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**A study on relationship between E-resources awareness and reading habits of research papers among Research scholars in selected Universities in Andhra Pradesh.**

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**Abstract**

The objective of this research work is to determine the relationship between the level of awareness regarding E-resources and reading habits of research papers among the research scholars in selected state Universities in Andhra Pradesh. This paper also aims to highlight the relationship between e-resources awareness and reading habits of research papers among research scholars. Knowledge acquiring and research are essential for sustaining a developed economy, elevating social needs and inspiring a country to reach new heights in the globe. Education and research, at any time of life span are helpful to provide overall wellness and growth. Research paper reading is an integral part of the research process. By regular approach or habit to reading research papers, academics can improve their existing



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knowledge and improve their overall understanding capacity of a subject. This study is based on primary and secondary data. This study applied the statistical methods and techniques are percentages, Mean, SD, T-Test and Correlation. The present reveals that the majority of the Research scholars of State universities in Andhra Pradesh both male and female have average level e-resources awareness and reading habits of research papers. Another finding reveals that male research scholars are better than female research scholars in their awareness of e-resources. There is a significant difference between Government and Private Universities research scholars in their awareness as well as reading habits.

**Keywords:** E-resources, Awareness, Reading habits, Knowledge,

**Introduction:** Academic Research promotes quality research within the Higher Education system through usage of E-resources and Research Papers reading only. As India moves towards becoming a knowledge society and economy- keeping in view the requirements of the fourth industrial revolution, the higher education system must be re-energised, provide hands-on and practical learning experiences to students, and conduct academic research focused on addressing industrial and societal needs. The importance of research is often the subject of discussion in colleges and Universities but in the present situation its importance is unprecedented in recent times. Academic research is important for many reasons as it facilitates learning and deeper understanding of the learner highlights several questions that may arise in the mind while analysing the situation and subject area helps in the growth of students and academics.

Electronic resources and services have become the most popular tools for research and academic activities. (Golwal et. 2008) Electronic resources have given us the power to get information timely and manage information more effectively and also the means to dissolve barriers and provide easy access to knowledge and information (Madhusudhan, 2010). The Web-resources has influenced the development of new models of Scholarly communication and the e-journal is regarded as the most popular source of undertaking research. The e-Journal is also known by different names, such as on-line journal, paperless or green journal and virtual journal.



**Objectives of the study:** The main objective of the study is to study on the relationship between E-resources awareness and reading habits of research papers among Research scholars in selected Universities in Andhra Pradesh, and other related objectives are:

1. To study the level of research paper reading habits of Research scholars in State Universities of Andhra Pradesh.
2. To assess the level of E-Resources awareness of Research Scholars
3. To find out the difference between male and female research scholars to their reading habits.
4. To identify the difference between male and female Research Scholars of Universities with respect to their E-resources awareness.
5. To observe the difference between Junior and Senior Research scholars with respect to their reading habits of Research Papers.
6. To know the difference between Junior and Senior Research Scholars with respect to their E-Resources awareness
7. To find out the difference between Private and Government Universities Research Scholars with respect to their research paper reading habits.
8. To Observe the difference between Private and Government Universities with respect to their E-Resources awareness.
9. To identify whether there is any relationship between E-resources awareness and research paper reading habits of Private and Government Universities Research Scholars.

#### **Review of Literature:**

The importance and wide-ranging scope of electronic resources for general communication, information retrieval and instructional delivery to support teaching and research activities in higher educational institutions is acknowledged worldwide. The literature also shows that many studies have been carried out on e-resources by users worldwide.

**Kebede (2002)** carried out a survey of the use of ICTs in ten African Public Library Services. The survey found that, although most libraries had internet connectivity, very few were offering web-based information services to their users. The study however, identifies four barriers to the effective provision of electronic resources in those libraries, namely: lack of strategic planning; lack of adequate or reliable funding; lack of use of Internet to provide information services to users and a lack of consistent training for users in new ICT services.



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**Jagboro(2003)** had also emphasized the emerging reliance and attitude of users to electronic resources. In a study she conducted in some Nigerian Universities, it was found that 45.2% of respondents accessed electronic resources from cybercafés. Though this attitude, according to her is due to the proximity of cybercafés to user facilities.

**Ajuwon (2003)** also carried out a study of uptake of ICTs by health science students at the University College Hospital, Ibadan. This study found that 57% of students sampled could not use a computer, that the use of the database was poor, due to lack of awareness, lack of access to computers, insufficient training and the high cost of provision. In effect, all the studies reviewed above are implemented on the assumption that uptake of electronic resources is highly desirable in that it leads to increased productivity of work, learning, teaching and research.

**Ojo and Akande (2005)** in a survey of 350 respondents examined student's access, usage and awareness of electronic information resources at the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, Nigeria. The study revealed that the level of usage of the electronic information resources is not high. A major problem however identified is lack of information retrieval skills for exploiting electronic resources, thus making the level of usage of resources by medical students very low.

Madhusudhan (2008) carried out a study to find electronic resources by teachers, students and research scholars of universities and research organisations. 78% of the respondents feel that using the UGC–Infonet e-journals has created a high dependency value on their research work. They needed current article alert services and electronic document supply services.

Goria (2012) noted that numerous scholarly international e-journals are now accessible in Indian libraries through a consortium approach. On the other hand, every user must be oriented from the latest technologies to maximise e-resources with minimum efforts. The author has described some of the techniques for effective use of e-resources, which are very useful for users, especially academicians and researchers.

Dange, et al. (2013) conducted a study on awareness and usage of digital information sources and services by postgraduate students of Kuvempu University. The findings revealed a significant difference between previous and final year students of digital information source awareness, digital information services awareness, and digital information source usage. Also, there is a significant difference between arts, science and education students' digital information source awareness, digital information services awareness, digital information sources usage and digital information services usage. However, there is no significant



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difference between previous and final year students' digital information services usage, digital information source awareness. There is no significant difference between digital information source usage, digital information services awareness, and digital information services usages of male and female students.

In effect, all the studies reviewed above are implemented to assume that electronic resources' uptake is highly desirable. It leads to increased productivity of work, learning, teaching and research.

### **Hypotheses of the Study:**

1. There is no significant difference between male and female research scholars with respect to their research paper reading habits in the Universities.
2. There is no significant difference between male and female research scholars with respect to their e- resources awareness.
3. There is no significant difference between Private and Government Universities research scholars with respect to their reading habits of research papers.
4. There is no significant difference between Private and Government Universities research scholars with respect to their E-resources awareness.
5. There is no significant difference between Junior and Senior research scholars with respect to their research papers reading habits in the Universities.
6. There is no significant difference between Junior and Senior research scholars with respect to their E-resources awareness in the Universities.
7. There is no significant relationship between e-resources awareness and research papers reading habits of respective research scholars of the Universities in Andhra Pradesh.

### **Methodology:**

In this research study simple survey method was used. In order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, various aspects of the methodology followed were: sample size, tools, procedure of data collection and statistical techniques and scoring procedure. All the sample respondents are research scholars in different Universities of Andhra Pradesh State Universities (both Private and Government) constitute the population of the study.

**Sample size:** A sample consisting of 200 scholars belonging to different communities which included males females doing research in private and Government universities was selected on random sampling basis from 7 Government Universities and 4 Private Universities spread in different districts of Andhra Pradesh State.



**Data Collection:** The authors used as a tool of structured questionnaire and collected primary data through electronic media resources and secondary data also used from different resources like reports, magazines, Journals and web- resources.

**Statistical tools and techniques used in the study:** The researcher used the statistical techniques like Mean, Standard Deviation, t-test and correlation etc. for analysing and interpretation of the data collected for study. The analysed results are presented in the tables.

**Analysis of the data:**

**Table -1 Research sample distribution**

Distribution of Universities		Research sample Distribution ( Research Scholars)					
Govt.-7	Private-4	Gender		Level		Type of University	
		Male	Female	Junior	Senior	Govt.	Private
		110	90	105	95	80	120

Source: Primary data

Table-1 show that the sample size of 200 from 7 Government Universities (80) and 4 Private (120) Universities both male (110) and female (90) research scholars both Junior Scholars (105) and senior Scholars (95) are considered details given in the table

**Table-2 Level of Journal reading habits of Male and Female Research Scholars**

Variables	Excellent		Good		Average		Not satisfactory		Poor	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	20	16.67	22	18.34	70	58.34	6	5.0	2	1.66
Female	9	11.25	10	12.50	55	68.75	3	3.75	3	3.75
Total	29	14.50	32	16.0	125	62.5	9	4.5	5	2.5

Source: Primary data

It is depicted from Table-2 that 14.5 % (Male=16.675 and female=11.25%) research scholars have excellent reading habits, 16% (Male=18.74% and Female==12.5%)research scholars have good study habits, 62.5% (Male=58.34% and Female=68.75%) scholars average reading habits, 4.5% (Male=5.0% and Female=3.75%) scholars have not satisfactory reading habits, 2.5% (Male=1.66%, Female=3.75%) scholars have poor reading habits. Thus it is clear to show that level of effectiveness of reading habits of both male and female scholars are average or not satisfactory.

**Table-3 Level of E-resources Awareness of the Male and Female Research Scholars.**

Gender	Low (%)	Moderate (%)	High (%)
Male	4.6	43.3	8.4
Female	7.4	31.7	4.6
Total	12.0	75.0	13.0



Source: Primary data

Table-3 reveals that 4.6% of the male scholars have low, 43.3% of them have moderate and 8.4% of them have high level of E-Resources awareness; among female scholars 7.4% have low, 31.7% have moderate and 4.6% have high level of E-resource awareness.

**Testing of Hypotheses of the study:**

**Hypotheses-1:** There is no significant difference between male and female research scholars with respect to their research paper reading habits.

The results presented in table-4 show that there is a significant difference between male and female Universities research scholars in their reading habits. Thus, it is concluded that both male and female scholars are not equally disposed towards their research paper reading habits. Male students have better reading habits in comparison to female scholars. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

**Table-4 Significance of the Difference between the Mean Score of Male and Female Research scholars in respect to the Research Paper Reading Habits**

Variables	Male (N=110)		Female (N=90)		“t” value	Remarks
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
Reading Habits	61.36	4.86	58.85	4.03	4.05	Significant

Source: Primary data

**Hypothesis-2** There is no significant difference between male and female Universities research scholars with respect to their e-resources awareness.

It is inferred from Table-5 that there is a significant difference between male and female Universities research scholars in their E-resources awareness. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. It is concluded that male and female research scholars differed significantly in their E-resources awareness. While comparing the Mean scores of male and female research scholars are better than female scholars in their E-Resources awareness.

**Table-5 Significance of the Difference between the Mean scores of Male and Female Research Scholars in respect of the E-Resources Awareness**

Variable	Male (N=110)		Female (N=90)		“t” value	Remarks
	Mean	S,D	Mean	S.D		
E-Resources	76.19	8.87	73.27	8.51	2.37	Significant

Source: Primary data

**Hypothesis-3:** There is no significant difference between private and Government Universities research scholars with respect to their research papers reading habits.



Below Table-6 show that the calculated t-value (5.73) is greater than the table value (1.96) at 5% level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. It reveals that there is significant difference in selected 200 research scholars form 10 Universities of Junior and Senior research Scholars in private and Government Universities of Andhra Pradesh.

**Table-6** Significance of the Difference between the Mean Scores of Private and Government Universities Research scholars in respect of their Reading Habits of Research papers

Variable	Private (N=120)		Government (N=80)		“t” value	Remarks
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
Reading Habits	61.85	5.02	58.12	4.12	5.73	Significant

Source: Primary data

**Hypothesis-4:** There is no significant difference between private and Government Universities research scholars with respect to their E-resource awareness.

From the Table-7, the t-value 3.38 indicates that a significant Mean difference between private (M=76.38) and Government (M=72.12) research scholars in respect of their E-Resource awareness at 0.05 level. Hence, the null hypothesis has been rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference between the Mean scores of private and Government Universities research scholars in respect to their E-resource awareness.

**Table-7** Significance of the difference between the Mean Scores of Private and Government Universities Research Scholars in respect of their E-Resources Awareness

Variable	Private (N=120)		Government (N=80)		“t” value	Remarks
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
E-Resources	76.38	9.13	72.12	8.43	3.38	Significant

Source: Primary data

**Hypothesis-5** There is no significant difference between Junior and Senior research Scholars of State Universities with respect to their research paper reading habits.

It is evident from the Table-8 that the Mean Score of reading habits of Junior and Senior research scholars are 62.2 and 63.39 respectively. The t-value is found to be 1.65. Therefore results are not significant. Thus it is concluded that there is no significant difference between Junior and Senior research scholars with respect to their research paper reading habits. Both Junior and senior scholars are equally disposed towards their reading habits. Therefore, the null hypothesis is retained.

**Table-8** Significance of the Difference between the Mean Scores of Junior and Senior Research Scholars in respect of their Research Papers Reading Habits

Variable	Junior Research Scholars (N=105)	Senior Research Scholars (N=95)	“t” value	Remarks





	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
Reading Habits	62.2	5.06	63.39	5.17	1.65	Not Significant

Source: Primary data

**Hypothesis -6** there is no significant difference between Junior and Senior Research scholars of state Universities with respect to their E-Resources awareness.

It is evident from Table-9 that the Mean score of E-Resources awareness of Junior and Senior research scholars are 75.92 and 74.12 respectively. The t-value is found to be 1.54 which is less than the table value of 't' (1.96) at 0.05 levels of significance. Thus it is concluded that there is no significant difference between Junior and senior research scholars with respect to their E-Resources awareness. Both Junior and senior research scholars are equally disposed towards their E-Resources awareness. Therefore, the null hypothesis is retained.

**Table-9** Significance of the Difference between the Mean Scores of Junior and Senior Research Scholars in respect of their E-Resources Awareness

Variable	Junior Research Scholars (N=105)		Senior Research scholars (N=95)		“t” value	Remarks
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
E-Resources	75.92	8.41	74.12	8.16	1.54	Not Significant

Source: Primary data

**Hypothesis -7** there is no significant relationship between E-Resources awareness and research papers reading habits of state Universities research scholars.

It is revealed from Table-10 that there is a significant relationship between Research papers reading habits and E-resources awareness of the AP state Universities research scholars. Since 'r' value is greater than the table value at 5% level of significance.

**Table-10** Correlation between E-Resources awareness and research paper reading habits.

Variable	N	Df	Calculated “r” value	Table value at 5% level	Remarks at 5% level
E-resources Awareness and research papers reading habits	200	198	0.511	0.433	Significant

Source: Primary data

**Conclusion:**

The present research study reveals that majority of the research scholars both male and female have average level of E-resources awareness and their level of reading habits is also average ; the reasons behind such findings may be attributed to the fact that both research



papers reading habits and E-resources awareness are interrelated. This is a matter of great concern since this may be one of the most important causes of research scholar's low level of achievements and overall performance in the research process. The reason behind such findings may be due to lack research guides motivation, lack of infrastructure, lack of sufficient internet facilities in this context. The findings reveal that male research scholars are better than female research scholars in their E-Resources awareness. This may be due to the fact that male research scholars are able to spend more time in Libraries and interest in comprehending the concepts, with proper planning, confidence and self-development purpose. This may useful for their future to get better life. There is significant difference between private and Government Universities research scholars in their E-resources awareness and research papers reading habits. It may be due to greater exposure of the private universities research scholars to self-awareness skills as compared to those of Government universities research scholars.

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