



# Awareness and use of Odisha University Consortium of E-Resources by the Library users of Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur, India

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## Abstract

*This study explores the library users' awareness and usage of the Odisha University Consortium of E-Resources (OUC-ER) at Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur. The OUC-ER is a crucial initiative to provide access to EBSCO and Science Direct to support academic and research activities in Odisha's universities. The research evaluates the extent to which students, faculty, and other library users know and utilize these resources, identifying factors influencing their access and usage patterns. A mixed-method approach involving surveys and interviews was employed to collect data from library users across various departments. The findings reveal varying levels of awareness, with faculty showing higher familiarity and usage than students. The study also highlights barriers such as lack of training, insufficient internet infrastructure, and limited awareness campaigns. Based on the results, recommendations for improving the promotion, training, and accessibility of OUC-ER among the university community are provided. This research contributes to the ongoing efforts to enhance digital resource utilization in higher education. It offers valuable insights for improving library services and resource management at Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur.*

**Keywords:** Odisha University consortium, EBSCO, Science Direct, Gangadhar Meher University, Use and Awareness of Odisha University consortium.

## Introduction

In the digital era, the world is moving towards the digital and automating itself. New information and communication technologies are drastically changing our way of thinking, our lives, and our environment. In general, we are talking about technologies and tools that people use to share, distribute, and gather information and communicate with one another using computer systems and interconnected computer networks. ICT is used in libraries to improve customer service and meet a range of user needs.

Libraries have evolved into digital and virtual spaces where books and journals have become electronic versions known as e-books and e-journals. This has boosted the distribution of knowledge throughout the world. Remote locations have easy access to electronic resources. Electronic resources reduce information overload and address storage issues. The process of communication has altered, and the cost of communication for individuals has decreased, thanks to the quick development of new technology.

One of the most important tools ever created in human history, electronic information sources, can be considered the most recent advancement in information technology. There is a pressing need to investigate academics' awareness and use of electronic resources and their degree of satisfaction.

The Odisha University Consortium of E-Resources was formally launched in January 2022 by the Higher Education Council, Government of Odisha (OSHEC). OSHEC subscribed to e-resources from Elsevier's Science Direct and EBSCO. Elsevier's journals in 10 Subject Categories. The subscription agreement spans over 5 years, i.e., 2022-2026. The Consortium of e-Resources for State Universities of Odisha (CeR- SUO) is a group of 12 state universities in Odisha, India, that have come together to form a consortium aimed at providing access to electronic resources to their faculty, students, and researchers.

The 12 member universities of CeR-SUO are: Berhampur University, Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Fakir Mohan University, Gangadhar Meher University, North Orissa University, Odisha State Open University, Rama Devi Women's University, Ravenshaw University, Sambalpur University, Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Utkal University, Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology CeR-SUO aims to provide seamless access to electronic resources, such as e-journals, e-books, databases, and other digital resources, to its member universities.

The consortium negotiates with publishers and vendors to obtain access to these resources at discounted prices and negotiates licensing agreements on behalf of its member universities. The consortium also provides training and support to member universities on how to effectively use these resources to enhance the quality of teaching, learning, and research in Odisha's state

universities. Overall, CeR-SUO is a collaborative effort among state universities in Odisha to provide their students, faculty, and researchers with access to a wide range of electronic resources, which would have been difficult to obtain individually. The consortium provides cost-effective and convenient access to these resources, contributing to the development of higher education in the state.

**Gangadhar Meher University:** Gangadhar Meher University (GMU) came into existence on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 as a unitary institution of higher learning (The Government of Odisha Order No. 11598/HE dated 30.05.2015). The newly formed university replaced the erstwhile Gangadhar Meher College (Autonomous). Gangadhar Meher College, one of the oldest and largest in Odisha, originated in 1944 due to the strong initiative, determination, and tireless efforts of the people of Sambalpur. Initially known as Sambalpur College, it was later renamed in 1949 as Gangadhar Meher College after Gangadhar Meger, a renowned Odia poet and worthy son of the soil. The "Mayadhar Mansingh Library" of Gangadhar Meher University has a subscription to the Consortium of E-resources for State University, Odisha. The GMU Library was founded in 1944 and expanded after that.

**Literature review:** Major Areas of Study a review of the literature on studies conducted from 2010 to 2025 by different researchers is being made under different subject areas in this section:

Maheswari and Aravind examine the evaluation of electronic resources by Madurai Kamaraj University Library users. This study was initiated to determine library users' satisfaction level regarding various types of E-Resources. A survey was conducted among the users, and this paper concluded that the majority of the users rated E-Resources as Good, and they were satisfied to a large extent with these resources<sup>1</sup>.

Chose a small sample from the whole population of the college libraries. In the E-resource area, assess the present information and communication technology infrastructure and the contemporary use of electronic information resources in the college libraries. Identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges, and status of the N-List Programme in the college libraries under the West Bengal State University<sup>2</sup>.

Hanchinal and Campus conducted a study entitled "Awareness and usage of resources of N-list consortium: a study concerning academic colleges of Mumbai." In this study, an attempt has been made to assess the use of E-resources by the N-LIST program by the Academic library users in the Mumbai Suburban area. This study concludes that 50% of respondents are using the e-resources of the N-LIST program, and the other 50% are not aware of the N-LIST program<sup>3</sup>.

This study demonstrates the usage and awareness of N-list services by the students and faculty members of MRITS and

MRCE Engineering College, Hyderabad. The results show that most faculty members and students are aware of N-List electronic resources. The college library provides faculty and students from both colleges with access to online resources. One time per week, the majority of the faculty and students from both universities use N-list resources. Teachers and researchers who want to stay current in their respective fields of study use N-List resources<sup>4</sup>. This study focused on acquiring knowledge about the purpose of N-List, knowing how frequently user uses N-List e-resources, finding the interface to access N-List, and discovering the problems while using N-List. The findings of the study reveal that students are using them for study purposes, and almost one-third of the faculty used N-LIST e-resources for their research and paper publications<sup>5</sup>.

## Methodology

**Objectives of the study:** Major Objectives: To increase the awareness of E-Resources in the Odisha University Consortium among the library users of Gangadhar Meher University. To find out the purpose of using e-resources by the library users of Gangadhar Meher University. To investigate the frequency of using e-resources by the library users of Gangadhar Meher University. To find out the problems faced by Gangadhar Meher University library users while using e-resources in the Odisha University Consortium. To investigate the satisfaction level among library users regarding e-resources in EBSCO and Science Direct.

**EBSCO:** Elton B. Stephen Company (EBSCO) is a leading provider of research databases, E-Books, and other digital content for academic and public libraries. Founded in 1944, EBSCO is headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama. EBSCO offers a wide range of subscription-based services, such as EBSCO host, EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS), EBSCO eBooks, EBSCO Health, and Business Source<sup>6</sup>.

**Science Direct:** Science Direct is a leading full-text scientific database owned by Elsevier, providing access to a vast collection of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and conference papers across various disciplines, including science, technology, medicine, and social science.

There are 843 in PG first year, 921 in PG second year, 1428 in UG first year, 1392 in UG second year, and 1368 in UG third year, a total number of 5952 students in PG and UG and the total number of 240 Research Scholar and 64 faculties at Gangadhar Meher University. However, a total of 300 (5.04%) respondents are the total sample size, and questionnaires are distributed in a ratio of 1:1:3 Faculties, research scholars, and students and between UG and PG in a ratio 1:1 respectively, from which 281 responses are retrieved, after removing improper and error results in 256 responses are collected. The sample size has been selected based on stratified random sampling design techniques.

**Table-1:** The total sample size.

Total Questionnaire Distributed	Returned Back	Percentage (%)
300	256	86.33%

**Table-1B:** Total no. of Questionnaire Distributed by Educational Qualification.

Educational Qualification	Total No. of Questionnaire Distributed	Total No of Questionnaires Received	Percentage (%)
Undergraduate (UG)	90	78	30.4
Post Graduation (PG)	90	82	32.1
Research Scholar	60	42	16.4
Faculties	60	54	21.1
Total	300	256	100

It was observed that 78 questionnaires were received back out of 90 questionnaires distributed among undergraduate students, which is 30.4% of the total questionnaires distributed. Eighty-two questionnaires were received back from a total of 90 questionnaires distributed to postgraduate students. A total of 60 questionnaires were distributed to research scholars and faculties, which 42 and 54 received back, respectively.

**Awareness of Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha:** Libraries are an essential resource for accessing information and knowledge. With the advent of digital technology, libraries have also become a significant source of online resources. Here are some types of e-resources commonly available at libraries:

**E-books:** Libraries offer access to a vast collection of electronic books (e-books) on a variety of subjects. E-books can be borrowed and read on e-readers, tablets, smart phones, or computers.

**E-journals:** Libraries also provide access to electronic journals (e-journals) that contain scholarly articles and research papers. Some e-journals require a subscription, while others are freely available.

**Databases:** Libraries offer access to online databases that provide access to articles, reports, and other documents. Databases are useful for conducting research, especially when looking for specific information.

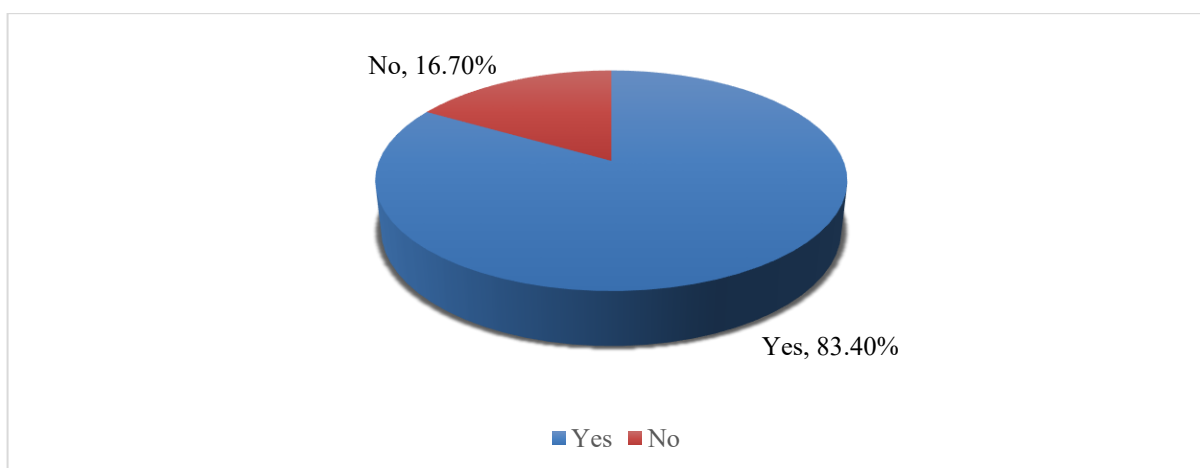
**Audio and video resources:** Libraries also provide access to audio and video resources, such as online lectures, audio books, and documentaries.

**Digital archives:** Libraries have digital archives of historical documents, newspapers, photographs, and other materials that can be accessed online.

Overall, libraries offer a wide range of e-resources that can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection. These resources are valuable tools for learning, research, and personal enrichment.

**Table-1C:** Awareness of Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha.

Awareness of Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	213	83.4%
No	43	16.7%
Total	256	100%



**Figure-1:** Awareness of E-Resource.

Figure-1 shows that 83.4% of respondents are aware of e-resources, whereas 16.7% are not aware of library e-resources.

#### From which source do respondents know about the consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha?

E-resources, also known as electronic resources, refer to digital materials that are accessible online. These resources can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection, making them incredibly convenient and easy to use. Examples of e-resources include e-books, online journals, databases, and multimedia content such as videos and audio recordings.

Awareness about e-resources is important because they offer numerous benefits over traditional print resources. E-resources are usually more up-to-date, easier to search and navigate, and more accessible to a wider audience. They also help to reduce the environmental impact of printing and distribution, as well as save time and money by eliminating the need for physical storage and transportation.

Gangadhar Meher University organized various awareness programs to increase awareness about e-resources. Libraries, academic institutions, and other organizations can offer training and workshops on using and accessing these resources. They can also promote e-resources through social media, email newsletters, and other communication channels, as well as provide links and tutorials on their websites. Additionally, individuals can stay informed about e-resources by attending webinars, following industry blogs and news outlets, and joining online communities focused on their specific areas of interest.

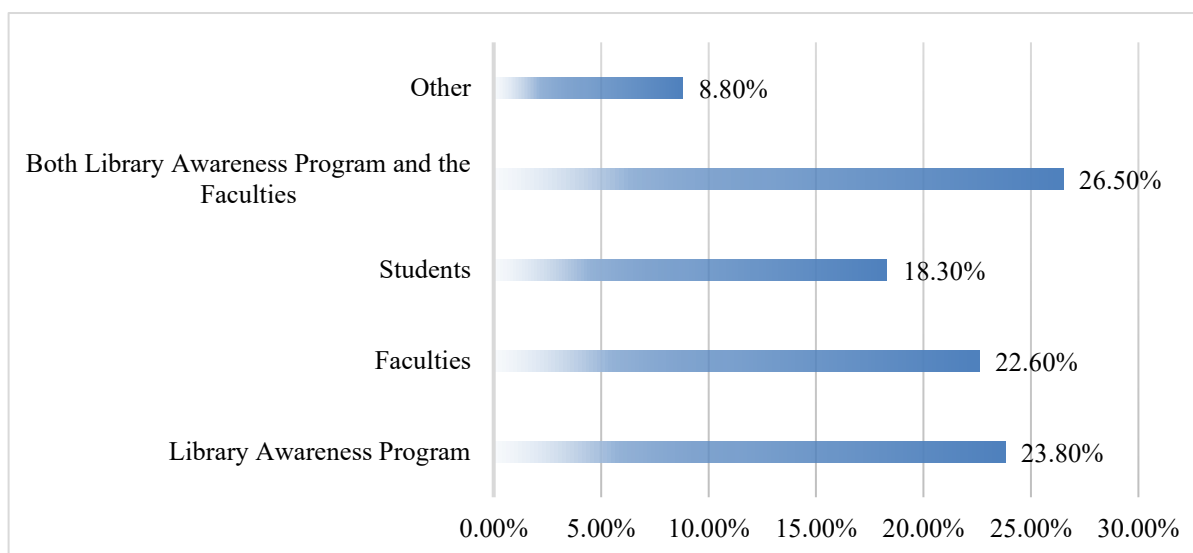
Figure-2 clearly shows that 23.8% of respondents are aware of e-resources from the Library Awareness Program, 22.6% are from faculties, 18.3% of respondents are from students, and 26.5% of respondents are aware of both the Library Awareness

Program and the Faculties, whereas 8.8% of respondent's awareness from other.

**Table-2:** From which source do respondents know about consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha.

Source of Awareness	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Library awareness program	61	23.8%
Faculties	58	22.6%
Students	47	18.3%
Both the library awareness program and the faculties	68	26.5%
Other	22	8.8%
Total	256	100%

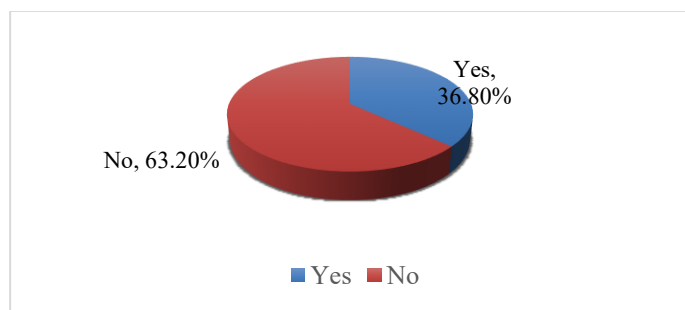
**Awareness about Advance Search:** Advanced search is a feature provided by many search engines and websites that allows you to refine your search query and get more precise results. With advanced search, you can use various filters and parameters to limit your search results based on specific criteria such as author, publication, date of publication, language, file type, domain, or location. Some search engines and websites may have a specific button or link labeled "Advanced Search" or "Advanced Options," while others may require you to enter specific operators and parameters into the search bar to conduct an advanced search. There are several operators or search commands that you can use to refine your search queries and conduct advanced searches on various search engines and websites. An effective advanced search involves using specific strategies and tools to refine your search queries and obtain more relevant and useful results. Using strategies and tools can effectively refine your search queries and obtain more targeted and useful results.



**Figure-2:** Source of Awareness.

**Table-3:** Awareness about Advance Search.

Awareness of Advance Search	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	94	36.8%
No	162	63.2%
Total	256	100%



**Figure-3:** Awareness about Advance Search.

From Figure-3, it was observed that 63.20% of respondents are not aware of advanced search, and only 36.8% of respondents are aware of advanced search.

**Preference of Resource Type:** Print and electronic resources are two broad categories of information resources. Print resources refer to information sources that are printed on paper or other physical materials, such as books, newspapers, magazines, journals, reports, and brochures. Print resources have been the primary mode of information dissemination for centuries and are still widely used in various contexts. Print resources offer advantages such as a tactile reading experience.

Electronic resources, on the other hand, refer to information sources that are accessed and distributed digitally through computers, mobile devices, or other electronic means. Electronic resources include e-books, online databases, digital libraries, online journals, and websites. Electronic resources offer advantages such as instant access, search ability, interactivity, and multimedia content.

Both print and electronic resources have their unique features and benefits, and the choice between them depends on the specific needs and preferences of the user. While print resources may be preferred in certain situations where physical access is required or a tactile reading experience is desired, electronic resources offer many advantages, such as ease of access, search ability, and the ability to interact and collaborate with others.

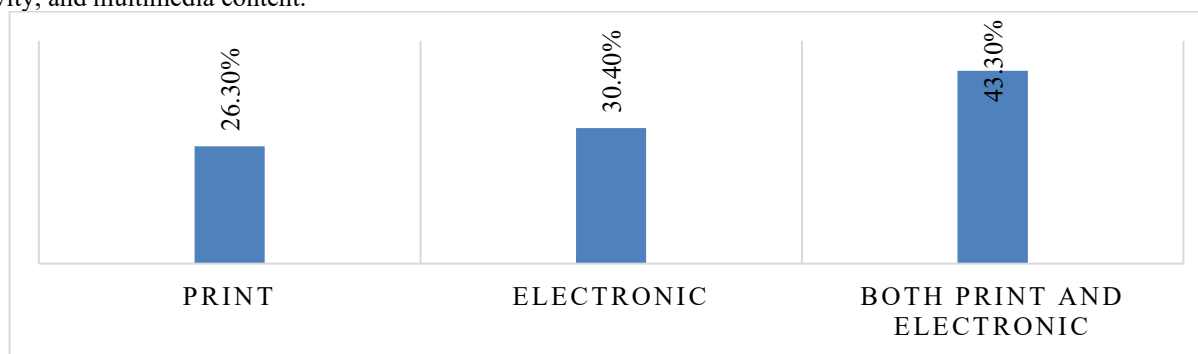
**Table-4:** Type of resource preference by library users of Gangadhar Meher University.

Types of Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Print	67	26.3%
Electronic	78	30.4%
Both print and electronic	111	43.3%
Total	256	100%

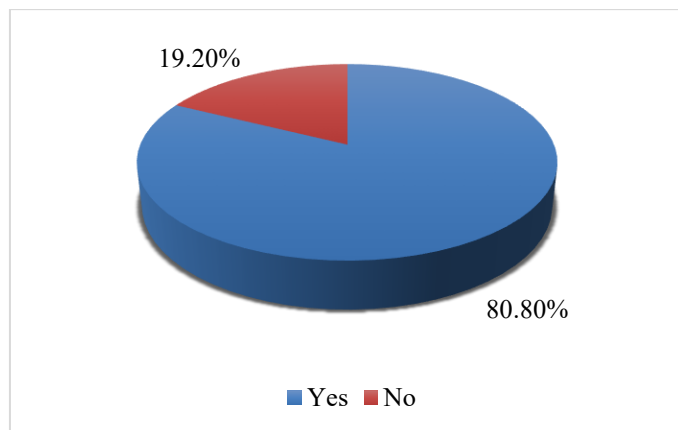
From Figure-4, it was observed that 26.3% of respondents preferred print resources, 30.40% of respondents preferred electronic resources, whereas 43.30% preferred both print and electronic resources.

**Table-5:** Aware of How to Access and Use Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha at Gangadhar Meher University.

Awareness of access and use of consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	207	80.8%
No	49	19.2%
Total	256	100%



**Figure-4:** Preference of Type of Resource.

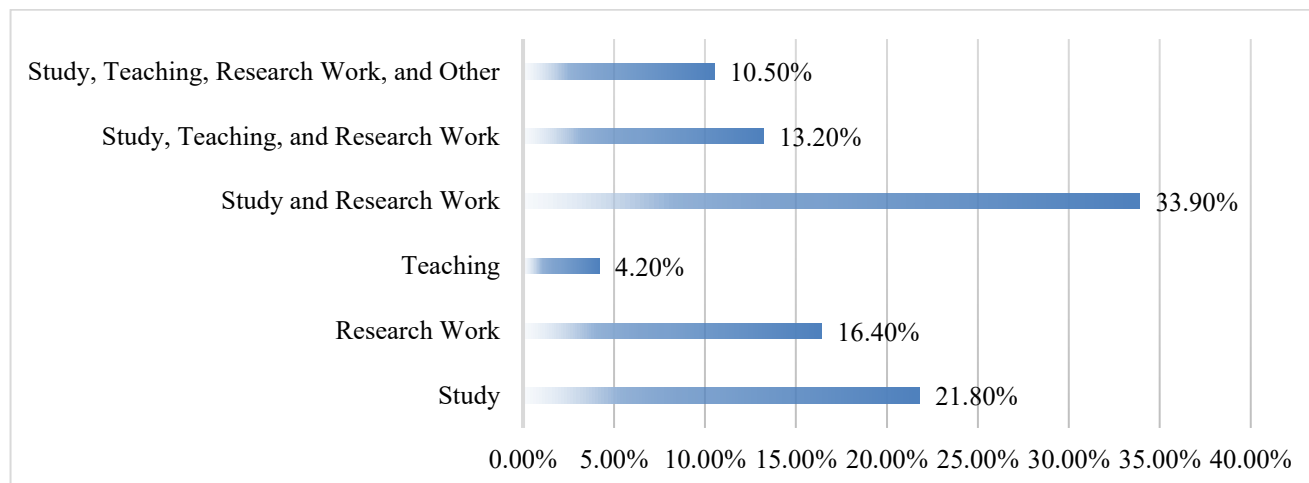


**Figure-5:** Aware About Access and Use.

The Figure-5 shows that 80.8% of respondents are aware of how to access and use the Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha, but 19.2% of respondents are not aware of how to access and use it.

**Table-6:** Purpose of Using Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha.

Purpose of using consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Study	56	21.8%
Research Work	42	16.4%
Teaching	11	4.2%
Study and Research Work	87	33.9%
The Study, Teaching, and Research Work	34	13.2%
The study, Teaching, Research Work, and Other	26	10.5%
Total	256	100%



**Figure-6:** Purpose of Use.

**Table-7:** Frequency of accessing Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha.

Frequency	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Daily	27	10.5%
2-3 Times in a week	93	36.4%
Once a week	61	23.8%
2-3 times a month	24	9.4%
Once a month	51	19.9%
Total	256	100%

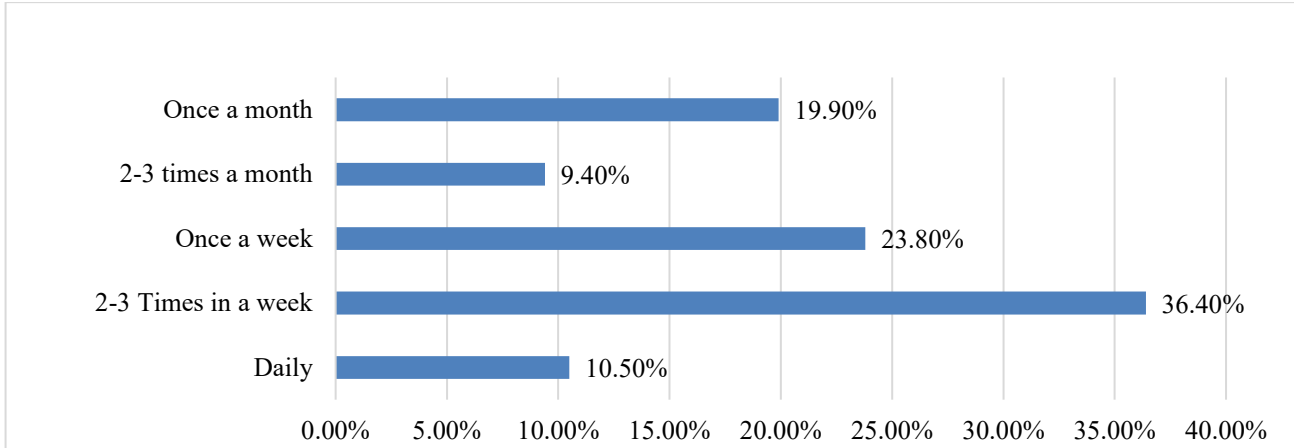


Figure-7: Frequency of accessing Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha.

Figure-6 shows 21.8% of respondents are using Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha for study purposes, 16.4% are using e-resources for research work, 4.2% of total respondents are using them for teaching, 33.9% of respondents are using e-resources for study and research work, 13.2% of respondents using e-resource for Study, Teaching and Research Work, 10.5% of faculties using e-resource for Study, Teaching, Research Work, and Other Work.

Most of the users use it 2-3 times a week, which is 36.4%, daily 10.5%, once a week 23.8%, 2-3 times a month 9.4%, and 19.9% once a month.

**Problems faced during access and use of consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha:** There can be a variety of problems that people might face when trying to access electronic resources: i. Technical issues: The most common problem faced by people when accessing e-resources is technical issues, such as slow internet speed, network connectivity issues, and compatibility issues with their device, browser, or software. Sometimes, the website or server may be down, or access may be limited or restricted due to maintenance or other issues. ii. Authentication and authorization: Access to some electronic resources may require authentication or authorization such as login ID and password or IP address. In some cases, the user may not have the necessary credentials to

access the resource or may have entered incorrect login details. iii. User interface and navigation: Some e-resources may have complex interfaces or navigation, which may be difficult for users to understand and use. This may result in users not being able to locate the information they need or not being able to access the resource at all.

Table-8: Problems faced during access to Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha.

Problem faced during access and use of consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha.	Faculties	Percentage (%)
Internet Connectivity	104	40.6%
Login Issue	36	14%
Insufficient E-Resources in Subject Domain	28	10.9%
User Interface and Navigation	15	5.8%
Difficulty in Identifying Relevant Information	32	12.5%
No Problem Arises	41	16.2%
Total	256	100%

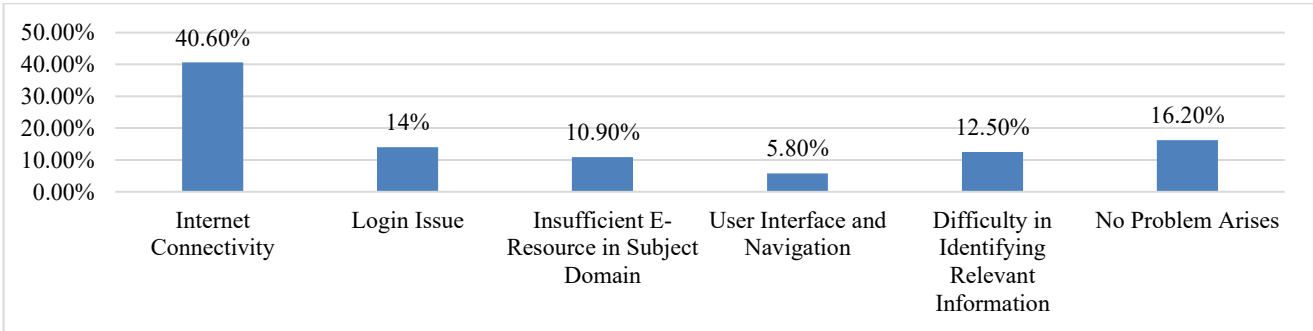


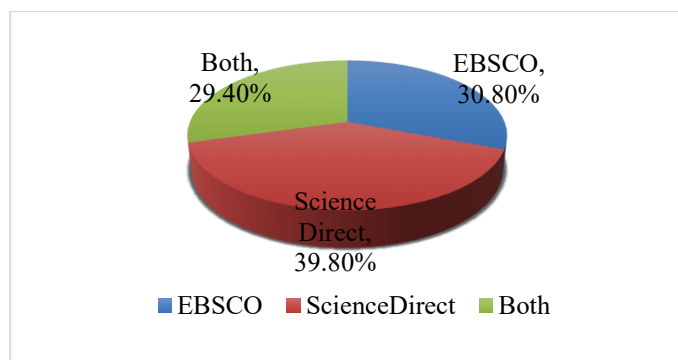
Figure-8: Problem Occurred During Access of E-Resource.



The Figure-8 clearly shows that 40.6% of respondents faced Internet Connectivity while accessing EBSCO and Science Direct, 14% of respondents faced Login Issues, 10.9% of respondents had Insufficient e-resources in the Subject Domain, 5.8% of respondents faced User Interface and Navigation problems, 12.5% faced Difficulty in identifying relevant information whereas 16.2% have no problem during access.

**Table-9:** Mostly Preferred E-Resources Subscribed by Gangadhar Meher University.

E-Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
EBSCO	79	30.8%
Science Direct	102	39.8%
Both	75	29.4%
Total	256	100%



**Figure-9:** Preferred E-Resource.

**Figure-9:** shows that 30.8% of respondents mostly used EBSCO, 39.8% of respondents used Science Direct, whereas 29.4% used both EBSCO and Science Direct.

**Table-10:** Experience with using EBSCO and Science Direct Interface.

Level of satisfaction	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very satisfied	76	29.6%
Satisfied	93	36.3%
Neutral	60	23.4%
Dissatisfied	18	7.2%
Very dissatisfied	9	3.5%
Total	256	100%

Figure-10 shows that 29.6% of total respondents were very satisfied and rated Very satisfied, 36.3% rated Satisfied, 23.4% of respondents stayed neutral, 7.2% rated Dissatisfied, and 3.5% of respondents rated Very dissatisfied.

## Results and Discussion

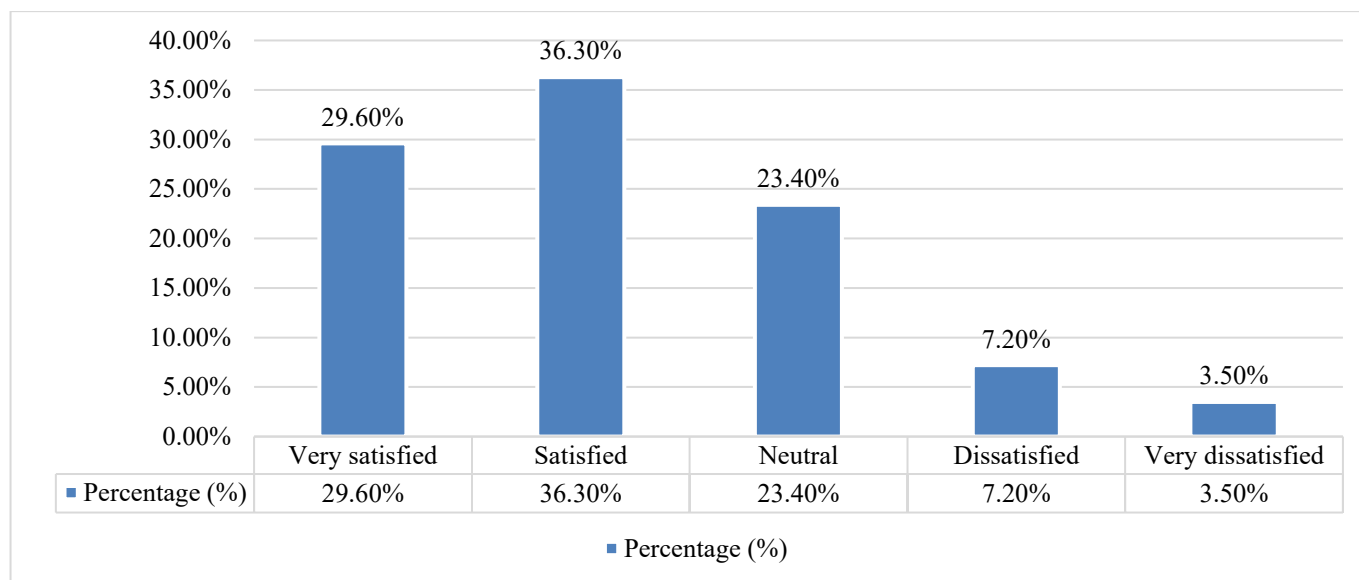
The major aim of the present investigation is to study the Use and Awareness of the Consortium of E-Resources for state universities, specifically Gangadhar Meher University. This part deals with the findings that were formed for this study and are analysed point by point after the final analysis of the interpretation of the data.

**General findings:** Demographic Profile: Distributed a total of 300 questionnaires among students, research scholars, and faculties of GMU library users selected for the study. Out of 300 questionnaires distributed, a total of 281 filled questionnaires were received, from which, after removing improper and errors, a total of 256 are the actual sample size of this study.

**Findings related to Objective 1:** i. Awareness of Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha: This study finds that 83.4% of respondents are aware of e-resources, whereas 16.7% are not aware of library e-resources. ii. From which source do respondents know about Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha: This study finds that Sources of knowledge about E-Resources is from 23.8% of respondents are aware of e-resources from the Library Awareness Program, 22.6% are from faculties, 18.3% of respondents are aware from students, 26.5% of respondents are aware from Both the Library Awareness Program and the Faculties whereas 8.8% of respondents are aware from others. iii. Awareness about Advance Search: This study found that 63.20% of respondents were not aware of advanced search, and only 36.8% of respondents were aware of advanced search. iv. Preference of Resource Type: This study found that 26.3% of respondents preferred print resources, 30.40% of respondents preferred electronic resources, and 43.30% preferred both print and electronic resources. v. Awareness of How to Access and Use of Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha: The respondents revealed that 80.8% of respondents are aware of how to access and use library e-resources, but 19.2% of respondents are not aware of how to access and use library e-resources.

**Findings Related to Objective 2:** vi. Purpose of Use of Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha: This study found that 21.8% of respondents are using e-resources for study purposes, 16.4% are using e-resources for research work, 4.2% are for teaching, 33.9% are for study and research work, 13.2% of respondents using e-resource for Study, Teaching and Research Work, 10.5% of faculties using e-resource for Study, Teaching, Research Work, and Other Work.





**Figure-10:** Interface Satisfaction.

**Findings Related to Objective 3:** vii. Frequency of accessing Consortium of E-Resources for State Universities of Odisha: This research concludes that Most of the users use it 2-3 times a week, which is 36.4%, daily 10.5%, once a week 23.8%, 2-3 times in a month 9.4%, and 19.9% once a month.

**Findings Related to Objective 4:** viii. Problems Faced by the Respondents: The respondents revealed that 40.6% of respondents faced Internet Connectivity while accessing EBSCO and Science Direct, 14% of respondents faced Login Issues, 10.9% of respondents had Insufficient e-resources in the Subject Domain, 5.8% of respondents faced User Interface and Navigation problems, 12.5% faced Difficulty in identifying relevant information whereas 16.2% have no problem during access.

**Findings Related to Objective 5:** ix. Mostly Preferred E-Resources Subscribed by Gangadhar Meher University: The respondents revealed that 30.8% of respondents mostly used EBSCO, 39.8% of respondents used Science Direct, whereas 29.4% used both EBSCO and Science Direct. x. Experience with using EBSCO and Science Direct Interface: The respondents revealed that 29.6% of total respondents were very satisfied and rated very satisfied, 36.3% rated Satisfied, 23.4% of respondents stayed neutral, 7.2% rated Dissatisfied, and 3.5% of respondents rated very dissatisfied.

## Conclusion

The present study aimed to evaluate the awareness and usage of the Odisha University Consortium of E-Resources among the library users of Gangadhar Meher University. Based on the findings, it is evident that while a majority of library users are aware of e-resources but a significant portion still lacks awareness. The primary source of awareness includes library awareness programs and faculty members, highlighting the role

of institutional initiatives in promoting digital resource usage. The major purpose of using the Consortium of e-resources for the State University of Odisha is for study and research work, and comparatively, a smaller number of users are using e-resources for Teaching and Other Work. Also, this study concludes that a maximum number of users know about e-resources, but comparatively, a very large number of users are unable to do advanced searches. Challenges such as internet connectivity issues, login problems, and insufficient resources in specific areas remain barriers to optimal usage. Additionally, user experience with platforms like EBSCO and Science Direct is generally positive, with 65.9% of respondents rating their experience as either satisfied or very satisfied. While the CeR-SUO is a valuable asset for users at GMU, there is a need for further awareness programs, technical support, and improved accessibility measures to enhance users' experience. Addressing these challenges will lead to more efficient utilization of digital resources at GMU.

**Suggestions:** Here are a few suggestions from the current study. More orientation and training programs should be organized to properly utilize e-resources. i. More resources should be subscribed in the fields of social science, arts, and humanities. ii. Providing required facilities for accessing the e-resources in the university. iii. Internet and LAN connectivity should be more reliable. iv. The university library should provide an Auto-generating message facility regarding content updation. v. Presently, all are living in a digital and paperless society. Hence, there is a need to improve the web-based information services for library activities in the university.

**Scope for further research:** Further research studies can be conducted on: i. Frequency of usage of e-resources and print resources by library users affiliated with Gangadhar Meher University. ii. The study can also be extended to other

Universities in Odisha concerning undergraduate and postgraduate students. iii. Study on attitudes of library users towards the use of E-Resources. iv. Barriers to the use of E-Resources and services in academic institutions.

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