

**A CASE STUDY :**

Use of CeRA consortium by research scholars of University of Agricultural Sciences in Karnataka

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ARTICLE CHRONICLE :**Received :**

31.03.2020;

Accepted :

28.04.2020

SUMMARY : Information communication technology (ICT) has given many e-services to the libraries in the present era. Libraries are using ICT to improve the management of scholarly information to strengthen and speedy access to such information not available locally. Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA) is most valuable research tool that, instead of print based services in traditional library services. In this study an attempt has been made to search use of CeRA consortium by research scholars in University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. It included use and access of CeRA, frequency and purpose of using CeRA. Also Escalating of CeRA services by adding more resources and facilities has given strong information support for the teaching, research and extension programmers.

How to cite this article : Rathod, Ekanath, Maraddi, Krishna S. and Hiremath, Kumaraswamy (2020). Use of CeRA consortium by research scholars of University of Agricultural Sciences in Karnataka. *Agric. Update*, 15(1 and 2): 125-129; DOI : 10.15740/HAS/AU/15.1and2/125-129. Copyright@ 2020: Hind Agri-Horticultural Society.

KEY WORDS :

CeRA, Agriculture, Consortium, e-Resource, e-Service

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture - CeRA, has been established for making possible in accessibility of select scientific journals related to agriculture and allied sciences, to all researchers in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS). The base for this initiative was made by providing internet connectivity to most of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes under the National Agricultural Technology Programmed (NATP) over a decade ago. This was done with the eventual objective of providing access to information, specially access to E-journals, which is vital for excellence in research.

It has been observed that over the years, subscriptions to journals by libraries of ICAR institutes/State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) have been on the turn down mainly because of financial crunch. Additionally, raise in the cost of international journals has forced many librarians to reduce their digit. One of the fundamentals to remain in the forefront of Global knowledge generation is the availability of journals. Since no institute/SAU library can subscribe to all journals, an initiative was put in motion with the creation of CeRA in 2008 under the National Agriculture Innovation Project (NAIP) for providing on-line accessibility of research articles from selected publishers.

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Need for the study:

A number of publications are increasing rapidly; it is not possible for any library to subscribe all publications. Therefore, the concept of e-consortium has been developed.

To Know the Research Scholars use e-journals available in library and how they use how many Research Scholars Daily using e-journals and its effects of their work to know the any problems facing e-journals if they problems so how can library staff will reduce their problems and to know the library provide all the relevant information on e-journals of users requirement.

Objective of the study:

- To know how many users are using the CeRA consortium.
- To know about from where they have access to CeRA consortium.
- To know how frequently they have used the CeRA consortium.
- To know the purpose of using the CeRA consortium.
- To find out which type of search features they have used.
- To know how many users are using in different subjects.
- To study the purpose of e-journals.

Scope and limitation of the study:

The scope of the study is confined to Research Scholars in University of Agriculture Science Dharwad, respectively, regarding the Use of e-resources by CeRA consortium.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

Methodology involves various tools, techniques and approaches. In the present study, a survey method has been employed using questionnaire as a tool for data collection to examine the use of CeRA consortium by research scholars in university of agricultural sciences Dharwad. Totally 85 questionnaires were distributed, in

Gender	Respondents	Percentage
Male	44	56.41
Female	34	43.58
Total	78	100.00

that 78 research scholars have responded *i.e.* gender wise 44 male (56.41%) and 34 female (43.58%) (Table A).

Age wise distribution so respondents has been mentioned in the Table B. Out of 78 research scholars 47.43 per cent of age between 31 – 40 were responded. 21 research scholars of age between 20-30 were responded. 21.79 per cent of research scholars of age more than 51 were responded. But very less respondents are in age between 41-50 *i.e.* only 3.84 per cent. This shows that the research scholars of age between 31-40 are more in number.

Age wise distribution	Respondents	Percentage
20-30	21	26.92
31-40	37	47.43
41-50	3	3.84
More than 51	17	21.79
Total	78	100.00

The department wise respondents shown in Table C. Research scholars in the department of Agricultural extension (9) and seed science technology (8) were the highest respondents, followed by Agronomy (7) and Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry (7). Only 2 each scholars responded from the department of plant

Sr. No.	Subject	Respondents
1.	Agronomy	7
2.	Genetics and Plant Breeding	6
3.	Plant Physiology	2
4.	Seed Science Technology	8
5.	Agricultural Economics	4
6.	Extension Education	9
7.	Animal Science	3
8.	Dairy Science	6
9.	Agri Entomology	3
10.	Plant Pathology	2
11.	Agri Microbiology	6
12.	Soil Science and Agri Chemistry	7
13.	Biochemistry	5
14.	Food Science Technology	4
15.	Vegetable Science	6
	Total	78

physiology and plant pathology.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The data indicated that the respondents towards access to CeRA were shown, maximum percentage (47.43%) is in University Library among different accessing locations used by research scholars of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. The computer centre (26.92%) and in my department (21.79%) were found to be next best accessing places used by research scholars of UAS Dharwad. The least usage of CeRA access in their home was seen (Table 1). Hence, the study shows that University Library is the place much access to CeRA by research scholars.

The frequency of use of CeRA indicated that daily use of CeRA (33.33%) by research scholars for their respective research work was highest compared to rest of respondents. The frequency of use of CeRA by the research scholars for their respective research work was

least (17.98%) with respondents fell in occasional category (Fig. 1).

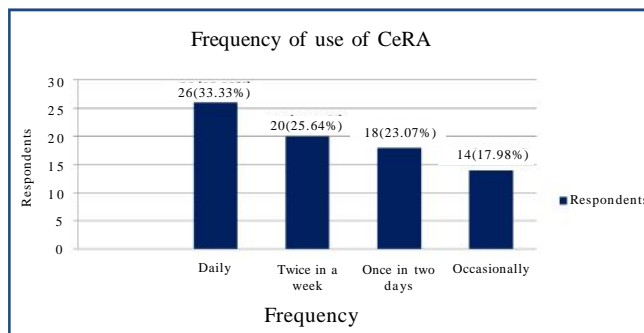


Fig. 1: Frequency of use of CeRA

The collection of the information through CeRA for various purposes was also studied and analysed. The data indicated that the respondents were used CeRA for collecting abstracts of research findings as review with a tune of 53.85 per cent. Further, the respondents were

Table 1 : The extent to access to CeRA by research scholars

Access to CeRA	Respondents	Percentage
University Library	37	47.43
In my Department	17	21.79
Computer center	21	26.92
Home	3	3.84
Total	78	100.00

Table 2 : Purpose of using CeRA by the research scholars in the University

Purpose of using CeRA	Respondents	Percentage
Publishing Books /Articles	16	20.51
Getting current information	08	10.25
Find full text articles	11	14.10
Find Abstracts of articles for research work	42	53.85
Find the publication of authors of my interest	1	1.28
Total	78	100.00

Table 3: Frequency of time spent to use CeRA by the respondents

Frequency of time Spent to use CeRA	Respondents	Percentage
1 Hour	18	23.17
2 Hours	22	28.20
3 Hours	13	16.66
4 Hours	15	19.23
More than 4 Hours	10	12.82
Total	78	100.00

used the CeRA to the extent of 20.51 per cent for publishing books and articles. The least usage of CeRA (1.28%) by the respondents was laid in the category of finding the publication on their own interest (Table 2). Hence, this clearly explains that most of research workers are using CeRA access for collecting review articles for their research work due to getting easily much number of articles from various journals within a short period of time. This made them to using to the large extent. The several works also opined the same things.

The data (Table 3) on frequency of time spent to use CeRA by the respondents reported that 28.20 per cent of the research scholars were used the CeRA for 2 hours and followed by the scholars spent time for only 1 hour per day (23.17 %) for using CeRA. And few research scholars (16.66%) and (19.23%) use CeRA for 3 hours and 4 hours in a day, respectively. Very less number of scholars (12.82%) was involved in using CeRA by putting time spent more than 4 hours per day. Therefore, the data clearly indicates that most of the research scholars are getting their needful research reviews within a time instead of consuming much time.

Level of satisfaction of accessing E- journals in CeRA was worked out (Table 4) and results observed that the research scholars have been satisfied to the greater extent Some research scholars were commented their satisfaction which fell in category of satisfaction level to the extent of 32.05 percentage. The least level of satisfaction was noticed with dissatisfied group (11.53 %). Higher level of satisfaction by the research scholars might be due to easily and timely accessible many number of research articles for their needs.

The study on response of research scholars to need of print journals in addition to e-journals (CeRA) was

carried out (Table 5). The research scholars (84.62%) were responded towards need of print copy of journals in addition to e-journals. It might be due to availability of back volumes in e-journals (CeRA) for only 10 years as archive. Further, they suggested that the print versions could be maintained for long period of time and it would be facilitated for use at any time as and when the information is required. In addition to this, as we observed that, there is trend in subscription of e-journals in most of the institutions and the research scholars are also demanding print version journals in addition to e-journals.

The research scholars of UAS Dharwad (70.84%) said that the orientation training could be required to use the CeRA. Only 29.84 per cent of research scholars were proficient in using CeRA. Further, they opined that the orientation training for use of CeRA could not be required (Fig. 2).

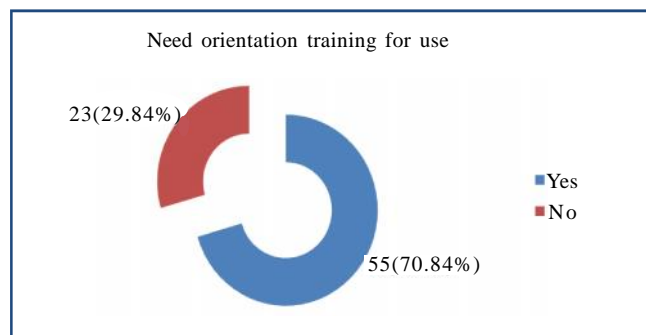


Fig. 2: Need orientation training for use CeRA

The opinion about user friendliness of CeRA was asked to the research scholars. 36 scholars agreed the CeRA is user friendly. And 35.89 per cent of the scholars strongly agreed that the CeRA is user friendly. But only

Table 4: Level of satisfaction of accessing E- journals in CeRA by the research scholars

Level of satisfaction	Respondents	Percentage
Highly satisfied	44	56.41
Satisfied	25	32.05
Dissatisfied	09	11.53
Total	78	100.00

Table 5: Response of research scholars to need of print journals in addition to e-Journals (CeRA)

Need print journals in addition to e- journals	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	66	84.62
No	12	15.38
Total	78	100.00

Table 6: User Friendliness of CeRA

User friendliness	Respondents	Percentage
Agree	36	46.15
Strongly agree	28	35.89
Disagree	14	17.94
Total	78	100.00

14 (17,94%) of the research scholars opined, use of CeRA is not so easy (Table 6).

Conclusion:

Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture - CeRA developed by ICAR New Delhi, has become a most-used service by the students. Curriculum-based information literacy courses like 'library and information services', 'research methodology', etc., have contributed much towards instructing required skills for the access and use of digital information resources or e-resources. Escalating of CeRA services by adding more resources and facilities will give strong information support for the teaching, research and extension programmers.

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