
Accessing Electronic Resources by Undergraduate Students at Karnali Academy of Health Sciences

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How to cite: Budhamagar, B., Gautam, S. & Manandhar, N. (2026). Accessing electronic resources by undergraduate students at Karnali Academy of Health Sciences. *Journal of Information, Knowledge and Libraries* 1(1) 7-13.

Abstract

This paper attempts to study, access to electronic resources among the undergraduate students of the Karnali Academic Health Sciences, Jumla. The study applied quantitative research design and data was collected using questionnaire from a sample of undergraduate medical college students selected from first and second year. A total of 110 questionnaires were distributed. Collected data were analyzed descriptively. The purpose of this study was to find out the varieties of electronic resources available in the KAHS Medical Library, to investigate the platform-selecting attitudes regarding electronic resources, and to know the satisfaction level of the students regarding electronic resource service. The study showed that most of the students used library to borrow books and self-study purpose, though they were unaware about the availability of e-sources provided by the library, they were satisfied with the e-resources they were using. The significant issue was that they were facing unstable IT infrastructure.

Keywords: Electronic resources, undergraduate students, medical library, karnali academy of health Sciences, KASH, medical information

Introduction

The use of digital libraries is rising and is becoming one of the organization's key initiatives. Digital libraries, digital archives, institutional repositories, and digital repositories are popular topics because of the rapid rise of computing networks, databases, and public awareness. Using modern technologies has brought some challenges to librarians, such as deciding which hardware or software to employ for organizing scanned digital collections or born-digital collections and how to manage these collections over time.

In recent years, libraries have witnessed an outstanding performance in the collection development mechanism and the service structure because of the availability of ICT-based resources and services. The availability of born digital resources, multimedia applications on them, and the availability of bibliographical and full-text databases are common in many of the college and university libraries. Most of the publishers offering full text through the database for all kinds of literary products. ICT-based services enabled users to access required information through an electronic environment and networking system.

Data or program encoded for manipulation by a digital device is called an electronic resource (AACR2, 2002). The usage of a peripheral directly attached to a computing device may be necessary to access such materials. It is defined as, a resource that needs computer access or any electronic instrument product that delivers and organizes the data, called text referencing full text bases, e-journals, picture collections, other multimedia products, or numerical, graphical, or time-based, as a commercially available title that has been published to be marketed. These can be transmitted through the internet or via CD-ROM, flash memory. Several related standards have been introduced during the past few years that allow documents to be produced and transmitted electronically. These are more beneficial owing to built-in search and manipulation tools, the cost of providing information access is less than the purchasing of information resources, there are storage and maintenance cost savings, etc., and occasionally using electronic form is the only option. Electronic resources are "Information which can be stored in the form of electrical signal usually, but not necessarily on a computer (Bajpai et al., 2009).

The incorporation of electronic resources has revolutionized health science education and is essential to the teaching and training of medical practitioners. E-resources have a wide-ranging impact on this sector, including research, teaching, learning, and clinical practice. Access to up-to-date information, digital libraries and medical databases, telemedicine and telehealth education, Electronic health records training, Access to up-to-date information, digital libraries and medical databases, telemedicine and telehealth education, electronic health records training, global collaboration and research, online multimedia resource are some important features of e-resources, influence on health science education (Bankar et al., 2023).

Karnali Academy of Health Sciences Library has various sources of electronic resources. All students, faculty, staff, and members can use the available electronic resources of the library. This library has mainly subscribed to support medical education and health services, including Research4Life (Hinari), Medline, PubMed, NepJol, NepMed, JKAHS and more.

The scope of the study is confined to accessing electronic resources by users of the Karnali Academy of Health Sciences Library, Jumla further having the status of state university in Karnali Province. The study may be helpful for organizations to spread their information to various users and may provide guidelines for carrying out further research on a similar topic. This study is restricted to just second and third-year undergraduate students from the KAHS library.

This research helps to access the available electronic resource platforms which are identified in the study. This study aimed to survey the use of different types of e-resources, identify the mostly used resources, and examine the satisfaction level of users. Several studies have been conducted

regarding e-resources for medical professionals. Madhusudhan (2010) examined that electronic resources have come to the desires of students. It highlights that laptops terminals are need to provide quick access, electronic resources can be excellent substitutes for traditional resources. The library has acquired many electronic resources to fulfill users' significant information needs. However, the users' perception regarding the use, differences between those electronic platforms, and especially students' satisfaction level regarding those platforms are not evaluated and discussed.

Students' skill and library accessibility for e-resources oriented to students' educational purpose is very crucial (Adeniran, 2013). Likewise, e-source use problems, subject coverage, and user satisfaction were surveyed in Dhaka University (Habiba & Chowdhury, 2012). Professors have also made extensive use of e-resources. Moreover, they are confident to use e-resources. But the cost of e-resources is higher than its use value (Egberongbe, 2011). The cost of e-resources goes high when library has to provide computers for readers. Though such digital tools are costly, in the 21st century, electronic resources have become a crucial component of human lifestyles for research and information (Ramakrishna, Naick, & Sasikala, 2017). The electronic resources have fundamentally altered how information is acquired, saved, arranged, accessed, retrieved, and used in libraries worldwide, particularly academic libraries.

Methods

This study followed a quantitative research design, collected data were presented descriptively. As per the nature of the population, the researcher used a purposive sampling technique. The sample was selected from the students enrolled in the program as Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), The study may be helpful for organizations to spread their information to various users and may provide guidelines for carrying out further research on a similar topic. This study is restricted to just second and third-year undergraduate students from the KAHS library. Bachelor of Midwifery (BMS), Bachelor of Public Health (BPH), Pharmacy, and Bachelor of Nursing (BNS) programs. A total of 110 students were participants for this study. Data were collected using both open-ended and closed-ended questionnaire tools. The preliminary data were gathered in the field for the reliability and generalization of the study area, findings, and to offer a structured framework for research. All the survey questionnaires have been specially designed to match all the required data and facts for the study.

Discussion and Findings

Based on the collected data, findings were presented in the following sections.

Category of respondents

Table 1

Category of respondents

SN	Program	No. of respondents	Percent
1	MBBS	30	27%
2	BMS	16	15%
3	BPH	23	21%
4	Pharmacy	28	25%
5	BNS	13	12%
	TOTAL	110	100%

(Source: Field Survey, 2023)

The respondent's distribution was divided among MBBS, BMS, BPH, and Pharmacy students, as 30 (27%), 16 (15%), 23 (21%), 28 (25%), and 13 (12%) respectively. The highest number of respondents were affiliated with the MBBS course, and the fewest respondents were from BMS (Table 1).

Main Target of visiting the library

Table 2

Main target of visiting the library

Target of visiting the library	No. of respondents	Percent
Borrow Book	96	36%
Complete the assignment	40	15%
Access electronic resources	31	12%
Use the internet	48	18%
Get other information	51	19%
Total		100%

Source: Survey (2023)

Among 110 respondents, only 31(12%) of them visited to access electronic resources, and 48 (18%) used the Internet while visiting the library. Altogether, 79 (71.82%) students have more possibility of using e-resources (Table 2). It is a significant number of students who are likely to use e-resources.

Awareness of electronic resources

Table 3

Awareness of electronic resources

Aware	No. of respondents	Percent
Yes	52	47%
No	58	53%
Total	110	100%

Source: Survey (2023)

The above Table explains the total 110 respondents, 52(47%) are aware of electronic resources and 58(53%) of them are not aware of electronic resources.

Purpose of using an electronic resource

Table 4

Purpose of using an electronic resource

Purpose	No. of respondents	Percent
Study purpose	87	79.09%
Self-learning	70	63.64%
For research	53	48.18%
Getting current information	51	46.36%
Preparing an assignment	45	40.91%

Multiple answers were permitted

Source: Survey (2023)

Most of the participants (87, 79.09%) used e-resources for study purpose followed by self-learning (70, 63.64%), for research (53, 48.18%), getting current information (51, 46.36%) and preparing an assignment (45, 40.91%) (Table 4). The finding shows that most of the medical students desired and used e-resources for academic information through study and self-learning. Therefore, authorities need to pay attention to enhancing digital collection in the perspective of medical institutions.

Satisfied with using an electronic resource

Table 5

Satisfied with using an electronic resource

Level of satisfaction	No. of Respondents
Very dissatisfied	5x2=-10
Dissatisfied	17x1=-17
Neutral	27x0=0
Satisfied	54x1=54
Highly Satisfied	7x2=14
Result	41

Source: Survey (2023)

The score was 41 gained through the Likert scale; it means users are 'satisfied' from the use of e-resources. The response was on a positively moderate scale (Table 5).

Challenges in using an electronic resource

Table 6

The problems faced in using an electronic resource

Problems	No. of respondents	Percent
IT infrastructure is not good	71	64.51%
Slow download speed	65	59.09%
Lack of search skills	37	33.64%
Difficult to find relevant information	29	26.36%
Library staff are not cooperative	12	10.91%

Multiple answers were permitted

Source: Survey (2023)

The above table explains that of a total of 110 respondents, they can choose multiple answer 37(17%) of them faced problems due to a lack of search skills, 71(33%) of them replied that IT infrastructure, like Internet speed is not good, 29(14%) of them faced difficulty in finding relevant information, 65(30%) faced the problems that slow download speed, 12(6%) of them replied that library staffs are not cooperative.

Electronic resources provided by the KAHS Medical library

Table 7

Mostly used electronic resources provided by the KAHS Medical library

Electronic resources	No. of respondents	Percent
Others	40	36%
PubMed	39	35%
Medline	14	13%
HINARI	12	11%
NepJol	5	5%
Total	110	100%

Source: Survey (2023)

It surprising results that students are more relied on unidentified e-resource database (36%), while it was expected otherwise. The reknown databases like PubMed stood second most used resource, and others have lesser use only (Table 7).

The findings revealed that most undergraduate students use other electronic resources that are now not on hand in the KAHS library. The undergraduate students' level of awareness of exceptional electronic resources is low. It also revealed that the level of understanding and training in using these resources is still generic, as training is mostly a once-off orientation in the first year.

Conclusion

The paper discussed accessing the electronic resources of undergraduate students of KAHS. The study shows that students of KAHS, Jumla were less aware of electronic resources, for which they needed awareness services, and which they often used for academic purposes. The result shows that access to electronic resources is frequent among almost all library users, the electronic resources service supplied by the library is suitable, and most library users are satisfied and benefited from contemporary accessible digital assets in the library. For the best service library should organize a regular orientation program, offer a dedicated networking system, subscribe subject specific databases, and use library management systems to provide effective library services. Institutions and stakeholders need to establish good technical infrastructure to provide better digital resources to the medical professionals which are the life saver for human beings. The study also suggests that most users of KAHS should use electronic resources for their lookup purposes.

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