PREFACE

Web has become a preferred medium for discovery and delivery of information and web resources have emerged as a major source for a variety of scientific and scholarly information. The emergence of web resources has led to more efficient and productive ways of knowledge sharing and scholarly communication making them an important vehicle and a spontaneous choice for various research and academic activities.

The proliferation of web resources has brought revolutionary changes in the realm of academic research and learning. Web resources have been significant in revolutionizing the global research trend. Web resources have presented users with a stimulating environment for research and learning by modernizing the tools of learning as well as, the process of research moreover, the web resources are playing a crucial role in scholarly communication by expediting the process of scholarly communication thus overcoming the publication delays.

Web resources are very efficiently serving the purpose for which they are used by the research community however, with the technological advancements preferences and choices of researchers and scholars change regarding the use of web resources in order to keep up with the current research trend. Thus, it is indispensable to explore the current picture regarding the use of web resources among the researchers.

In this context, the present study was formulated to examine the use of web resources by researchers. The study is aimed at exploring and presenting a valuable insight on different aspects related to the use of web resources by the scholarly community.

The literature review manifests that no comprehensive study has been conducted on the scholarly use of web resources in University of Delhi (DU), Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). In this context, the present study attempts to explore the dynamics of web resources use by the researchers of the select universities.

The originality and significance of the study lies in the fact that it portrays the current picture regarding the use of web resources. The study explored the scholarly use of web resources by researchers as they constitute the core group of the users of
web resources. The study will be significant in developing an understanding about the various important issues related to the use of web resources by researchers such as the awareness and use of web resources; purpose and frequency of using web resources; an analysis of the various features of the web resources; hindrances and problems faced by the users in the use of web resources; queries related to search and access of web resources; impact of web resources on researchers; evaluation of web resources and importance of training and guidance in utilization of web resources.

The present work intends to provide some valuable suggestions derived from the findings of the study. Study will be beneficial in enhancing the research and learning experience of researchers by presenting them with better designed web resources that can be developed as a result of the present study.

The entire research work runs into five chapters. *The First Chapter* provides the outline and nature of research study undertaken the statement of the problem, definitions, objectives, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study. The research methodology adopted in conducting the study is also explained.

*Second Chapter* is enriched with an exhaustive and comprehensive literature review of all the related literature. It highlights the research work taking place worldwide. For this purpose a variety of documents such as electronic journals, print journals, books, seminar and conference proceedings were consulted.

*Chapter Third* presents an insight into the origin of the web resources explaining the concept of web resources along with the definitions. The chapter also highlights the significance of web resources in research and learning also, explaining the impact of web resources on researchers. Moreover, the advantages and various types of web resources are also explained.

*Chapter Four* highlights the need for the evaluation of web resources. It also reviews the various established criteria that have been formulated and presented by various scholars over a period of time for the evaluation of information and suggests the criteria that should be considered for the proper and productive utilization of the web resources.

*Chapter Five* deals with the analysis and interpretation of data. The chapter analyses the collected data and proposes findings based on the interpretation of the
data collected from the respondents which comprised of the researchers of the select universities.

Chapter Six presents the major findings of the study on the basis of analysis and interpretation of data. On the basis of findings derived from the study some suggestions along with the recommendations for future research have also been provided.

List of bibliography and appendices have been provided in the last part of the thesis. Appendix-A contains print version of the questionnaire administered to the researchers and copy of online questionnaire has been appended as Appendix-B. Data tables have been appended as Appendix-C (C1 to C9). The profiles of universities under the study have been attached as Appendix-D.

The researcher has published a paper entitled “Awareness and Use of Web Resources among the Post Graduate Engineering Students of ZHCET, Aligarh Muslim University (A.M.U), Aligarh” based on the study area.