Use of CeRA Journals and their Impact on Agriculture Scholars
A Case Study of S. K. N. Agriculture University, Jobner (Rajasthan)

Dr. K. M. Krishna
Deputy Librarian
S. K. N. Agriculture University, Jobner (Rajasthan).
kmkskn@gmail.com

Abstract

This study is to examine the impact of CeRA (Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture) use during 2014-15 to 2016-17 by the Agriculture Scholars and Scientists of S. K. N. Agriculture University, Jobner (Rajasthan). The study reveals an increasing trend in the use of CeRA products (i. e. J-Gate, Cabdirect and IndianJournals.com) by the scholars from 2014-15 to 2016-17. IndianJournals.com has been widely used by both the Scholars and Scientists (38.0%) making most productive use of India-based agriculture research studies .The Chi-square analysis shows that there is significant difference in the use of CeRA consultation by the Agriculture Scientist and Scholars during 2014-15 and 2016-17. But in 2015-16 Scholars and Scientists were not seriously involved in making use of CeRA journals. Both the Scholars and Scientists opined that the major hindrances in the use of CeRA consultation are less usefulness, lack of time etc.

Keywords: *Agriculture Scholars; Chi square test; CeRA, ICAR, SKNAU, Jobner*

1. Introduction

A library consortium is a formal association among the libraries which may or may not have cooperative agreement among groups or institutions. A library consortium could be of local, national or international levels. Its scope is very wide due to the increasing growth of information and communication technology. Nowadays, library consortia have become intrinsic element of academic circles and their resources are widely used by the researchers and academicians. The most popular e-consortia and databases available to the researchers and scholars are ERMED, HELINET, NTRMEDNET, MUHS, E-ShodhSindhu, J-Gate, CSIR, SCOPUS, ICMR, ProQuest, Medline Complete, InfoTrac Collections, DAE, ICAR (CeRA), World eBooks, Web of Science etc. These consortium trends have helped in teaching learning, research and ranking of publication activities to all leading scientists, researchers and teaching community to a large extent at affordable prices.

2. Literature Review

Various studies have been made on the utility aspects of library consortia or consortia. Awadhesh Singh Gautam and Manoj Kumar Sinha (2017) explored the use of e-resources by the research scholars and teachers of Allahabad University. The study investigated to what extent the available e-resources are being utilized by the library users and what are their awareness level, usage pattern, preference of the publishers /journals etc. The findings of the study reveals that the library users belonging to younger generation have adopted the Internet, online / offline electronic resources or web resources very quickly and at the same time the elderly library users are not comfortable using Internet , social media and e-resources. They rely more on the traditional printed resources. In order to make the optimum use of the e-resources available for the university library users through consortia, extensive and frequent users awareness programmes needs to be organised by the library in collaboration with INFLIBNET and other agencies.

Mukesh C. Bharti (2015) examined the role of medical library and the ICT tools in context to medical information research and supported the need of consortium development to fulfil requirement of medical users. He also narrated that consortiums are very helpful to medical users, and online medical resources are only tool to fulfill the information needs of health professionals. The study of Kumbar, Anuradha G. Kotabagi and Manohar B. Lamani (2014) explored the different types of electronic resources used by science research scholars, Karnatak University, Dharwad, the purposes and frequency of using electronic

resources and the problems faced by the students while accessing and using the electronic resources in the university through a structured questionnaire to elicit the opinion of the science research scholars.

Tripathi and Sunil Kumar (2014) described the use of e-resources at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), those are being offered through the University Grant Commission – Information and Library Network (UGC-INFONET) consortium. The study used quantitative approach to express utilization of e-resources in terms of number of downloads of full text research papers from Project Muse, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Springer Links, Taylor and Francis and JSTOR databases, accessible through the UGC-INFONET consortium.

Hulagabali, S. C. (2012) studied the various aspects like advantages, disadvantages, features and utilities of the library consortium along with different models of open consortia, closed consortia, funding , Publisher Consortia Model and National Consortia and suggested that the consortium is useful, but challenging at policy and implementation levels. He also highlighted all such issues related with consortia along with suggestive solutions. Sunil Goria (2012) revealed that many scholarly international e-journals are now accessible in Indian libraries under consortium mode. Government has been spending sufficient amount of money to provide access of e-resource to Indian libraries through consortia mode for their users. So it is essential that every user should be oriented from the latest technologies to maximize use of e-resources in minimum efforts.

Varaprasad (2010) discussed on need for e-journal consortium along with types, advantages and disadvantages of a consortium and problems faced by the consortia. Moorthy (2009) described that the prohibitive cost of library material, especially foreign journals, pertaining to science and technology, has always been a bane of information centers, especially in the developing countries, taking away large chunk of their meager resources and therefore always a hindrance to provide better services to the users. Libraries tried to bridge this gap by borrowing and inter lending required documents among themselves. Advances in information and communication technology (ICT) have changed the publication scenario as well as the mode of resource sharing due to availability of e-journals and online resources. Kunwar Singh & Bhaskar Rao (2008) emphasized the importance of library consortia or consortium in India in context to resource sharing among libraries through inter library loan services. Patil, Y. M. (2008) investigated the necessity of forming Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics (FORSA), with the objective to participate actively in library cooperation, information exchange and sharing resources of each library.

3. Data Collection and Method of Study

The present study is based on the number of hits (i.e. 135035) pertaining to use of CeRA databases by the Agriculture Scientists and Scholars of SKNAU, Jobner. All sampled data has been collected from web surfing report generated through Cyberraom (UTM) during 2014-15 to 2016-17 .The collected data pertaining to present work has been analyzed, tabulated, presented and statistically interpreted. Chi-Square analysis has been carried out to check whether there is any difference in the use of CeRA databases by the Agriculture Scientist and Scholars in different periods.

4. Objectives

The present study has been made to know the usage of CeRA online resources. The present study involves following objectives:

- To find out use pattern of CeRA journals by the Agriculture Scholars and
- Scientist
- To study periodic consultation of CeRA journals by the Agriculture Scholars and Scientist
- To know the effective usage of CeRA products by both Agriculture Scholars and Scientist with the application of chi square study.

5. Analysis and Interpretation

The present study has been carried out with the help of data collected by survey method and all data pertaining to various attributes have been collected and analyzed in Table 1 and 2.The details are summarized figures 1 & 2.

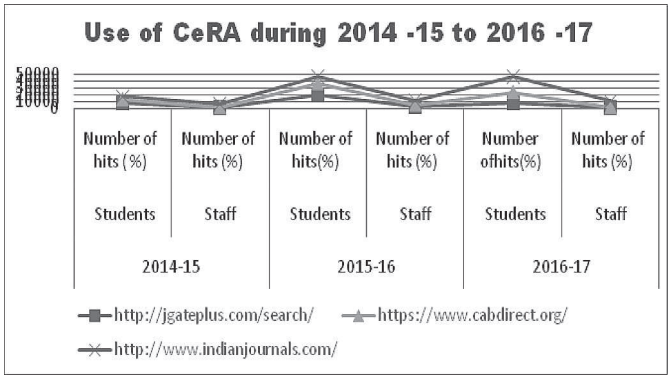

Fig. 1.

Use of CeRA during 2014-15 to 2016-17

Table 1

Use of CeRA by Agriculture Scientists and Scholars

CeRA database Journals	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		Total (%)
	Agriculture Scholars **Number of hits (%)**	Agriculture Scientist **Number of hits (%)**	Agriculture Scholars **Number of hits (%)**	Agriculture Scientist **Number of hits (%)**	Agriculture Scholars **Number of hits (%)**	Agriculture Scientist **Number of hits (%)**	
http://jgateplus.com/ search/	7786	890	19605	3122	7143	729	**39275 (29.0)**
https://www.cabdirect. org/	5561	1112	17346	2107	16786	1173	**44085 (33.0)**
http://www. indianjournals.com/	3337	3559	8628	5863	22275	8013	**51675 (38.0)**
Total	16684	5561	45579	11092	46204	9915	**135035 (100.00)**
Percentage (%)	**12.3**	**4.0**	**34.00**	**8.2**	**34.2**	**7.3**	**100.00`**

Table 2

Use of CeRA products by scholars during 2014-15 to 2016-17

CeRA database Journals	**2014-15**	**2015-16**	**2016-17**	**Total (%)**
	Use Percentage of Agriculture Scholars and Scientists			
http://jgateplus.com/search/	8676 (6.0)	22727 (17.0)	7872 (6.0)	29.0
https://www.cabdirect.org/	6673 (5.0)	19453 (15.0)	17959 (13.0)	33..0
http://www.indianjournals.com/	6896 (5.0)	14491 (11.0)	30288 (22.0)	38.00
Total	**22245 (16.0)**	**56671 (43.0)**	**56119 (41.0)**	**100.00**

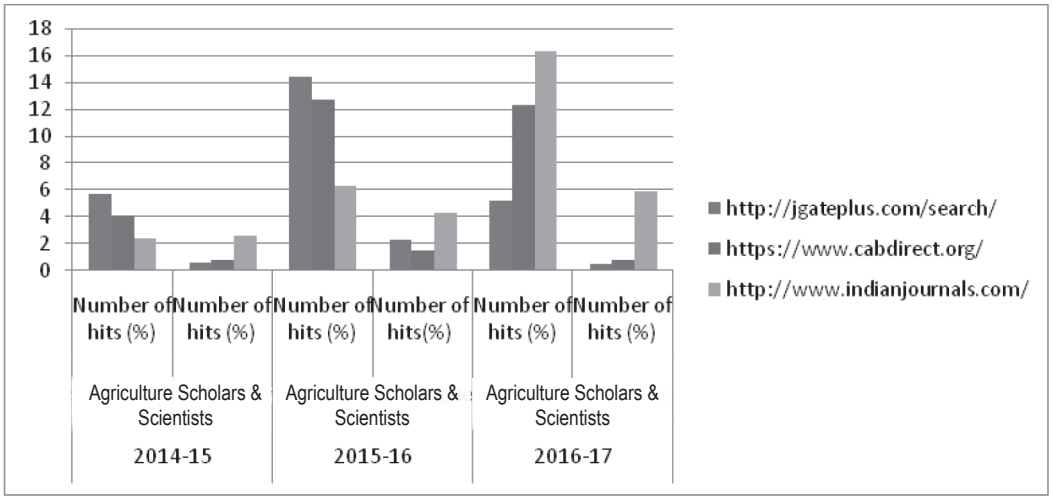

Fig. 2.

CeRA use pattern by scholars and scientists during 2014-15 to 2016-17

Table 1&2 and Figure 1&2 show the percentile use of CeRA products i. e. J-Gate, Cabdirect and IndianJournals. com consulted by both Scientists and Scholars during 2014-15 to 2016-17. Periodic use of CeRA products i. e. J-Gate, Cabdirect and IndianJournals.com by Agriculture scholars reveals an increasing trend of maximum consultation (43.00%) in 2015-16 and least in 2014 -15 (16.00). IndianJournals.com has been widely used by the Agriculture Scholars and Scientists (38.0%) indicating their highest use in research studies. It implicates that Indian journals are most useful and essential tool in Indian agriculture research studies.

In Table 3, the Chi-square values show that there is significant difference in the use of CeRA by the Agriculture Scientists and Scholars during 2014-15 and 2016-17. The use of CeRA products are not due to choice and in accordance with provision of services making CeRA journals productive and effective for the use of research activities and studies. However, during 2015-16, the Chi-square value shows that there is no significant difference in the use of CeRA Journals by Scholars and Scientists. It implicates that both Scholars and Scientists are not seriously involved in making use of CeRA journals in an effective way. It suggests that both Scholars and Scientists have almost similar opinion on the consultation of CeRA journals. It may be due to lack of time or self-interest or less in use during agriculture research studies. It is clear that there is a tendency of increase in the use of CeRA products by the both Scholars and Scientists and it can be concluded that the CeRA products are essential and useful in agriculture research studies.

6. Major Findings

The major outcomes of the present study are as follows:-

- IndianJournals.com has been widely used by the both Scholars and Scientists (38.0%) indicating more use of India-based agriculture research studies.
- Overall the present study implicates that there is an increasing trend in the use of CeRA products (i.e. J-Gate, Cabdirect and IndianJournals.com) both by scholars during 2014-15 to 2016-17 with maximum consultation (43%) in 2015-16 to 2016-17 and least in 2014-15 (16%).
- The calculated value of Chi-square of CeRA consultation by the Agriculture Scientist during 2014-15 (**320.27**) and 2016-17 (**115.02**) have been found much higher than the table value. The table value at 5 df equals to 11.070 (Table 3) indicates that scholars and scientists are independent of using CeRA journals and use of CeRA products is not due to choice.
- The Chi-square values show that there is significant difference in the use of CeRA by the Agriculture Scientists and Scholars during 2014-15 and 2016-17. However, during 2015-16, the Chi-square value shows that there is no significant difference in the use of CeRA Journals by Scholars and Scientists.
- There is a regular tendency of increasing the use of CeRA products by both Scholars and Scientists.

7. Conclusion

Library consortium journals and other databases are best tools to minimize the cost of subscription of individual scholarly printed literature. They also help in maximizing the use of the same. However, there are various consortium related issues like uninterrupted online access, perpetual accesses to back issues, pricing,

Table 3
Year wise use of CeRA between Agriculture scientists and scholars

Student/staff researchers	Consulted period 2014-15		Consulted period 2015-16		Consulted period 2016-17	
	Agriculture Scientists	Agriculture scholars	Agriculture Scientists	Agriculture scholars	Agriculture Scientists	Agriculture scholars
Periodic use of CeRA Database (Percentage)	4.0	12.3	8.2	34.0	7.3	34.2
Chi square values	320.27	78.45	0.30	0.073	115.02	28.17

licensing, copyright and archival solutions etc. which need to be surmounted. These need to be strategically tackled and well addressed to get the best out of the consortia (Sreekumar & Sunitha, 2005). Overall, most of the academic libraries really understand the importance of consortia-based subscription which is cost effective. The efforts taken by E-ShodhSindhu, CeRA Consortium etc. are highly appreciable and will definitely strengthen higher education system in the dissemination of academic and research information in India on a subsidized basis thereby improving the quality of educational institutions at par with their counterparts in the world.

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