

Challenges And Opportunities in The Use Of E-Resources in Ayurvedic College Libraries

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Abstract—Traditional print-based library services have given way to digital information environments with the advent of information and communication technology (ICT). Because they give users immediate access to scholarly knowledge regardless of location, electronic resources, or e-resources, have emerged as a crucial part of academic libraries. E-resources make it easier to obtain multidisciplinary healthcare information, clinical studies, contemporary research discoveries, and traditional Ayurvedic literature in Ayurvedic education. Despite its importance, the usage of e-resources in Ayurvedic college libraries is hampered by a number of issues, including as poor infrastructure, budgetary limitations, user ignorance, and low information literacy. This study examines the benefits and drawbacks of using e-resources in Ayurvedic college libraries and suggests ways to improve their efficient usage.

Index Terms—Resources, Ayurvedic College Libraries, ICT, Digital Libraries, Information Literacy, Medical Libraries, Ayurveda Education.

I. INTRODUCTION

Libraries have long been hubs for the gathering and sharing of knowledge. Information and communication technology's (ICT) quick development has drastically changed library services, operations, and resource management. Because they allow users to swiftly and conveniently access large amounts of information, electronic resources have become essential tools for higher education institutions. Ayurvedic institutions are essential for maintaining and advancing traditional Indian medical knowledge while incorporating cutting-edge scientific findings. These institutions' libraries must help researchers, practitioners, instructors, and students by giving them access to both modern scientific literature and traditional Ayurvedic texts. The scope of

information access in Ayurvedic education has increased because to the growing availability of e-books, e-journals, online databases, institutional repositories, and open educational materials. The use of e-resources has substantial chances to enhance clinical practice, research, teaching, and learning. However, their use is still hampered by a number of issues, especially in organizations with little funding and technology. Developing successful library services at Ayurvedic institutions requires an understanding of these potential and challenges.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Several studies have examined the use of electronic resources in academic and medical libraries.

Arora (2019) emphasized that digital resources have transformed academic libraries by improving accessibility and resource-sharing capabilities.

Thanuskodi (2017) found that awareness and training significantly influence the effective utilization of electronic resources among students and researchers.

Pandey and Mishra (2020) observed that inadequate infrastructure and financial limitations remain major barriers to e-resource implementation in academic institutions.

Kumar (2018) highlighted the role of ICT in enhancing library services and supporting educational and research activities through electronic information systems.

Studies in medical and health science libraries indicate that e-resources contribute significantly to evidence-based learning and research but require continuous user training and technological support.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the importance of e-resources in Ayurvedic college libraries.
2. To identify opportunities provided by e-resources in Ayurvedic education and research.
3. To analyze challenges faced by users and libraries in utilizing e-resources.
4. To suggest measures for improving access and effective utilization of e-resources.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The descriptive study's foundation is a survey of the body of research on academic libraries, medical library services, and electronic resources. Information about library and information science and Ayurvedic education was gathered from books, research papers, journals, conference proceedings, and internet sources.

V. TYPES OF E-RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN AYURVEDIC COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Ayurvedic college libraries offer a range of electronic resources to promote professional growth, patient care, research, and instruction. These materials assist close the gap between traditional Ayurvedic knowledge and contemporary scientific research by providing rapid access to both historical and current information.

5.1. E-books

E-books are digital copies of printed books that are accessible via cellphones, tablets, and PCs. Classical literature like Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and Ashtanga Hridaya, as well as modern publications on Ayurveda, pharmacology, anatomy, physiology, pathology, and research methods, are among the e-books used in Ayurvedic teaching. E-books are useful learning resources for instructors and students because they include keyword searching, bookmarking, highlighting, and remote accessing.

5.2. E-Journals

Among the most popular academic resources are electronic journals. They offer access to up-to-date Ayurvedic and related health sciences research findings, review papers, case studies, and clinical

trials. Students and researchers may stay up to date on the latest advancements in Ayurvedic medicine, integrative healthcare, herbal medication research, and evidence-based practice by having access to peer-reviewed journals.

5.3. Online Databases

Online databases offer structured access to full-text articles, abstracts, and bibliographic information. Ayurvedic scholars can find pertinent material, do systematic reviews, and support evidence-based research with the aid of databases encompassing medical and health sciences. These databases provide indexing services, citation tracking, and sophisticated search capabilities that improve the caliber of research.

5.4. Institutional Repositories

Digital archives that save and share an institution's intellectual output are called institutional repositories. Dissertations, theses, faculty publications, conference papers, project reports, and research articles may all be found in these archives. They make institutional research more visible and help academics exchange knowledge.

5.5. Open Access Resources

The academic literature is freely and unrestrictedly accessible through open-access resources. Institutions with low funding can especially benefit from these resources. Open-access journals, archives, and educational platforms help democratize information by facilitating learning and research without the need for a subscription.

5.6. Digital Libraries

Digitized books, manuscripts, rare collections, and archival items can be found in digital libraries. Digital libraries assist Ayurvedic institutions in preserving traditional medical knowledge and old manuscripts while making them available to researchers around the globe.

5.7. Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs)

Electronic theses and dissertations give postgraduate and doctorate students access to earlier research. These documents assist researchers in reviewing methodology, identifying research gaps, and preventing study repetition.

5.8. Multimedia Resources

Multimedia resources include educational videos, recorded lectures, webinars, podcasts, animations, and virtual demonstrations. These resources enhance understanding of complex medical concepts, therapeutic procedures, and clinical practices in Ayurveda.

5.9. Online Learning Platforms

Learning management systems and online educational platforms provide course materials, assignments, quizzes, and discussion forums. These platforms support blended and distance learning approaches increasingly adopted by higher education institutions.

VI. OPPORTUNITIES IN THE USE OF E-RESOURCES

The adoption of electronic resources has created numerous opportunities for Ayurvedic college libraries, enabling them to improve information services and support academic excellence.

6.1. Enhanced Access to Information

E-resources eliminate geographical and time barriers by providing round-the-clock access to scholarly information. Students and researchers can retrieve information from any location, increasing convenience and productivity.

6.2. Support for Research and Innovation

Access to current scientific literature enables researchers to conduct high-quality studies, review existing knowledge, and develop innovative approaches in Ayurvedic medicine and healthcare.

6.3. Preservation of Traditional Knowledge

Digitization initiatives facilitate the preservation of rare Ayurvedic manuscripts and classical texts. Digital preservation protects valuable cultural heritage from physical deterioration and ensures long-term accessibility.

6.4. Promotion of Evidence-Based Ayurveda

Electronic resources provide access to clinical studies, systematic reviews, and scientific evidence supporting Ayurvedic treatments. This strengthens evidence-based practice and promotes the scientific validation of traditional knowledge.

6.5. Improved Teaching and Learning

Faculty members can integrate digital resources into classroom teaching, assignments, and research projects. Interactive content enhances student engagement and improves learning outcomes.

6.6. Resource Sharing and Collaboration

Library networks and consortia allow institutions to share electronic resources, reducing duplication of expenditure and expanding access to information resources.

6.7. Interdisciplinary Research Opportunities

Ayurvedic scholars can access literature from medicine, biotechnology, pharmacy, public health, nutrition, and allied disciplines, encouraging interdisciplinary research and collaboration.

VII. CHALLENGES IN THE USE OF E-RESOURCES

Despite their advantages, several challenges affect the effective implementation and utilization of e-resources in Ayurvedic college libraries.

7.1. Inadequate ICT Infrastructure

Many institutions experience limitations in internet connectivity, bandwidth, computer availability, networking facilities, and power supply. These limitations directly affect access to digital resources.

7.2. Financial Constraints

The subscription costs of electronic journals, databases, and digital platforms continue to increase. Smaller institutions often struggle to allocate sufficient funds for acquiring and maintaining e-resources.

7.3. Lack of User Awareness

A significant number of students and faculty members remain unaware of the electronic resources available through their libraries. Underutilization often results from inadequate promotion and orientation programs.

7.4. Information Literacy Deficiencies

Many users lack skills in advanced searching, database navigation, citation management, and evaluation of digital information. This reduces the effectiveness of e-resource utilization.

7.5. Technical Difficulties

System failures, software incompatibility, server downtime, login issues, and access restrictions frequently disrupt users' access to information resources.

7.6. Language and Content Limitations

Many electronic resources are available primarily in English, while Ayurvedic literature often includes Sanskrit terminology. This language barrier can affect understanding and accessibility.

7.7. Copyright and Licensing Restrictions

License agreements imposed by publishers may restrict downloading, printing, sharing, and archiving of content. Libraries must carefully manage compliance with copyright regulations.

7.8. Resistance to Technological Adoption

Some faculty members and students continue to prefer traditional printed resources and may be hesitant to adopt digital alternatives due to familiarity and comfort with print collections.

7.9. Information Overload

The enormous volume of digital information can overwhelm users, making it difficult to identify authentic, relevant, and high-quality sources.

7.10. Cybersecurity Threats

Libraries face increasing risks from cyberattacks, malware, phishing, unauthorized access, and data breaches. Protecting digital collections and user data requires continuous monitoring and security measures.

7.11. Lack of Trained Library Professionals

Effective management of electronic resources requires specialized skills in digital librarianship, database management, licensing, and information technology. Many institutions face shortages of adequately trained personnel.

7.12. Sustainability Issues

Maintaining subscriptions, updating software, upgrading infrastructure, and ensuring long-term digital preservation require continuous financial and administrative support.

VIII. FINDINGS

The analysis of literature and current practices in Ayurvedic college libraries reveals several important findings:

1. Electronic resources have become indispensable components of modern Ayurvedic college libraries and significantly support teaching, learning, research, and clinical education.
2. E-journals, e-books, open-access resources, and online databases are among the most frequently used electronic resources by students and faculty members.
3. Access to current scientific information has improved substantially through electronic resources, helping Ayurvedic researchers engage with global healthcare developments.
4. Digitization initiatives contribute significantly to the preservation and dissemination of traditional Ayurvedic knowledge and rare manuscripts.
5. Remote access capabilities have enhanced the flexibility and convenience of information retrieval, particularly for postgraduate students and researchers.
6. Financial limitations remain one of the most significant barriers to acquiring and maintaining high-quality electronic resources.
7. Inadequate ICT infrastructure and inconsistent internet connectivity continue to affect access and usage in many institutions.
8. Lack of awareness and insufficient information literacy skills among users lead to underutilization of available electronic resources.
9. Regular training and orientation programs significantly improve user competency and increase utilization rates.
10. Participation in library consortia and resource-sharing networks helps institutions reduce costs and expand access to scholarly information.
11. Integration of electronic resources with traditional library collections creates a more comprehensive and effective information environment.
12. Future growth in Ayurvedic education and research will increasingly depend on the effective management and utilization of digital information resources.

IX. CONCLUSION

The fast growth of information and communication technology has altered the landscape of library and information services, rendering electronic resources an essential component of academic institutions. E-resources have become effective instruments in Ayurvedic college libraries to assist professional growth, clinical practice, education, and research. They maintain traditional Ayurvedic knowledge, facilitate evidence-based research, offer instant access to scholarly material, and encourage multidisciplinary cooperation between Ayurveda and contemporary healthcare disciplines.

The study emphasizes the many advantages that electronic resources provide, such as better information access, better research assistance, distant accessibility, cultural heritage protection, resource sharing, and higher academic output. The teaching-learning process and research activities within Ayurvedic schools have been greatly boosted by the digitization of traditional Ayurvedic literature and the availability of recent scientific research.

Nevertheless, the study also identifies a number of obstacles that prevent the best possible use of e-resources. Inadequate ICT infrastructure, budgetary constraints, user ignorance, low information literacy, technical difficulties, language barriers, copyright restrictions, and cybersecurity concerns are some of these difficulties. These barriers may diminish the efficacy of digital library services and restrict the advantages accessible to patrons.

Ayurvedic college libraries must use all-encompassing measures, such as technology modernization, greater funding, user education, institutional collaboration, digitization initiatives, and ongoing evaluation processes, to overcome these obstacles. Resource accessibility and use can be further improved through active involvement in library consortia, promotion of open-access materials, and professional development of library staff.

The successful integration of digital information resources will be crucial to the future development of Ayurvedic education and research in today's knowledge-driven environment. Ayurvedic college libraries may become dynamic knowledge hubs that support academic achievement, research advancement, and the global spread of Ayurvedic wisdom by adopting technology advancements and

putting user-centered library services into place. In addition to improving library services, the effective use of e-resources will further the larger goal of conserving, enhancing, and spreading Ayurvedic science in the digital age.

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