

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

L. No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills	Activity
8	Electronic Resources	ICT skills, Sorting and Organisation, Effective Communication, Problem Solving and Decision Making	Use of computers and related technologies, Databases and Information searching, Interacting with information sources in on internet

Summary

Electronic resources are increasingly becoming important to all kinds of modern libraries. The library and information professionals are required to be ICT literate as these skills will enable use of computers and related technologies to meet personal, educational and information

Electronic resources (or e-resources) are materials in digital format accessible electronically. Examples of e-resources are electronic journals (e-journals), electronic books (e-books), online databases in varied digital formats, web pages, etc.

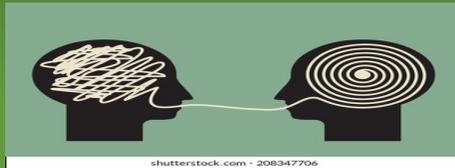
Advantages of electronic resources include - Time saving, Cheaper than print materials, Multi-access, Helps to reduce the burden of library staff and reduces storage space.

Electronic resource management is the practice and technique used by librarians and library staff to track the selection, acquisition, licensing, access, maintenance, usage, evaluation, retention and continuation of a library's electronic information resources.

This lesson discusses the concept and importance of e-resources and deals with different types of e-resources, their advantages and disadvantages.

Principal Points

- Electronic information resources are information resources provided in electronic form, and these include resources available on the Internet such as e-books e-journals, online database, CD-ROM databases and other computer –based electronic networks, among others.
- Libraries are actively procuring e- resources, besides the print collection for their users. The users prefer e- resources because of the convenience which they offer to them.
- The e- resources can be accessed from anywhere. Large number of resources can be searched in one go through a single search interface; hypertext and links in e- resources further lead the users to the related content.
- The different types of e-resources are, E-books, E-journals, E-Databases, E-conference proceedings, E-Reports, E-Maps, E-Pictures/Photographs, E-Manuscripts, E-Theses, E-Newspaper, Internet/Websites-Listservs, Newsgroups, Subject Gateways, USENET, FAQs etc.
- There are publishers, vendors and aggregators who provide e- resources to the libraries through different businesses and access models.
- While the printed resources are owned by the libraries, e- resources are not owned by the libraries. Libraries have to subscribe them and only have access rights for them.



Build your Understanding

The e-resources assist to deliver the sources to their user in a very fast manner in order to enable saving the user time. Due to enhanced use of e-resources, the usage of paper material has reduced to a large extent.

Librarians are attempting to choose electronic resources to optimize access and value for their users.

What's



1. Chief advantage of electronic resources is their multi-access. It means that a networked product can provide multiple points of access at multiple points in time and to multiple simultaneous user.
2. Library will be equipped with latest technologies and librarians will be well prepared to handle technologies. Relationship with users will suffer as human touch will be missing especially to library users.
3. Librarians' image and credibility will increase due to fast information delivery and dissemination to users.
4. Technical barriers to use e-resources include – need for latest technologies, psychological barriers, cost and policies



- The Internet, as an electronic information resource, enables the library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection. It allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe
- Factors to be considered in managing electronic resources include scope, cost, and number of users benefiting from the resource.
- The management of collections of electronic information resources raises a new set of issues for libraries, but these issues can still fit within the framework of collection development and management. Electronic information resources still need to be selected, acquired, catalogued, made available, and preserved, but in radically different ways from traditional print materials.
- The question of how best to provide access to each electronic resource has to be fully considered and there is a need to build easy to use and integrated interfaces to electronic resources, which can be supported and updated.

Extend your Horizon

1. Visit the site of Current Contents Connect and capture the screenshot of its homepage. Write the main subjects covered in it.
2. Visit the website of any bibliographic database. Write the name of the database, its URL, content and coverage.

Evaluate Yourself

1. List the advantages of e-resources.
2. In order to access the e-books, what should the users must have ?
3. How do citations and abstracts assist researchers?
4. Define institutional repositories with suitable examples.