Karnataka Samskrit University, Chamarajpete, Bangalore-560018,
Karnataka State, India¹; Selection Grade Librarian, Government First Grade College

Byadagi-581106, Karnataka State, India²

rameshsp2018@gmail.com, nnarabagonda@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The present study finds out the awareness and attitude of users in the use of open access resources in 126 Government First Grade College (GFGC) libraries in North Karnataka. The major findings of the study are to influence the awareness about open access resources, channels are used to access, purpose and reason for using open access resources, level of satisfaction and perception towards open access resources. The researcher distributed 6000 questionnaire among the staff and students in 126 GFGC libraries in North Karnataka. Out of 6000 questionnaires, were 5410 response. The study disclose that the majority of the respondents were fully aware about open access resources and most of the respondents were using open access resources for their course related work and satisfied its uses in their academic activity.

KEYWORDS: User Awareness, Open Access Resources, Gold Open Access, Green Open Access.

INTRODUCTION

In the recent year the development of science & technology create a greater opportunity in the ICT for shared available information to the end user in the society. In this part Open-access is one of the component, which are freely available to the end user at free of cost. No need to pay either by the institution or the individual for accessing, and downloading articles. In the OA user can read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to full texts of these articles. Open access resources are present different forms such as open e-book, open databases, journals, newsletters, institution repositories, personal websites, blogs, wikis, databases, videos, audios, webcasts, discussion forums, etc.

OPEN ACCESS CONCEPTS AND MEANING

Open access (OA) means free access to information and unrestricted use of electronic resources for everyone. Any kind of digital content can be OA, from texts and data to software, audio, video, and multi-media. There are two types of OA, such as

Gold Open access refers to the publication of scholarly works as articles in open access journals, as open access monographs, or as contributions to open access collections or conference proceedings. These texts usually undergo the same quality assurance process as closed access works, mostly in the form of peer review or editorial review. As a rule, a publishing agreement is concluded with the publisher. It specifies the rights of use that the author grants to the publisher, and the conditions of use that shall apply to the open access documents. Such agreements are often supplemented with an open access publication license under which the authors can grant users more extensive and precisely specified rights.

Green open access – also known as “self-archiving” – refers to making a work published with a publisher available to the public in an institutional or disciplinary open access repository. It is sometimes understood to refer also to making such a work available on the author’s personal website. Self-archiving can take place at the same time as the publication of the content by the publisher or at a later date, and is possible for preprints and post-prints of scholarly articles, as well as for other document types, for example, monographs, research reports, and conference proceedings.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATION

In December 2019, a viral outbreak of pneumonia of unknown origin occurred in Wuhan, China. On 9 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially announced the discovery of a novel coronavirus: SARS-Cov2. This new virus is the pathogen responsible for this infectious respiratory disease called COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease). Due to Covid-19, many changes came to our around the globe and It took some time for everyone to adopt the new normal. The Covid-19 impact was everywhere, which resulted in the closure of Schools and other educational institutions. In the beginning, most of the governments have decided to temporarily close the educational institutions to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Later for a month closure of educational institutions was announced by the government but gradually the time of closure was extended and it is uncertain when they will reopen. In order to ensure the continuity of learning in institutes and universities, one immediate measure is essential. That is has been replaced the old chalk-talk model with the new technology. E-learning solutions through Learning management software and open-source digital learning solutions are adopted by the educational institutions to run online classes. The policy makers are trying to solve the problem of engagement of students and tackling the digital divide. In order to manage the crisis in Indian education section, a multi-pronged strategy is necessary in the long term.

About GFGC in Karnataka State

The Government of Karnataka has established separate division called department of collegiate education in 1960, the primary goal of the dept has been over all the development of students in degree level of education. The dept has take up the influence of providing higher education to the poor, backward and weaker section of the society, education being the path to improving intellect and ensuring progress of mankind. Presently the department has six

regional offices in Karnataka and manage the 430 Govt Degree colleges and 321 private aided colleges spread over in the State.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To determine the awareness of users in GFGC libraries in North Karnataka about the open access resources
2. To determine the purpose and reason for using open access resources
3. To find out the satisfaction level of users on using open access resources on usage perception
4. To analysis the barriers of using open access resources
5. To know the gender wise usage knowledge of Open access resources
6. To suggest awareness methods of using various open access resources in higher education

Needs of the Study

Open Access Resources are research materials have been made available to the general public, free of charge: data and databases, books and articles, including scholarly research articles. The main goal of this study is to make an experiment to find out awareness of open access resources that are available in the e platforms and various databases knowledge. The problem of this study is to find out the extent of benefits, constraints, and strategies to orientation about OA and improve the quality of publications and usage among staff and students in GFGC Libraries in North Karnataka.

METHODOLOGY

The study plan to analysis the awareness and attitude towards open access resources among the users in GFGC North Karnataka. The coverage of the study includes UG students, PG students, and faculty members of Arts, Commerce & Science stream. It is not probable to collect large of number data of each and every library user in their study; therefore samples were selected by using stratified random sampling method. Hence researcher has selected 126 GFGC Libraries in North Karnataka. It is mainly depends on primary date collected through structured questionnaire from the respondents of staff and UG, PG students in the 126 GFGC libraries. The questionnaires were distributed among the 6000 respondents. Out of 6000 questionnaires 5410 filled questionnaires were received. The secondary data were collected from the internet and other sources.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The current study involves of respondent from various degree college in a different course stream, such as Arts, Commerce, Science & PG course. The course wise distribution of respondents is given in table 1. This table discloses that 47.68 per cent (2580 out of 5410) of the respondents from Arts stream is first rank among the others in the aware of OAR. It is followed by 23.12 per cent (1250 out of 5410) from Commerce stream, 18.48 per cent (1000 out of 5410) from PG course and lastly 10.72 per cent (580 out of 5410) from Science stream.

Table - 1: Course Stream wise Distribution of Respondent

Sl. No	Course Stream	No. Respondent	Percentage
1	Arts	2580	47.68
2	Commerce	1250	23.12

User Awareness and Attitude towards on Open Access Resources in GFGC Libraries in North Karnataka: A Case Study

3	Science	580	10.72
4	PG course	1000	18.48
Total		5410	100

Table 2 reveals the gender wise awareness of open access resources in 126 degree college in North Karnataka. In the student category (included all three course stream) compare with male and female wise, female respondents are highest in the aware of OAR that is 63.49 percent (2000 out of 3150) and at the same view male respondents are 36.50 percent (1150 out of 3150). It is followed by faculty male respondents are registered with 55.55 percent (700 out of 1260) as compare with female faculty that is 44.44 percent (560 out of 1260). In the higher education (PG students) level awareness of OAR is more in the male respondents (650 out of 1000) as compare with female respondents (350 out of 1000).

Table - 2: Gender wise Distribution of Respondent

Sl. No	User Category	Male	Female	Total
1	Students	1150	2000	3150
2	PG Students	650	350	1000
3	Staff	700	560	1260
Total		2500	2910	5410

Table 3 deals that majority 67.46% (850 out of 1260) of the faculty members are fully aware about OAR. It is followed by 57.5% (575 out of 1000) of the PG Students are fully aware, 55.65% (1753 out of 3150) of the students are fully aware. 12.5 % (125 out of 1000) of the PG students are no opinion about level of awareness, Only 10.31% (130 out of 1260) of the faculty members are unaware.

Table - 3: User Category and Level of Awareness towards OAR

Sl. No	User Category	Level of Awareness towards OAR			Total
		Aware	Unaware	No Opinion	
1	Students	1753	1050	347	3150
2	PG Students	575	300	125	1000
3	Staff	850	280	130	1260
Total		3178	1630	602	5410

The goal of utilising open access materials depends on the general and unique information requirements of the higher education system from user to user. The objective of the respondents' use of open access resources are given in table 4. This table indicates that the 42.15 per cent of the respondent uses open access resources for the purpose of studying course materials. It is followed by, for update subject knowledge by 20.88 per cent, for teaching by 17.56 per cent, for writing papers/articles by 14.78 per cent and other academic purposes by 4.63 per cent.

Table - 4: Purpose of Using Open Access Resources

Sl. No	Purpose of OAR	No. Respondent	Percentage
1	For studying course materials	2280	42.15
2	For update subject knowledge	1130	20.88
3	For teaching	950	17.56
4	For writing papers/articles	800	14.78
5	Other academic purpose	250	4.63
Total		5410	100

Respondents of the study are asked why they have given preference for OAR and depend on it for their academic activities. The opinions of the respondents are summarized in table 5. This table reveals that 34.38 percent (1860 out of 5410) respondents use open access resources since it is freely available. The other reasons for using open access resources are full text by 23.65 per cent (1280 out of 5410), open access resources have quality and reliability by 16.08 per cent (870 out of 5410), all information in one place by 12.04 per cent, it is digital format by 10.16 per cent and easy to collect by 3.69 per cent.

Table - 5: Reasons for Using Open Access Resources

Sl. No	Reasons for using OAR	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Freely available	1860	34.38
2	Quality and reliability of information	870	16.08
3	Full text	1280	23.65
4	Digital format	550	10.16
5	Easy to collect	200	3.69
6	All information in one place	650	12.04
Total		5410	100

The open access resources, organize and provide access to the resources. The most popular open access repositories in academics are Search engines, E book platforms, Databases, National Digital library of India and other OAR. Table 6 shows up these open access resources channels among staff, students and PG students. This table shows that 2380 out of 5410 (43.99%) respondents use search engines get instance information. It is followed by 1120 out of 5410 respondents use E book platforms, 1030 out of 5410 respondents use databases, 550 out of 5410 respondents use national digital library of India and 330 out of 5410 respondents use other open access resources platforms.

Table - 6: Channel for Using Open Access Resources

Sl. No	Channel of OAR Uses	Students	PG Students	Staff	Total
1	Search Engines (Google, Yahoo, Ask.com, Bing, AOL., Etc)	1290	570	520	2380
2	E books platforms (Google e books, Internet Archieves, Kindle books, Free	710	210	200	1120

User Awareness and Attitude towards on Open Access Resources in GFGC Libraries in North Karnataka: A Case Study

	ebooks, Open Library, Project Gutenberg,. Etc)				
3	Databases (Google Scholar, BASE, DOAJ,E-Thesis, PubMed,. Etc)	590	80	360	1030
4	NDLI	340	110	100	550
5	Other OAR (Blogs, Websites, E reports, Groups,. Etc)	220	30	80	330

The satisfaction of the respondents towards open access resources and use of open access resources for their academic activity is analyzed. The opinion of the respondents on satisfaction towards open access resources is presented in table 7. This table indicates that the majority of the respondents (59.89 per cent) are fully satisfied with open access resources and its uses in their academic activity. It is followed by satisfied by 30.22 per cent of the respondents and not satisfied by 9.89 per cent of the respondents.

Table- 7: Satisfaction towards the Use of Open Access Resources

Sl. No	Satisfaction towards OAR	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Fully Satisfied	3240	59.89
2	Satisfied	1635	30.22
3	Not Satisfied	535	9.89
Total		5410	100

Perception score of the respondents towards open access resources are further classified into three categories such as high, medium and low based on the percentage values. Details of classification of respondents based on user perception score towards open access resources are given in table 8. This table study that 50.70 per cent (2743 out of 5410) of the respondents have high level user perception towards open access resources; followed by 26.62 per cent (1440 out of 5410) of the respondents have medium level user perception and 22.68 per cent (1227 out of 5410) of the respondents have low level user perception towards open access resources.

Table - 8: Level of User Perception towards OAR

Sl. No	Level of User Perception	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	High	2743	50.70
2	Medium	1440	26.62
3	Low	1227	22.68
Total		5410	100

Table 9 Examined that the researcher asked students as well faculties that how they learn and use OAR by the teachers, by Friends, by Training, By the library staff , so student and faculty given the response ie student responded 1640 students learn the OAR through teachers,500 students by the classmates, 850 students learn and use OAR by the help of library staff and 160 students learn the OAR through training program. For PG students response 460 students by teacher, 280 students by library staff, 180 students by classmates and 80 students by

training. for faculty responses 435 faculty learn OAR by their teachers, 400 faculties learn by attend training program, 250 faculty by the colleagues, 175 faculties learn OAR by the help of library staff .library homepages, library training and others.

Table - 9: Way to learn and Use about OAR

Respondents	By Teachers/	BY Colleagues/ Classmates	By Training	BY Library Staff
Students	1640	500	160	850
PG Students	460	180	80	280
Faculty	435	250	400	175

Table 10 reveals the barriers or constraints while using open access publications. Respondents among 29.02 percent (1570 out of 5410) students, PG students and Staff mention Lack of knowledge of the existence of open access Resources on the internet, It is followed by 21.44 percent (1160 out of 5410) by Inadequate skills to navigate the internet and web technology, 15.61 percent (845 out of 5410) Full texts of some open access journals are not easily down loadable, 14.87 percent (805 out of 5410) Lack of Equipment’s (Mobile, Laptop, Computers, Internet connection), 14.04 percent (760 out of 5410) Slow speed while accessing of internet facilities and 4.99 percent (270 out of 5410) Unstable power supply.

Table - 10: Barriers and Constraints Using Open Access Resources

Sl. No	Barriers and Constraints	Students	PG Students	Staff	Total
1	Inadequate skills to navigate the internet and web technology	850	150	160	1160
2	Lack of knowledge of the existence of open access Resources on the internet	1140	130	300	1570
3	Lack of Equipment’s (Mobile, Laptop, Computers, Internet connection)	625	110	70	805
4	Unstable power supply	170	40	60	270
5	Slow speed while accessing of internet facilities	200	320	240	760
6	Full texts of some open access journals are not easily down loadable	165	250	430	845

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- 1) Majority (42.15 per cent) of the respondents uses open access resources for their course related works.
- 2) Most (34.38per cent) of the respondents use open access resources because it is convenient at free of cost.
- 3) Majority of the respondents (59.89 per cent) are satisfied with open access resources.
- 4) Majority of the respondents 2910 out of 5410) are female as compare with male respondents.
- 5) This study finds out the lack of knowledge about searching information about the open access resources in the internet.

User Awareness and Attitude towards on Open Access Resources in GFGC Libraries in North Karnataka: A Case Study

- 6) The impact of covid 19 the satisfaction level among the user is high level (50.70%).
- 7) The observation of this study reveals that pandemic situation create lots of importance to the aware of open access resources in primary to higher education institutions level and teaching faculties as well as students to learn, use and get benefits to their academic and other purpose of free available OAR.

CONCLUSION

Significance of the open access resources in the higher educational organizations has necessary in present days. It is existed various forms like, e -books, e-journal database and multimedia database are freely available in the web on various open access platform. It creates opportunity to the academic community in the higher education institutions for supply quality education initiatives to the younger generation. The present research work find out that majority of the users in higher educational institution libraries have awareness and use it to fulfill their information needs. This study suggests conduct more awareness training programmes helps to enhance their knowledge in use of open access resources effectively.

REFERENCES

- [1] Abdullah- Al- Mahmud, A. K. M. Eamin Ali Akanda, Md Armanul Haque, A. K. M. Eamin Ali Akanda, and Dilara Begum. 2020. "Awareness and Use of Open Access Resources in Higher Education and Scholarly Research: Faculties versus Students Perspectives." *Library Philosophy and Practice* 2020:1–16.
- [2] Dadhe, Pooja P., and Manju N. Dubey. 2020. "Library Services Provided During COVID-19 Pandemic: Content Analysis of Websites of Premier Technological Institutions of India." *Library Philosophy and Practice* 2020(November):1–18.
- [3] Dhanavandan, S. 2013. "Brief Survey Report from a Library A Critical Study on Attitudes and Awareness Of." *Journal of Information Science Theory and Practice* 1(4):67–75.
- [4] Govindarajan, R., and S. Dhanavandan. 2019. "Awareness and Attitude Towards Open Access Among Teaching Staff in Higher Education Institutions in Tamil Nadu." 4(1):1–8.
- [5] Nandi, Atin. 2021. "Library Services during COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis." *International Journal for Research in Applied Science and Engineering Technology* 9(4):858–62. doi: 10.22214/ijraset.2021.33714.
- [5] Prince, G., and P. Saravanan. 2015. "A Study on Awareness and Perception towards Open Access Resources among the Users in the Higher Educational Institutions in Kanyakumari District." *International Journal of Next Generation Library and Technologies* 1(3):1–9.
- [6] Springer nature.(n.d). About open access . Retrived August 05, 2021. from <https://www.springernature.com/gp/open-research/about/green-or-gold-routes-to-oa>
- UNESCO Organisation.(n.d). About UNESCO open access publication. Retrived August 05, 2021 from <https://en.unesco.org/open-access/what-open-access>
- [7] Veena, G. 2016. "Awareness and Use of Open Access Electronic Information Resources By University Students : A Study." *International Journal of Digital Library Services* 6(1):113–20.