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USE OF DIGITAL RESOURCES IN LIBRARIES: A STUDY OF MAHARASHTRA STATE UNIVERSITIES.

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Abstract: Digital Libraries are creating enormous changes in the field of Library and Information Science. The advancement of ICT in Libraries, they involved in collecting, storing, developing the digital contents like Databases, books, journals, newspapers magazines, archives, thesis, conference papers, government papers, research reports, scripts and monographs for more longer access. An objective of the study is mainly to examine the availability, use and satisfaction level of various digital resources in deemed university libraries among the students, researchers, faculties. Survey method was used to elicit data from the respondents, Investigator distributed 190 questionnaires to bring a survey and finally 165 respondents were received back. The investigator took total 165 questionnaires for analysis, tabulated and interpreted in the following sections.

Index Terms - Digital library, Digital Collection, Digitization, Analysis, Information Communication Technology, Benefits.

I. INTRODUCTION

University is unique system in a sense that it caters to educational needs along with the social, cultural and economic needs at large. Maharashtra State Universities have oldest historic presence in India and they have commitment to competitive, professional quality & Academic excellence in higher Education and Research-Development in emerging areas. Each one of these Universities has a pool of talented dedicated faculties and researchers mentoring the younger generation students. They impart application-oriented skills at par with International standards, so as to meet the challenges of Global scenario in innovative, professional job oriented courses. In order to promote excellence in study and research and to ensure equitable development they encourage and equip the aspiring students to succeed in their studies. These Universities provides a platform for enhanced research interaction. They shall, with the involvement of all the stakeholders, namely students-parents, teaching faculty, non-teaching staff, College Principals and Managements, Authorities of various bodies, Government-State & Central, UGC, New Delhi; Industries and Chamber of Commerce; and the People of the Society; try their best in this endeavor, providing best physical infrastructure facilities. As quoted by our former president of India; *Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam—Dream is not what I see when a sleep, it is the one which DOES-NOT allow me to sleep!*

The focused path-forward set by these Universities are expansion, Diversity, quality and Inclusiveness for overall development of the society. University Library is one of the integral parts of their respective Universities and because of the advancement in technologies; they are playing a vital role in disseminating the information to the dynamic needs of the user community in Maharashtra State. Study revealed that all these University libraries in Maharashtra state have adopted advance technologies in their collection development and imparting their services to teaching, learning and research activities.

2. Need for the study:

Maharashtra state has a large number of universities of both technical as well as non technical streams and millions of rupees are spent on the development and on infrastructure. Library is one of the important units in them. It is evident from the facts that the majority of the library budget expenditure is on mainly for the development of digital resources and services. Hence it is important to know at what extent the universities library users attached to the in these libraries have responded to these changes brought in by these new digital technologies.

3. Scope of the Study:

The scope of the study is limited usage and satisfaction of digital Resources among the users of some Selective Maharashtra state Universities.

4. Methodology

The data was obtained from the University librarians of Maharashtra state universities libraries using Questionnaire method. Data obtained about ICT infrastructure availability and digital library development. A total of 190 questionnaires were distributed and 165 were received back. The investigator took total 165 questionnaires for the analysis

5. Objectives of the Study

The present study was designed and carried out to achieve to the following objectives to;

- examine the availability of various digital resources in state university libraries;
- Understand use of digital resources among the students, research scholars and faculty.
- discover and trace the problems while acquiring digital resources;
- understand the problems facing by the users;

6. Review of Literature

Kwadzo (2015) conducted a survey on Awareness and Usage of Electronic Databases, in this study 96.9% students were aware of electronic databases, 68.8% of students known by their lecturers and 62.5% mentioned that they came to know about e-databases from Library website. The study revealed that 80.6% Postgraduate students and 93.3% Faculty members were making use of freely available e -resources through internet using search engines whereas 70% Ph.D.

Scholars preferred the use of e-journals which is conducted by **Priyadarshini, Jankiraman and Subramaniam (2015)**. **Roopa and Krishnamurthy (2015)** pointed libraries were subscribing more e-journals as compared to e books. The majority of 97.3% librarians had supported and encouraged the users to use online lecture notes. The institutional repository facility had been provided by 57.3% libraries. For the maximum utilization of digital information resources, the information search service had been provided by the libraries.

Singh and Khan (2015) opined that majority of users visited the libraries web sites and used the library resources and services and preferred to use electronic resources to search the information.

Ajayi, Shorunke and Aboyade (2014) conducted a survey to find the Influence of Electronic Resources Use on Students' Reading Culture in Nigerian universities. 88.68% respondents used the electronic resources ,90.57% respondents agreed that electronic resources improved their reading habits. 71.17% respondents agreed that they would like to prefer electronic resources to print resources. The poor internet connectivity felt by 73.11% respondents is the major hindrance in effective use of electronic resources whereas 46.69% respondents considered that inadequate skill to use e-resources is the major hindrance to make optimum and effective use of electronic resources in the library.

7.0 Data Interpretation and analysis:

A detailed questionnaire was sent to the state university Libraries and also visited to these University libraries to get their feedback.

Table no 1: Distribution of Respondents and Rate of Response

Categories of Respondents	Distributed Questionnaire	Received Responses	Percentage
Students	120	111	92.5%
Research Scholar	45	36	80%
Faculty Member	25	18	72%
Total	190	165	86.84%

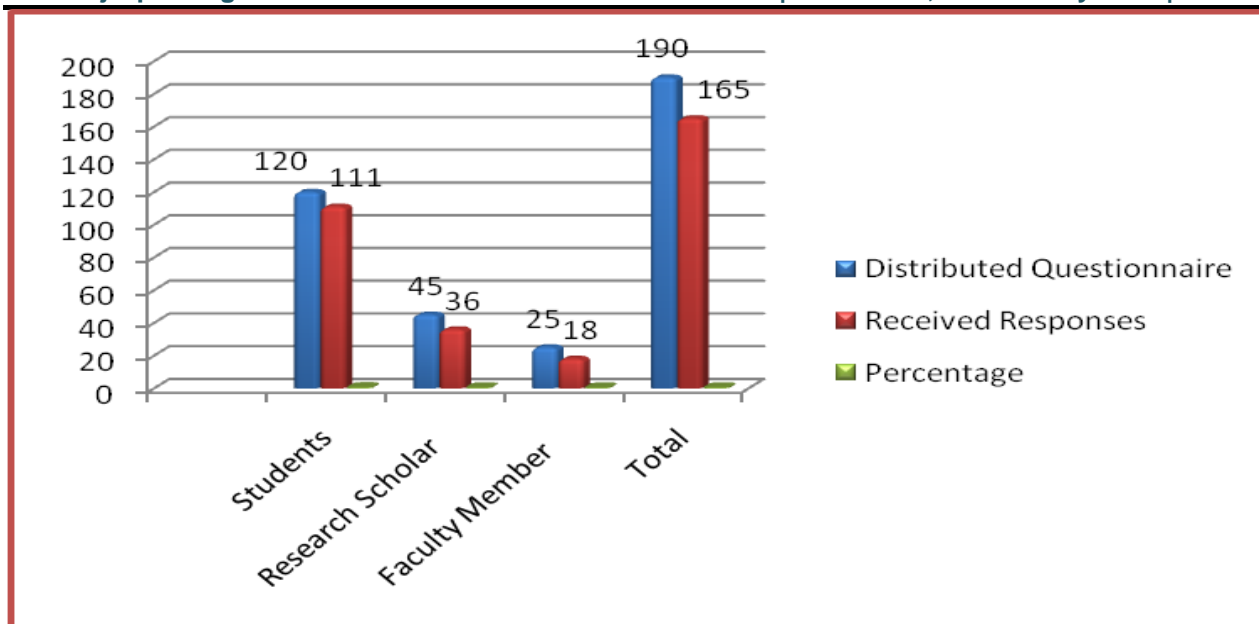


Chart.No.01

The table 1 indicates the distribution category and response rate of students, Research Scholars, and faculty members. Students' respondent is high (92.5%) whereas response rate of research scholars is low (80%), and faculty members has responded (72%).

Table No 2: Types of Digital Resources Used

Digital resources	Most Frequently	Frequently	Uncertain	Less Frequently	Do not use	Total
E-Journals	46 (27.88%)	35 (21.21%)	31 (18.19%)	28 (16.97%)	25 (15.15%)	165 (100%)
E-Books	62 (37.58%)	32 (19.39%)	28 (16.97%)	22 (13.33%)	21 (12.73%)	165 (100%)
E-Reports (annual, statistical, research, survey, and technical)	51 (30.91%)	41 (24.85%)	30 (18.18%)	23 (13.94%)	20 (12.12%)	165 (100%)
CD ROM Databases	57 (34.55%)	42 (25.45%)	35 (21.21%)	16 (9.70%)	15 (9.09%)	165 (100%)
Electronic Theses and Dissertations	48 (29.09%)	38 (23.03%)	33 (20.00%)	25 (15.15%)	21 (12.73%)	165 (100%)
Reference Sources	51 (30.91%)	43 (26.06%)	30 (18.18%)	25 (15.15%)	16 (9.70%)	165 (100%)
Audio – Visual Resources	55 (33.33%)	38 (23.03%)	31 (18.79%)	21 (12.73%)	20 (12.12%)	165 (100%)

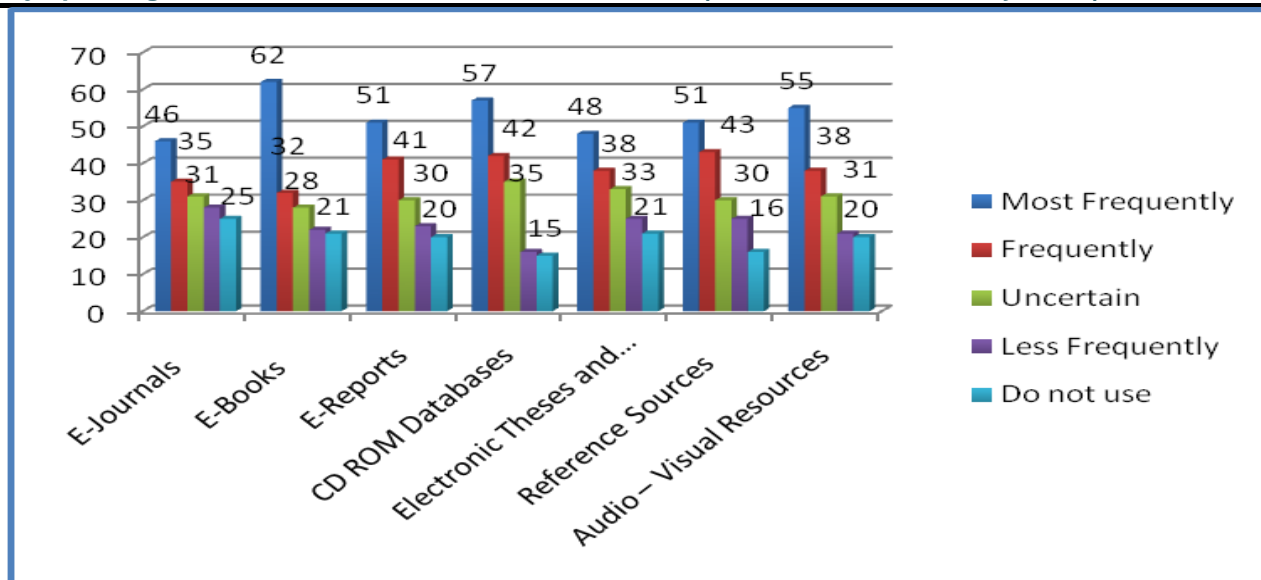


Chart.No.02 Types of Digital Resources Used

Chart 2 depicts the types of digital resources used by the respondents, 37.78% of them uses most frequently E-books, 26.06% of them uses reference resources frequently. Moreover, most of them frequently using E-Journals 16.97%, and only less frequently of respondents not even used above listed services.

Table No 3: Purpose of Using Digital Resources

Purpose of using digital resources	Respondents(n=165)	%
To write articles/research papers	95	57.57%
Searching course related material	101	61.21%
For research work /project /dissertation/Theses	115	69.69%
To update the subject knowledge and keep abreast with the latest developments	105	63.63%
Access full text articles	93	56.36%

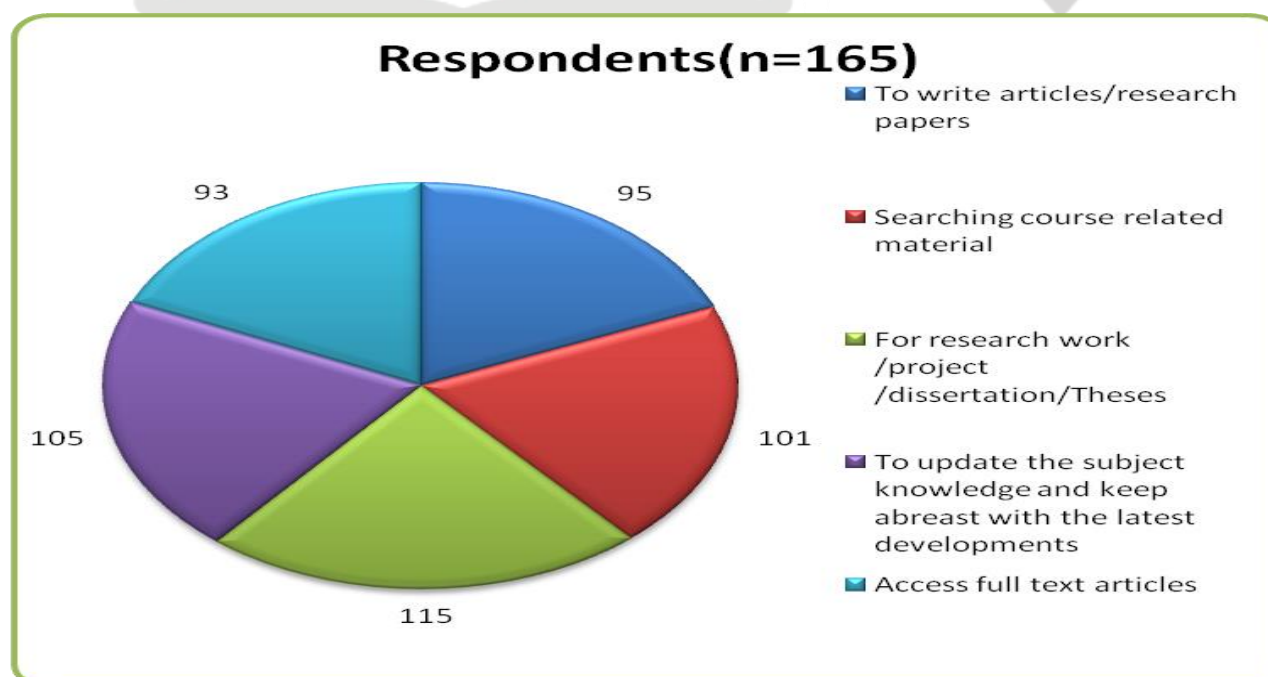
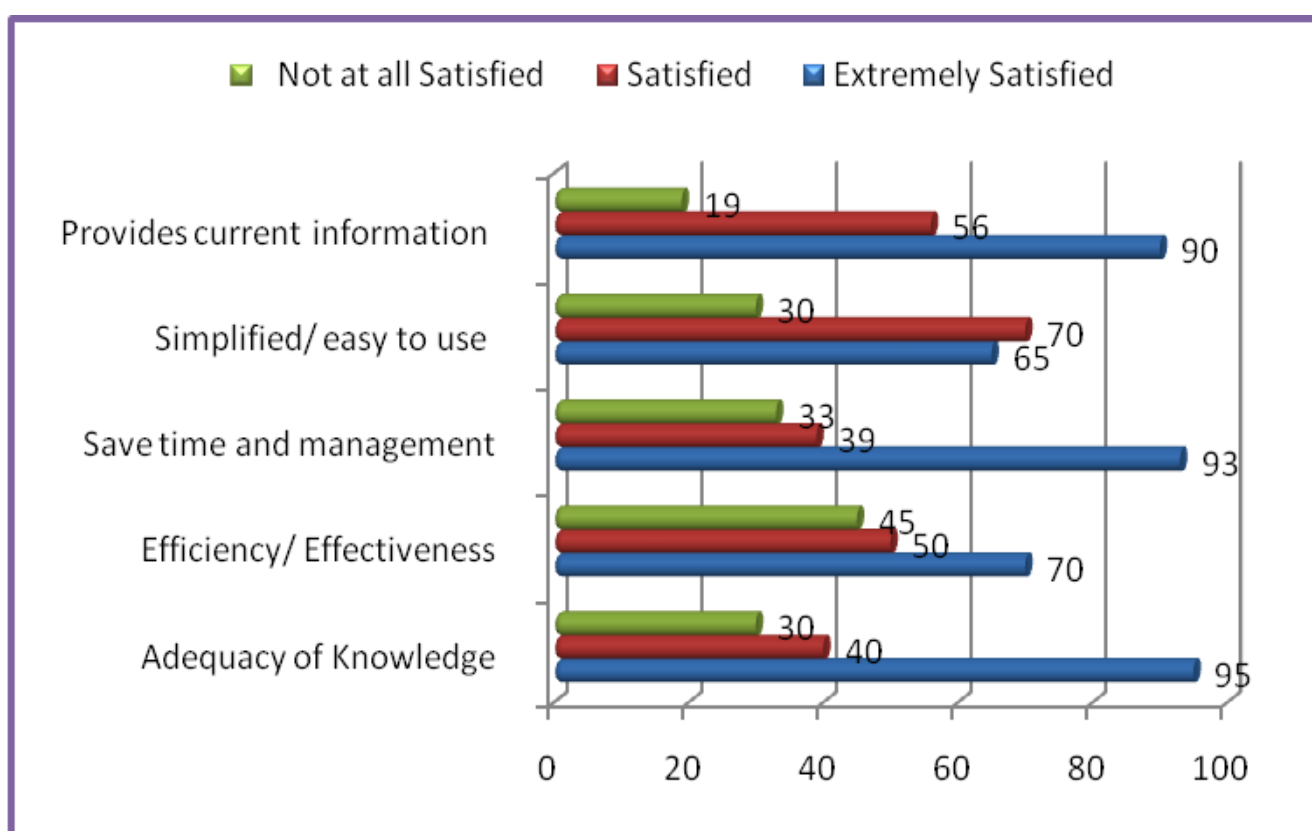


Chart.No.03 Purpose of Using Digital Resources

The table 3 shows that the purpose of using digital resources, 115 (69.69%) of the respondents use digital resources for research work, projects, Theses and dissertations. 105 (63.63%) of the respondents use the digital resources to update their subject knowledge and to keep abreast of the latest developments in their area of interest. To search course related material 101 (61.21%) of them are using digital resources, to write articles and research papers 95 (57.57%) is using digital resources. To access the full text articles 93 (56.36%).

Table No 4: Satisfaction Level of Digital Resource

Satisfaction Level of Digital Resource	Extremely Satisfied	Satisfied	Not at all Satisfied	Total
Adequacy of Knowledge	95 (57.57%)	40 (24.24%)	30 (18.18%)	165 (100%)
Efficiency/ Effectiveness	70 (42.42%)	50 (30.30%)	45 (27.27%)	165 (100%)
Save time and management	93 (56.36%)	39 (23.63%)	33 (20%)	165 (100%)
Simplified/ easy to use	65 (39.39%)	70 (42.42%)	30 (18.18%)	165 (100%)
Provides current information	90 (54.54%)	56 (33.93%)	19 (11.51%)	165 (100%)

**Chart.No.04** Satisfaction Level of Digital Resource

It is revealed from the above table no 4, the satisfaction level of digital resource among the respondents 95(57.57%) are extremely satisfied on the adequacy of knowledge on digital resource, 70 (42.42%) of the respondents are satisfied with the simplified/ easy to use of digital resource, Efficiency and effectiveness of the digital resource does not satisfy the users 45 (27.27%).

Table no 5: Barriers to Digital Resource Use

Problems with Digital resources.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Lack of knowledge and expertise in search and retrieve	68 (41.21%)	42 (25.45%)	35 (21.21%)	20 (12.21%)	165 (100%)
Copy protected electronic content	55 (33.33%)	35 (21.21%)	44 (26.66%)	31 (18.78%)	165 (100%)
Available digital resource is not adequate	35 (21.21%)	27 (16.36%)	54 (32.72%)	49 (29.69%)	165 (100%)
Poor network connectivity /slow download speed	40 (24.24%)	25 (15.15%)	42 (25.45%)	58 (35.15%)	165 (100%)
Information overload/irrelevance	61 (36.96%)	46 (27.87%)	34 (20.60%)	24 (14.54%)	165 (100%)
Lack of time to retrieve the huge information	38 (23.03%)	62 (37.57%)	33 (20%)	32 (19.39%)	165 (100%)

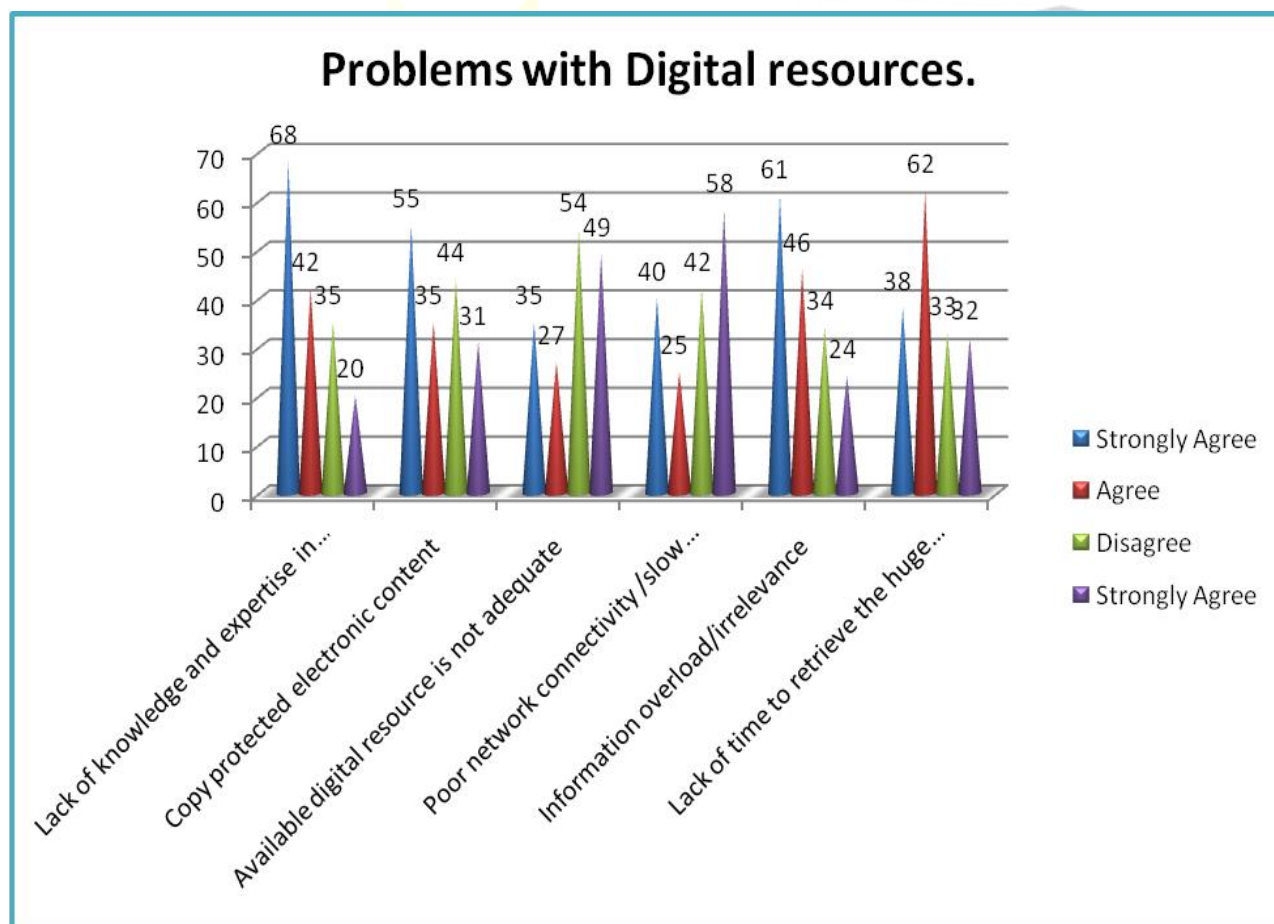


Chart.No.05 Barriers to Digital Resource Use

In Table 5, 68 (41.21%) respondents strongly agree that they face problems when using digital resources due to lack of knowledge and expertise in search and retrieve information on the internet, 62 (37.57%) agreed that lack of time to retrieve the huge information 54 (32.72%) disagree about the copy protected electronic content and 58 (35.15%) strongly disagreed about the poor network connectivity /slow download speed.

8.0 Conclusion:

In the present day, libraries are at the crossroads of development. Library Professionals need to adapt and implement new thought/ technologies, digitize the existing collections and select quality resources which are scattered in different libraries, archives and knowledge centres in the world. This study brought an overview of usage and satisfaction of digital resources at state university libraries. It has huge amount of collections to serve their users in libraries. It supports to educational and research programs of the

universities by providing digital and physical information, consistent with the present and the anticipated educational and research functions of the universities.

9.0 Recommendation:

Based on the findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations are therefore made.

1. The university management should strive to make an effort to upgrade the digital library system to be more users friendly so that it will be easier to use by students.
2. The universities can also organize a kind of training workshop at least once in a semester. For the researcher scholar, students and also staff members in order to enable them effectively utilize and benefit from this new library technology.
3. The library management should provide a feedback stock which will serve as a means for users' responses on the performance of each digital item or content and the level of satisfaction derived.

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