CHAPTER-5

Suggestions and Conclusion
5.1 Introduction

In mankind’s quest for acquiring, utilizing and propagating knowledge, e-resources has been the lifeblood of scholarly communication. In the emerging ICT driven knowledge society of the twenty first century, access to e-resources has emerged as a critical component for all-round growth in all areas of academic and scientific endeavour.

E-resources are the best means of getting current and up-to-date information. The library environment has currently undergone drastic changes in terms of collections and services. The proliferation of e-resources had a significant impact on the way the academic community uses stores and preserves information. The advantages of e-resources have drawn attention of the library users to a great extent. Accordingly, these resources have occupied a significant place in the collection and budget of almost all libraries.

The fast growth of information and communication technologies and particularly the Internet and electronic resources have changed the traditional method of research, storage, retrieval and communication of scholarly information. There is little doubt that e-resources have played a vital role and changed the way of seeking and disseminating information for faculty members. The use of e-resources in electronic environment becomes more readily available in electronic format. In this environment, these resources open up many exciting opportunities and have already brought revolutionary transition in library philosophy.

5.2 Suggestions

There is no doubt that e-resources has assumed the role of providing a medium of scientific information and today’s users can no longer depend only on conventional information resources to cope with the latest developments in their respective fields. Based on the responses and suggestions given by the respondents and on the findings of the study, the following suggestions are put forwarded to improve and maximize the optimum utilization of e-resources among the faculty members which are listed as follows:
The University networking and Internet service need to be strengthened by improving the bandwidth for quick access to the available e-resources.

Besides UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium, more e-resources in various disciplines need to be subscribed.

The Central Library needs to arrange various users’ orientation programmes for faculty members for the optimum use of available e-resources.

E-books and other e-resources should be acquired by the library besides e-journals and databases.

More high speed computer terminals should be installed in various departments, departmental libraries, computer laboratories with access to Internet.

Library may provide content updates of e-resources to the faculty members at regular intervals.

Wi-Fi campus needs to be developed so that faculty members can use online e-resources and Internet within the campus according to their suitability.

Library should conduct users’ survey to know the usage of e-resources and the future needs of the users particularly the faculty members from time to time.

5.3 Scope for further research

Faculty members are dependent on e-resources for their required information and to keep themselves up-to-date in their subject area. Though some expects that the role of libraries as a gateway to the e-resources will have less importance in future as faculty members access more and more e-resources in their respective departments or personal desktop or laptop, it seems to be more hypothetical. Rather the role libraries in the age of e-resources will increase
tremendously, particularly in providing training and guidance to use authentic and relevant information.

The findings of the study offer several new areas which could be the themes of further scope of research on the related topics. It may help to strengthen and widen the findings of the present study. The present research will lead to the know the users behavior, information needs, usage statistics of electronic resources those can be carried out for research scholars of various academic departments so as to strengthen the library with adequate electronic resources including developing of databases and digital repositories in the Mizoram University. Further, the work will facilitate the university under study to gear up the services including the professional competency building to facilitate the web-based services in future.

The following are some of the emerging scope of research resulting from the present research problem which can contribute to scientific and innovative study in the knowledge domain.

- Competency development among the library users and professionals on use of electronic resources.
- Developing skills among the library professionals in organization of e-resources.
- Acquaintance with the functional elements of open source software in building digital repositories in the library.
- Marketizing the information products and services through e-resources for societal development.
- Sustainable quality services among the Central Libraries through e-resources.
- Facilitating organizational knowledge work through web based information systems: An investigation of the information ecology and information behavior of users in electronic environment.
5.4 Conclusion

Electronic resources have exploded in popularity and use. They can and do enable innovation in research as well as increase discovery and creation of new fields of inquiry. Other reason for academicians to use e-resources include keeping up-to-date in their field. Users often prefer increased access to databases of online journals and to the web- which provides information that are up to the minute, international in scope and sometimes not available elsewhere and they see these resources as easier to access and search.

Availability of e-resources has changed what users actually read and use. They now tend to use only what is easily accessible. These resources need to be harnessed and utilized properly. It is noted that there is a significant use of electronic information sources mainly for teaching and research purposes, and it is quite natural that the respondents have given priority for this purpose. Faculty members’ attitude seems to be positive towards e-resources for their teaching and research and the role of libraries as gateways to provide assistance in accessing these resources.

The influence of e-resources on teaching and research depends in large measure not on technology, but how users choose to use it. The availability and the ease of accessibility of information make the faculty members to use the e-resources more frequently. The future of research lies precisely here, at the nexus between the faculties and the optimum utilization of e-resources. This study also shows that sufficiency of increased availability of computer systems and speed of Internet may enhance the use of e-resources more effectively and efficiently.

Library professionals should encourage the faculty members about the glaring impact of e-resources and their importance to the teaching and research programmes so that it would create a solid ground for a digital learning environment and fulfill the main goal of the library to provide maximum facilities to the readers and serve the clientele with right information at right time in right way without wasting much of their time. To get maximum benefit of these materials, one has to pay conscious effort
to keep pace with the changes taking place in the information communication scenario. The academic institutions and libraries should also facilitate the maximum use of these e-resources, hence the relevance of information literacy programme.
References


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