SUMMARY OF THESIS

The application of ICT has drastically transformed the way of collection, storage and retrieval of information in libraries. It has an impact on every sphere of library activities. E-resources have already been made available across populations without any discrimination. E-resources have brought new possibilities in to the classroom and research, at the same time they have placed more demands in libraries. In IT era, no library can meet the requirements of users with printed sources of information. The internet can be used for efficient retrieval and meeting information needs. E-resources are now considered as being of great importance to all types of libraries and they are decreasing a large share of library budgets. These resources have solved the problem of space. Today, the library’s e-resources include e-journals, e-books, e-reference works, scholarly databases, on-line conference proceedings, e-thesis/dissertations etc. Among these e-journals as well as aggregated e-journal databases from the major chunk of digital collections in libraries are growing at a phenomenal rate.

All types of libraries are not capable of acquiring every publication and providing it to the users on demand. Libraries have started library cooperation, i.e. inter-library loan, resources sharing and library consortium. Traditionally, library cooperation was done through print media alone. Recent developments in ICT have led to change in way of library cooperation. Consortia may be formed and implemented at regional, state, national and international
levels. Some of library consortia set up in India are: UGC-INFONET, INDEST, Inter University Canters, FORSA, HELINET, CSIR e-journal consortium. Apart from the mentioned consortia, there have been efforts to setup similar kind of consortia to provide and access e-resources.

This research focuses on the use of e-resources by the users of chemistry and physics in the universities of Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh. The main aim of the study was to know awareness of e-resources, identify the needs and requirements of users, to identify problems faced by users and to suggest measures for improving the use of e-resources. The study was limited to the Universities of Haryana (viz. Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra; Maharishi Dyanand University, Rohtak ;), Punjab (viz. Punjabi University Patiala; Gurunank Dev University, Amritsar), and Chandigarh (viz. Punjab University, Chandigarh.) to study e-resources provided to users of these libraries; a survey was designed to collect basic information about the level of use of e-resources as well as other factors contributing to and associated with their use. A well-structured questionnaire was administered among PG students, research scholars and faculty to collect the necessary primary data, keeping in view the objectives of the study. The questionnaire were distributed to 712 users and 589 (80.87%) were received back.

The collected data has been analyzed with the help of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). Statistical method like Chi-Square was used.
The study finds many aspects of e-resources use among users. It has been found that out of the total respondents, 39% chemists and 35.53% physicists were aware about the library’s e-resources. Chemists were more aware about e-resources as compared to physicists. Majority of respondents (53.49% chemists and 49.6% physicists) from PU, Chandigarh and GNDU, Amritsar (40% chemists and 34.52% physicists) were more aware about library’s e-resources as compared to other three universities. Out of the total users of the five universities maximum number of chemists i.e. 96(33.68%) are aware about the consortium subscribed by their library as compared to physicists with 92(30.26%). Maximum number of users i.e. chemists (51.16%) and physicists (43.40%) from PU, Chandigarh and 34.78% chemists and 29.55% physicists KU, Kurukshetra are more using consortium as compared to the users of other universities. Maximum number of user are in favour of both formats i.e. print and electronic for seeking information.

The result reveals that from the total respondents, majority of users i.e. 20.35% chemists and 20.06% physicists use e-journals. Likewise, majority of respondents i.e. 18.24% chemists and 18.75% physicists are using online conference proceedings. Less number of users i.e. 5.61% chemists and 6.25% physicists preferred to consult databases in their respective fields. None of users responded for blog and open source literature. It has been found from the total respondents that majority of respondents of both the subjects of all the five universities were using American Chemical Society with 27.16% followed by Science Direct
with 15.58%. The results from the study reveal that more users use e-resources more for the purpose of research needs and seeking current information as compared to fulfill other purposes.

Time consuming, slow speed of connectivity and lack of trained staff are the hindrances in seeking information. From the total respondents, 16.49% chemists and 21.05% physicists felt the problem of time consuming in accessing internet, while 18.95% chemists and 21.05% physicists felt the problem of slow speed. Majority of users (i.e. 16.84% chemists and 20.06% physicists) encountered the problem due to lack of trained staff in their respective libraries. 278(48.01%) users responded that they need training for making proper use of e-resources. From the total survey, majority of users i.e. 17.19% chemists and 17.76% physicists were moderately satisfied with the use of e-resources. 85.61% chemists and 85.85% physicists were in favour of imparting training to make proper use of e-resources.

A few suggestions have put to promote the use of e-resources that all the five universities must ensure the bandwidth capacity, so that to increase internet speed. Maintenance of terminals is must to enhance the use capacity. Many e-journals are available only with abstract, universities must subscribe full text as per the demands of users. Demonstrations should be organized periodically from the vendors. Orientation programmes for users should be conducted to maximize the utilization of e-resources.