

E-resources

The development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), has changed today's education system. ICT helped people to store and disseminate information in various forms. Today, with the help of ICT the information can be disseminated very fast from one place of the world to the other place within a fraction of time. In the earlier days, the information was only present or available in the traditional way of writing and after that in the form of printed books and material. Today, many modern web portals offer a variety of electronic services and electronic resource products for their students and teachers.

E-resources are becoming very important these days as they are more up-to-date, and can be accessed anywhere, anytime across the world. Such resources add value to teachers and students in the teaching and learning process. They are also very much useful to the researchers while conducting research and development activities.

Different E-resources

Some examples of online resources are as follows:

a) E-books: A book which is available in electronic format and which can be read using a computer or a special reader. It contains the latest and most updated information. Some of the websites to access the e-books are:

- www.doabooks.org
- www.books.google.com
- www.goodreads.com/ebooks
- bookboon.com
- www.doabooks.org
- www.ebookdirectory.com

- www.getfreeebooks.com
- www.free-ebooks.net
- www.gutenberg.org

Google Books (www.book.google.com)

It is a service from Google Inc. that searches the full text of books and magazines that Google has scanned, converted to text using optical character recognition (OCR), and stored in its digital database. Books are provided either by publishers and authors through the Google Books Partner Program, or by Google's library partners through the Library Project. Additionally, Google has partnered with several magazine publishers to digitize their archives.

Directory of Open Access Books (www.doabooks.org)

The primary aim of DOAB is to increase the discoverability of open access books. Academic publishers are invited to provide metadata of their open access books to DOAB. DOAB is an open infrastructure committed to open science. Aggregators can integrate the records in their commercial services and libraries can integrate the directory into their online catalogs, helping scholars and students to discover the books. The directory is open to all publishers who publish academic, peer-reviewed books in open access and should contain as many books as possible, provided that these publications are in open access and meet academic standards.

E-journals

An electronic journal is a periodical publication that is published in electronic format, usually on the Internet. E-Journals are digitalized journals that you can read on the Web. The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Google Scholar are some of the websites to access the e-journals are:

Directory of Open Access Journals (www.doaj.org)

The DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) was launched in 2003 with 300 open access journals. Today, this independent database contains over 17, 500 peer-reviewed open access journals covering all areas of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, arts and humanities. Open access journals from all countries and in all languages are welcome to apply for inclusion. DOAJ is financially supported by many libraries, publishers and other like-minded organizations. Supporting DOAJ demonstrates a firm commitment to open access and the infrastructure that supports it.

Google Scholar (www.scholar.google.com)

Google Scholar is a freely accessible web search engine that indexes the full text or metadata of scholarly literature across an array of publishing formats and disciplines. Released in beta in November 2004, the Google Scholar index includes most peer-reviewed online academic journals and books, conference papers, theses and dissertations, preprints, abstracts, technical reports, and other scholarly literature, including court opinions and patents.

b) E-PG Pathshala (www.epgp.inflibnet.ac.in)

It is an initiative of the MHRD under its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT) being executed by the UGC. The content and its quality is the key component of the education system, high quality, curriculum-based, interactive e-content in 70 subjects across all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts and humanities, natural & mathematical sciences, linguistics and languages have been developed by the subject experts working in Indian universities and other R & D institutes across the country. Every subject had a team of principal investigators, paper coordinators, content writers, content reviewers, Language editors and multimedia team.

c) National Digital Library of India (www.ndl.gov)

It is a virtual repository of learning resources that is not just a repository with search/browse facilities but provides a host of services for the learner community. It is sponsored and mentored by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, through its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT). Filtered and federated searching is employed to facilitate focused searching so that learners can find the right resource with the least effort and in minimum time.

NDLI provides user group-specific services such as Examination Preparatory for School and College students and job aspirants. Services for Researchers and general learners are also provided. NDLI is designed to hold the content of any language and provides interface support for the 10 most widely used Indian languages. It is built to provide support for all academic levels including researchers and life-long learners, all disciplines, all popular forms of access devices and differently-abled learners. It is designed to enable people to learn and prepare from best practices from all over the world and to facilitate researchers to perform inter-linked exploration from multiple sources. It is developed, operated and maintained by the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur.

d) Shodhganga (www.shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in)

Shodhganga is the name coined to denote the digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations set up by the INFLIBNET Centre. It provides a platform for research students to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make them available to the entire scholarly community in open access. The repository can capture, index, store, disseminate and preserve ETDs submitted by the researchers. As of the 14th of December 3,30,833 theses contributed from 500 Indian universities are available in the Shodhganga.

e) National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning (www.nptel.ac.in)

It was initiated by seven Indian Institutes of Technology (Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras, Guwahati and Roorkee) along with the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 2003. The main goal of NPTEL Phase II was to build on the engineering and core science courses launched previously in NPTEL Phase I. An additional 600 web and video courses were created in all major branches of engineering, physical sciences at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels and management courses at the postgraduate level. Several improvements such as indexing of all video and web courses and keyword search were implemented.

Youtube channel for NPTEL – most subscribed educational channel, 1 billion views and 42+ lakhs subscribers. It has more than 56000 hours of video content, 52000+ hours of transcribed content and 51000+ hours of subtitled videos.

f) Vidyamitra (www.vidyamitra_inflibnet.ac.in)

Vidya-Mitra is an online learning portal for all the e-content projects developed under the NME-ICT (National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology), MHRD. The portal provides a facility to search and browse all hosted content wherein a learner can easily access the desired material including audio/video learning material, textual material, multimedia-enriched materials etc. through a single interface. Moreover, features of faceted search, usage statistics, project-wise access, My-Space are incorporated in this portal.

g) Swayam Prabha (www.swayamprabha.gov.in)

It is a group of 22 DTH channels devoted to telecasting high-quality educational programs on 24x7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite. Every day, there will be new content for at least (4) hours which would be repeated 5 more times in a day, allowing the students

to choose the time of their convenience. The channels are uplinked from BISAG-N, Gandhinagar. The contents are provided by NPTEL, IITs, UGC, CEC, IGNOU. The INFLIBNET Centre maintains the web portal.

References

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