
Information Resource Sharing Practices among the Research Scholars at University of Peshawar

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KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated information resource sharing among research scholars at the University of Peshawar. For data collection, a questionnaire was used to collect data from 297 research scholars enrolled in Social Science faculty at University of Peshawar involved in their studies at BS, M.Phil/M.S and PhD levels. The total response rate was 51.5%. Proportionate Random Sampling technique was used in this study and sample size was calculated through a Rao-soft Sample size calculator. Data was analyzed through SPSS. The most important finding in this regard was the articles ranked 1st with a mean score of 4.33. The next resource in ranking was 'Books' (Mean score 4.10) followed by 'Journals' with a Mean score of 3.96, sharing information resources by researchers. In this regard, it has been found that 'Allowing new thought to emerge' with mean score 4.47 got the highest rank. 'Increase efficiency' received mean score 4.41. Followed by the next resource is 'To Collaborate collective knowledge' got mean score 4.47 are mostly shared by the research scholars. About 64% of the respondents liked to share information in this regard. They preferred to share the information resource 'Book' both in print and electronic format. It means that most of the important facilities are provided to the respondents by the institute.

INTRODUCTION

The process of sharing and gaining access to various types of information resources such as research papers, datasets, software, and other relevant material among researchers in the academic community is known as information resource sharing. Co-authorship of publications and collaboration on research projects are two examples of it. Making the most of the resources at hand can help to improve research effectiveness and promote scientific progress. Good information resource sharing techniques also support researcher collaboration and the advancement of accessibility and reliability in their work (Ahmad 2017) Resource is anything or someone that one can use to get help when they are in need and accomplish their goals. Similar to this, sharing generally refers to taking part in, working with, distributing, and allocating something that will benefit others. Resource sharing refers to the distribution of resources among specific participants, collaborators, or members of the organization on the basis of cooperation and collaboration. According to the nature and resources of that specific organization, this is acceptable in the usage of documents and many other areas. In the current period, which is also known as the era of information explosion, information is a precious resource. This study investigates how research academics at the University of Peshawar in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa share information resources. It was formed in 1950, making it one of the oldest institutes of higher learning. Since that time, it has offered higher education in a number of fields from nursery to PhD level, as well as BS, Master, M.Phil and Ph.D. Since information sharing is the cooperative mechanism via which organizational knowledge is created and used, it is a key knowledge management process. A serious barrier to efficient knowledge management is the absence of knowledge exchange (Castaneda and Ramirez 2022).

Knowledge sharing is defined as the social interaction in which people share their explicit and tacit knowledge; this is how individual information is transformed into a structural framework to accomplish goals and produce results. According to Ahmad and Ahmad (2012), exploring information resource sharing practices among individuals will assist stakeholders and policy makers of the organizations in planning and implementing efficient research and knowledge sharing practices among its members. Information resource sharing is significant for giving both individuals and organizations a competitive edge. In every aspect of human endeavor, information is a crucial element, which is an ordered set of data. Researchers often use three types of information

sources: primary, secondary, and tertiary. Primary sources include things like journals, articles, emails, newspapers, magazines, and so on. Although secondary sources of knowledge include dictionaries and encyclopedias, among others, and tertiary sources include abstracts and indexes, etc. According to Mubofu and Chula's (2021) definition of resource sharing, this refers to an agreement amongst libraries to share their resources to better serve their patrons. These resources may consist of document collections, personnel, technological resources, and mechanical assistance provided by cooperating libraries. Knowledge sharing is the exchanging of information among people with the goal of learning, co-creating, or using knowledge. An organization places a lot of importance on the cooperative formation of knowledge. Also, they claimed that knowledge sharing is a multifaceted process that is linked to the creation and dissemination of knowledge (Castaneda Duran 2018).

Participating in e-resource sharing could offer libraries a variety of benefits, including easier access to information on a global scale for individual libraries and less financial strain on the purchase of print resources (Imo and Igbo, 2017). Institutional repositories at research institutions are based on contributions from their stakeholders, which include postgraduate and undergraduate students, academic and nonacademic personnel, and individuals engaged in teaching and research. Potential authors and readers of the information in an IR can be found in each of these groups, and the contributions of authors are essential to an IR's success. . IRs are currently evolving into a preferred method of granting open access to research output and a part of the technical infrastructure in universities and libraries all over the world. In contrast to other types of freely available web content, the term "OA" is typically used in the context of scientific publications and data and refers to its open availability on the web for reading, data removal, and recycling (Abrizah, Hilmi and Kassim, 2014). Information sharing in the form of accessing and informal communication is a widely acknowledged phenomenon in information science literature, according to Talja (2002). Most of the information sharing in research groups and projects is social in nature. Members of the group get together a few times a year to discuss relevant materials. Information sharing in the academic research community can take the following forms, adopting the focus on document retrieval:

1. Disseminating knowledge regarding relevant papers.
2. Exchange of pertinent documents

3. Sharing knowledge of the material in pertinent documents
4. Dissemination of knowledge regarding new and efficient techniques to locate pertinent documents or information sources

One of the newest management disciplines, known as knowledge management, focuses on the study of how knowledge is formed, associated, distributed, and used in organizations Castaneda, Rios, and Duran (2016). Knowledge repositories may be crucial in promoting knowledge flows inside the organization. Unfortunately, the repositories cannot guarantee that the knowledge exchanges will actually occur on their own (Cabrera, Collins and Salgado 2006).

Statement of the Problem

Academic institutions like colleges and universities are one of the major producers of information in today's society, mostly through their research and development efforts. Therefore, the research scholars in the universities have an important role and contribution in the production of information and knowledge (Ahmad and Ahmad, 2012).

The access/retrieval and sharing of information by the researchers, including students and faculty members, has been focus of many studies on a global level (Okiki, 2012). No study has been conducted to examine the information resource sharing practices of the research scholars at University of Peshawar. Therefore, it is essential to conduct the study on the information resource sharing practices among research scholars at university of Peshawar.

Research Objectives

The study covers the following objectives

1. To find out the preferred types of information resources, shared by the researchscholars.
2. To explore the purpose of sharing information resources by the researchers.
3. To know the format of information resource in which they preferred to share.
4. To examine the facilities provided by the university in the support of information sharing by the research scholars.

Significance of the study:

Generally sharing of resources is important because it gives researchers access to a greater variety of data and tools, which can result in more effective and efficient study. Researchers who pool their resources have access to information, tools, and skills they might not otherwise have. Furthermore, sharing resources can encourage teamwork and idea exchange, which can result in new understanding and accomplishments in a sector. Sharing resources among researchers can help to

speed up the process of scientific discovery and raise the standard of study. Informational resources offer a wide range of advantages and results. Society's ongoing evolution and the beginning of the information era. In universities nowadays, sharing information resources is the accepted mode of growth. This study examines how researchers use and prefer to share information resources, as well as their behavior in doing so. Sharing information resources is essential for ensuring that researchers have access to the right data at the right time.

According to Kumar and Ganesh (2009), the benefit of sharing information resources is that it allows one to assess another person's knowledge-sharing tendencies through interlibrary loans. Other questions asked respondents to describe how their libraries benefited from participating in resource sharing activities. The investigators, students, and others who use information resources receive the most recent and accurate information that they choose to read, writes, or use. Due to restricted funds and budgets, it might be challenging to buy expensive books and other resources in this situation; nevertheless, the issue can be resolved through resource sharing. Nowadays, almost all countries have high literacy rates, which mean that there are more people using information on a daily basis. This kind of increase in user ratio necessitates an equal ratio of information in terms of availability, which is impossible for a single organization or library to provide.

According to Ahmad and Ahmad (2012), a person can save time, money, and energy by sharing these information resources. Books and personal collections are typically used for class and exam preparation, whereas journals, abstracts, research reports, papers presented at conferences, etc. are typically used for research.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter covers the review of the relevant literature. Some of the studies are reviewed as under.

Information Resource sharing Concept

Generally sharing information resources is the act of making data accessible to a number of users or systems across a network or other communication channel. This makes it possible for users to access, share, and work together on data from a variety of sources, including as databases, websites, and digital documents. Modern form of information resource sharing is one that uses Peer-to-peer networks, cloud computing, distributed systems, and other technologies to share information resources, which can enhance communication and information access for both individuals and organizations.

Ahmad and Ahmad (2012) define information resource sharing as the process of gathering, arranging, and passing on knowledge from one person to another through a suitable mean. When knowledge is shared, it grows. The act of sharing knowledge involves transferring knowledge among a group of individuals. This group may include individuals working in formal institutions, such as among co-workers in an organization, or it may be more informal, such as among friends, etc. Ahmad (2017) conducted a study on resource sharing the need of the day: frame work among the libraries in Pakistan. According to him, Pakistan is a growing nation that has numerous problems with resource distribution and can be split into two groups. One is researcher librarian.

Psychological Problems.

- 1) Users are unable to return books when other customers are in need of them.
- 2) Librarians' unwillingness to work together with other sister institution.
- 3) The executive who approves such responsibility does not agree and permits
- 4) The potential loss of documents during the transaction

The above problems ware faces the user. Fist is problem was that, when one user was not return any books the next user was waiting and also time wasting this is the big problem. And next problem is that the librarian was not ready for exchange or share information to other libraries. The authority was not approving authorizations. The last is that the sharing information among librarian and researcher, the researcher was not ready to share information because the information was loss from any one.

Studies on Information Resource Sharing

Technological Problems:

Library collection size and quality. Igbo and Imo (2017) conducted a study on Electronic Information Resource Sharing among University Libraries in Southern Nigeria. They stated that electronic information resources were simply soft copies of print sources that were also accessible electronically via computers and related technology. Books, journals, periodicals, music, films, newspapers, etc. were among these resources. Electronic information sources offered a variety of advantages. These include, but are not limited to, quick global access to and exchange of information with experienced and knowledgeable personnel in the knowledge fields, simple dissemination of research findings, enhancement of cooperative research, enabling the library to provide coherent information for its users regardless of geographical location better management of information and space

conservation, and enhancement of interlibrary association.

Amayah (2013) conducted on determinants of knowledge sharing in a public sector organization. She claimed that literature does not clearly distinguish between knowledge and information. Knowledge is a structured flow of information, as opposed to information, which is defined as "a flow of signals." Nonetheless, in literature, the terms "knowledge" and "information" are sometimes used interchangeably. When someone shares their knowledge, they assist others and worked together to solve problems, create new concepts, or put policies or processes into place. Knowledge is shared informally even in highly structured businesses through face-to-face contacts, as well as through other channels like email. Inadvertent knowledge sharing among employees occurs frequently during casual contacts. Owolabi, Banigboye, Agboola and Lawal (2011) conducted research on Resource Sharing in Nigerian University Libraries. They highlighted the goals and objectives of resource sharing in university libraries in Nigeria: Promote unrestricted use of informational resources.

- To make information resources more accessible.
- To ensure that information resources are improved.
- To save time and prevent repetition.
- To supply users with reading material and information.

Furthermore, they claimed that sharing resources would aid in encouraging positive comparisons that resulted in enhanced operation.

Ghabra (2013) conducted a study on Resource Sharing Viability in Kuwait: In his opinion, information centers should adopt the goal of having high-demand items (80% of their collections), while offering access to low- and medium-demand materials (20% of their collections) through external resources. Agreements on shared and cooperative collection use between libraries and information activities will be necessary for this access. Wu, Huang, Lin, and Chen (2013) conducted a study on an evaluation of book availability in Taiwan university libraries. There is no library that can fully satisfy the needs of its customers, particularly in the case of university libraries. Items are not available at the user's local library. Supporting user requests across libraries would be possible by sharing the collective resources. It is crucial to assess how well resource sharing initiatives are working. A successful coordinated collection development programmed would meet additional demands on the resources of member libraries. Tests of document delivery are frequently used to gauge a library's ability to meet customers' request.

Explicit Knowledge

Expressive expressions are simple to convey and can take the shape of words or numbers. For instance, it appears in Reports. Charts summarized texts, etc.

Tacit Knowledge

Yet, tacit information is only retained in a person's mind and is challenging to convey; it requires observation and experience.

Ikhsan and Rowland (n.d) conducted a study on Knowledge Management in a Public Organization in Malaysia. According to their findings, 60.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that individuals' tacit knowledge/information could easily be shared through formal discussion, while only 31.1% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that explicit knowledge/information stored in document form could also be shared and transferred easily and only 25.5% of respondents disagree with the statement, while around 51% of respondents agree. This means that knowledge and information from one person can be shared through both official and casual meetings and discussions. Turyahikayo, Pillay and Muhenda (2021) conducted a study on Antecedents of Knowledge Sharing Behavior in the Public Sector: They defined knowledge sharing as the process of collecting and applying information to address issues relating to the workplace. Additionally, they claim that knowledge sharing relates to the provision of relevant work-related services, experiences, abilities, and expertise to aid employees in problem-solving, idea generation, and policy or procedure implementation.

Saarti and Tuominen (2019) conducted a study on from interlending to resource sharing between scholars. An analysis of recent developments: They said that having digital components allowed for the construction of social networking sites for researchers as well as the usage of general social media (Face book, WhatsApp, Twitter, Email, etc.) for research-related activities. Peer-to-peer sharing of informational publications and other documents is made possible by several social media platforms. Academic social networks like Academia.edu and Research Gate refocus their offerings to better meet the needs of academics. By networking and file sharing, they enable communication across internal and external organizational and international barriers.

Meyer, et al. (1998) conducted a study on Resource sharing in community colleges: According to them, resource sharing is not a widely discussed topic in the literature as a specific organizational model in colleges and universities.

Yet, a study of resource sharing across multiple campuses in a single academic subject shows the possibility of resource sharing as a more general management strategy. Although resources are included in strategic planning, there is no formal strategy provided to institutional leaders regarding what to do with resources other than to demand more resource. Rios and Duran (2016) conducted a study on determinants of knowledge-sharing intention and knowledge-sharing behavior in a public organization:

Castaneda and Duran (2018) conducted a study Knowledge sharing in organizations: Roles of beliefs, training, and perceived organizational support in a study involving teachers: discovered many viewpoints on structured bodies of knowledge, some of which were communal and some of which were personal. As a result, the concepts of individual and group beliefs were proposed. The personal impact of this action is tied to an individual's belief about knowledge sharing. A personal conviction might be that "information sharing elevates me." There is a general consensus that sharing information leads to benefits for others or opportunities for collaboration.

Cabrera, Collins and Salgado (2006) conducted a study on Determinants of individual engagement in knowledge sharing: the International Journal of Human Resource Management: They believed that in order for information exchange to take place, specific technologies needed to be made available. Knowledge management systems are the name given to the tools and platforms that facilitate knowledge sharing in businesses. They added that firms must figure out how to encourage staff members to share their knowledge with one another because it is impossible to manage and implement knowledge sharing.

Castaneda and Ramirez (2022) conducted the study on Organizational Conditions associated with the sharing of Tacit and Explicit Knowledge in the financial sector in Colombia; According to them it is advised to conduct further study on information and communication technologies that enhance the exchange of tacit knowledge as well as look into other forms of administrative support. Research on the parts of the approach that can be divided as explicit and tacit are also recommended. Exploring the tools necessary for successful sharing.

(Ahmad and Ahmad 2012) stated that information resource sharing is significant for bringing competitive edge to both the individual and organizations and exploring the information resource sharing of individual will help the stakeholder and policy maker of an organization to plan and implement effective research and knowledge sharing practice among researchers. Only close personal contact among researcher is

the most important mean of knowledge access and interchange for investigators in developing countries.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Methodology use in this study for achieving its objectives. It covers an overview of research design development and the description of the questionnaire, response rate, population of the study, sampling technique used, and the data collection and analysis technique used in the study.

Research Design

In this study Survey method was used for data collection. A self-developed questionnaire was established according to the objectives of this study and in this regard different type of literature was reviewed and used. Some of previous research studies such as Igbo and Imo (2017), Ahmad and Ahmad (2012) were used questionnaire. Powell and Connaway (2004) stated that the most suitable method for collection of data from a large and dispersed population is survey research method. The population of the study was also large and dispersed, therefore the researcher considered this method as useful and appropriate.

Population

The population of this study was consisted of all BS, MS /M.Phil and PhD level research scholars enrolled in Social Science faculty at University of Peshawar for the session Fall 2021-22. The number of students enrolled in various programs for the said session in the Institute of Management Sciences approximately becomes 550, in Library and Information Science becomes 150, in Journalism and Mass Communications becomes 80 , in Quaid-e-Azam Commerce College becomes 260, and in College of Home Economics become 250. The total population in this study becomes 1290.

Sample size and Sampling Technique

The sample is calculated through a Rao-soft sample size calculator in the study. The sample size was 297. Moreover, proportionate random sampling technique was used in this study. According to this 117 questionnaire were distributed among the research scholars in the Institute of Management Sciences, selected through Lottery method, 37 questionnaires were distributed in the department of Library and information Science, 23 questionnaires were distributed in the department of Journalism and Mass Communication, 59 questionnaire were distributed in the department of Quaid-e-Azam Commerce College, and 58 Questionnaire were distributed among the research scholars in the department of College of Home Economics using the same lottery method. That is how 297 questionnaires in total were distributed

proportionately in five departments of the University.

Data Collection Tool

On the basis of population and sample of the study questionnaire was developed for data collection to achieve the objectives of this study, a self-completed questionnaire was developed with the help of a literature review. And also questionnaire was used to data collection.

Description and development of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire designed for this study consisted of three sections. The first part was covering letter attached to the questionnaire (see Appendix A)

Table 3.1

Summary of the Question in the Questionnaire

Items	Questions	Type of Question
Part A:Covering letter		
Part B:Demographic	1---3	
Gender		Close ended
Qualification		Close ended
Department		Open ended
Part C: Four question	4---7	
Preference of information resource sharing		Closed ended
Proffered format of information resource sharing		Close ended
Purpose of Sharing information		Close ended
Facilities provided for sharing information		Close ended

Reliability is one of the Psychometric properties of the scales used for data collection. One of the common methods used to measure the reliability of the scale is Chronbach Alpha value measurement. The scale readability allows the researcher to study the relevance of items provided in a scale i.e. internal consistency of the items in a scales. According to Nun ally (1978) has stated that

containing details about the study's objectives, significance and the significance of the respondent's cooperation in this survey, as well as the assurance of respondent confidentiality and anonymity.

The second part of the questionnaire was consisted of the data about the demographic related to the respondent. It consists of the details of their gender, qualification, and their department.

The third part of the questionnaire consisted of (4) question designed in the light of study's objectives with the help of literature review. The detail and summary of these questions are shown in Table 3.1.

“Reliability is often related with the assertion that instrument used in basic research should have reliability of .70 are better” p (245). Therefore, the Chronbach Alpha statistics was calculated for testing the reliability of scales used in this study, with the help of SPSS (Version23.0).The sub-scales were found reliabilities as shown in Table 3.2

Table 3.2

Reliability Statistic of the Data collection Tool

S.No	Scale	No of items	CA Value
1	Type of preferred information	15	0.77
2	Preferred format of information	15	0.796
3	Purpose of sharing information	15	0.845
4	Facilities provision	15	0.732

5 Overall scale

60

0.832

Data Collection

The questionnaire along with covering letter was distributed among the respondents at their departments. For this purpose the researcher contacted with the students in most of the departments to identify the research scholars and handed over the questionnaire to the students sitting in their classrooms, libraries and common rooms. The researcher also visited girls hostel (where BS, M.Phil and PhD students were given accommodation) personally and contacted BS, M.Phil and Ph.D scholars enrolled in Social science faculty for data collection.

The respondents were requested to fill the questionnaires carefully by reading the instruction for each question. A total 297 questionnaires were distributed.

Data Analysis

The questionnaire was coded and the data was entered into the computer software that is SPSS (Statistical package for Social Science) version 23.0. The use of descriptive statistics for data analysis such as frequencies mean values and percentages were calculated. The data was presented in tables.

RESULTS

This section of the study represents the results and discussion of the data collected in the study. Data were collected through a self-designed questionnaire, which was distributed among the research scholars enrolled in the faculty of Social Sciences at University of Peshawar. This chapter also covers data screening and response rate, demographic information of the respondents, findings and discussions.

Data Screening and Response Rate

The respondents were requested to fill the questionnaires carefully by reading the instruction for each question. Before the data entry into SPSS, the total filled questionnaires were physically reviewed for accuracy and completeness. A total of 297 questionnaires were distributed out of which 153 were returned. All the returned questionnaires were found correct and were considered for data analysis, leaving the response rate to 51.5%.

Demographic Information of the Respondent

The detail of the demographic information include Gender, Qualification, and Department in which they are studying is given below.

Gender-wise Distribution of the Respondents

The details of the participants on the basis of their gender are shown in Table 4.1. The total number of male respondent were (114) 74.5% and the total number of female were (39)25.5%. It means the male is dominated in this study because the percentage of female is less than the male.

Table 4.1
Gender-based Distribution of Respondent (N=153)

Gender	Frequency	Percent%
Male	114	74.5
Female	39	25.5
Total	153	100

Qualification-Wise Distribution of the Respondents

Table 4.2 represents the department wise distribution of the respondents and its result indicate that the majority of the respondents 99(64.7%) were enrolled in Bs 8th semester, while 30(19.6%) of the respondents were enrolled in M.Phil/MS, and the rest of the 24 (15.7%) were enrolled in PhD level.

Table 4.2
Qualification-Wise Distribution of the Respondents

Qualification	Frequency	Percent
BS	99	64.7
M.Phil/MS	30	19.6
PhD	24	15.7
Total	153	100

Department-wise Distribution of the Respondents

Table 4.3 represent the department wise distribution of the respondents, and its result shows that the majority of the respondents were 43 (28.1%) enrolled in IMS (Information management Sciences). In Quaid-e-Azam Commerce college the frequency is 30 (19.6%) of researcher scholars were enrolled. This table shows that 17 (11.1%) of the respondents were enrolled in JMC (Journalism and Mass Communication). 33(21.6%) of the respondents were enrolled in CHE (College of Home Economics). Out of total 30(19.6%) of research scholars were enrolled in LIS (Library and Information Science).

Table 4.3
Department-wise distribution of the Respondents (N=153)

S No	Departments	Frequency	Percent
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1	IMS	44	28.7
2	QACC	30	19.6
3	JMC	16	10.5
4	CHE	33	21.6
5	LIS	30	19.6
Total		153	100

Types of information Resources Preferred in Resource Sharing

Table 4.4 shows that a total of 15 various kinds of resources were provided to know the preferences of information resources resource sharing by the research scholars enrolled in Social Sciences

Table 4.4

Descriptive Statistics of information resource sharing preferred by the respondents (N=153)

S.No	Resources	Mean	Std.Deviation
1	Articles	4.33	0.987
2	Books	4.1	1.128
3	Journals	3.96	0.931
4	Theses and dissertations	3.78	1.147
5	Abstracts and indexes	3.75	0.839
6	Personal collection	3.39	1.319
7	Newspapers and magazines	3.27	1.21
8	Photographs, print, and other audio-visual resources	3.2	1.303
9	Manuscripts and other primary materials	3.14	1.176
10	Files	3.08	1.189
11	Notes etc	3.04	1.287
12	Paper delivered at conference	2.82	1.119
13	Raw data/Data set	2.78	1.246
14	Posters	2.69	1.412
15	Unpublished research report	2.29	1.307

The Preferred format of Information Resources in Resource Sharing

Faculty University of Peshawar. The data in this regard is ranked basis on their mean score, where the ‘Articles’ was ranked 1st with a mean score of 4.33. The next resource in ranking was ‘Books’ (Mean score 4.10) followed by ‘Journals’ with a Mean score of 3.96 these resources were highly preferred by the research scholars. Similarly, the resource ‘Theses and dissertations’ got the Mean score of 3.78 and the ‘Abstracts and indexes’ received the Mean score of 3.75. The ‘Unpublished research report’ received the least mean score 2.29 and is considered as the least preferred resource in Resource Sharing. The reason for this might be the fact that ‘Unpublished research reports’ are kept in our libraries as a reference material and not even issued to students for outside use.

Table 4.5 shows that about 64% of the respondents preferred to share the information resource ‘Book’ both in print and electronic format. Only 27.5% of the respondents preferred to share in print format

and 7.8% were preferred to share in electronic format. 47.1% of the research scholars were likely to share 'Journal' in both print and electronic format only 15.7% were like to share in print format and 37.3 were preferred to share in electronic format. Followed by about 'Article' 62.7% of the respondents were like to share both in print and electronic format, 21.6% in print and only 15.7 were preferred to share in electronic

format. About 47.1% of the scholars were in favor to share Personal collection in both print and electronic format, 33.3% were like to share in print and 19.6% of the respondents were preferred to share in electronic format.

This result suggested that most/majority of the research scholars preferred to share the information resources both in print and electronic format.

Table 4.5

Descriptive statistic of preferred format of Information resources in resource sharing (N=153)

S.NO	Type of information source	Print%	Electronic%	Both%
1	Books	27.5	7.8	64.7
2	Journals	15.7	37.3	47.1
3	Abstract and indexes	21.6	49	29.4
4	Theses and dissertations	35.3	31.4	33.3
5	Unpublished research reports	37.3	37.3	25.5
6	Papers delivered at conferences	23.5	33.3	43.1
7	Personal collection	33.3	19.6	47.1
8	Raw data/data sets	31.4	29.4	39.2
9	Manuscripts and other primary materials	52.9	17.6	29.4
10	Newspapers and magazines	19.6	33.3	47.1
11	Photographs, prints, and other audio visual resources	19.6	33.3	47.1
12	Notes etc	51	9.8	39.2
13	Poster	39.2	17.6	43.1
14	Files	35.3	19.6	45.1
15	Articles	21.6	15.7	62.7

Purposes of Sharing Information Resource

Table 4.6 represents the purposes of sharing information resources among the research scholars basis on mean scores of their responses. Among the various purposes of information resource sharing, 'Allowing new thought to emerge' got the highest rank with a mean score of 4.47. 'Increase efficiency' received a mean score of 4.41.

Followed by the next purpose of sharing information is 'To Collaborate collective knowledge' got a mean score of 4.47, 'Share ideas with other scholars' received a mean score 4.20. Similarly, the purpose 'To save finance' got a mean score 3.82 and the next one 'For satisfaction' received a mean score 3.82 and the last one 'To avoid duplication of efforts' got a mean score 3.67 are less shared by research scholars.

Table 4.6

Descriptive Statistic of purpose of Information Resource Sharing (N=153)

S.No	Purposes	Mean	Std.Deviation
1	Allowing new thoughts to emerge	4.47	0.608
2	Increase efficiency	4.41	0.847

3	To collaborate collective knowledge	4.47	0.791
4	Lectures	4.25	0.907
5	Share ideas with other scholars	4.2	0.953
6	Provide extensive information	4.14	0.911
7	Solve study related questions	4.14	0.843
8	For Cooperation	4.08	0.739
9	To save time	4.06	0.982
10	Support and discuss assignments/projects related matters	4.06	0.875
11	Exams	4.00	1.209
12	To save finances	3.82	0.988
13	For satisfaction	3.82	0.904
14	To Avoid duplication of efforts	3.67	1.026
15	Any other	3.24	0.809

Facilities to Support Information Resource Sharing

Table 4.7 indicates the facilities provided by the university to research scholars at their department. According to that ‘Library Website or University Web site’ are available to 76.5%, Computer Lab facility/internet connection’ are available to 82.4, Sign board/Notice board of the department are available to 86.3%, Training is available to 72% and ‘Local Area Network for library, are available to 51.0%, it means that most of the important

facilities were provided by the University. Among these some of the important facilities such as Seminar/Conference /Face to face discussion facility’ 15.7%, are not available, ‘Tutorial’ 43.1% are not available in their department. About 27.5% of the research scholars mention that ‘Training’ facilities which are the basic need of the hour are not provided to the researcher by the institute. It seems the non-availability of some of these facilities may be due to the financial problem or other big issues.

Table 4.7

Facilities to Support Information Resource Sharing (N=153)

S.No	Facilities	Available%	Not Available%
1	Library Website or University Web site	76.5	23.5
2	Computer Lab facility/internet connection	82.4	17.6
3	Telephone Interchange	27.5	72.5
4	Sign board /Notice board of the department	86.3	13.7
5	Local Area Network for library	51	49
6	Online discussion forum	35.3	64.7
7	Video conferencing	33.3	66.7
8	Virtual Learning environment	31.4	68.6
9	Fax, Wireless communication	49	51
10	University magazine	64.7	34.3
11	University research journals	72.5	27.5
12	Seminar/Conference /Face to face discussion	84.3	15.7

	facility		
13	Training	72.2	27.5
14	Seminar library	68.6	31.4
15	Tutorial	56.9	43.1

DISCUSSION

This part of the study represents the findings by comparing these with the existing relevant literature in order to highlight the main trends/aims followed in this study. The first objective of the study was to find out the preference for various information resources in resource sharing. The main finding regarding this was that Articles was ranked 1st with a mean score of 4.33. The next resource in ranking was 'Books' (Mean score 4.10) followed by 'Journals' with a Mean score of 3.96. The same finding was regarded by Ahmad and Ahmad (2012). They found that Books and journals were important resource shared by the research scholars. In Personal collection their response was twenty-four.

The second objective of the study was to explore the purpose of sharing information resources by the researchers. In this regard it was found that 'Allowing new thought to emerge' with mean score 4.47 got the highest rank. 'Increase efficiency' received mean score 4.41. Followed by the next resource is 'To Collaborate collective knowledge' got mean score 4.47 are mostly shared by the research scholars.

The third objective of the study was to know the format of information resource in which the respondent preferred to share. In this regard about 64% of the respondents preferred to share the information resource 'Book' both in print and electronic format. Only 27.5% of the respondents preferred to share in print format and 7.8% were preferred to share in electronic format. 47.1% of the research scholars were likely to share 'Journal' in both print and electronic format only 15.7% were like to share in print format and 37.3 were preferred to share in electronic format. Followed by about 62.7% of the students was like to share both in print and electronic format, this result suggested that most/majority of the research scholars were preferred to share the information resources both in print and electronic format. The same finding was reported by the Igbo and Imo (2017) where they reported that electronic information resources such as Books, journals, periodicals, music, films, newspapers, etc were simply soft copies of print sources that were also accessible electronically via computers and related technology.

The fourth objective of the study was to examine the facilities provided by the university used by the scholars in sharing of information resources. in this

regard it was found that 'Library Website or University Web site' are available to 76.5%, Computer Lab facility/internet connection' are available to 82.4, Sign board/Notice board of the department are available to 86.3%, Training are available to 72% and 'Local Area Network for library, are available to 51.0%, it means that most of the important facilities are provided to the respondents by the institute. The non-availability of the resource by the University/department for sharing of information resources to the scholars is concerned, it was found that Seminar/Conference /Face to face discussion facility' 15.7%, 'Tutorial' 43.1%. About 27.5%, 'Training' 27.5% of the research scholars mention that the resources which are the basic need of the hour are not provided to the researcher by the institute. It seems that that non-availability of some of these facilities may be due to the financial problem or other big issues. The above result shows that most of the facilities were provided by the institution for sharing information resources.

Limitation and Delimitation of the Study

The limitation of the study may be that the findings of this study cannot be generalized over all the research scholars enrolled in University of Peshawar. This study is focused and delimited to the research scholars enrolled in Faculty of Social Sciences at University of Peshawar. This study is also delimited to research scholars enrolled in BS, M.Phil and PhD level programs. This study does not cover the researchers enrolled in various Master programs offered at the University of Peshawar

CONCLUSION

Information resource sharing is very helpful for research scholars'. It helps the researcher to achieve their academic goals conveniently by saving their time, money and energy. Sharing knowledge among researchers is therefore considered as an important method to improve organizational performance. This study shows that the research scholars were very interested to share Articles Book journals. Theses and dissertations, Abstracts and indexes and unpublished research reports were least preferred resource in resource sharing because unpublished research reports are not issued to the patrons for outside use. Majority of the respondents like to share Articles, Books, Journals, Photographs, prints, and other audio-

visual resources, Newspaper and Magazines, Notes, Posters and Personal collection in both electronic and print format but minority of the research scholars like to share these information resources in electronic format. The findings of this study showed that majority of the research scholars were agreed to share information resources for these purposes To collaborate collective knowledge, Allowing new thoughts to emerge, Increase efficiency, To collaborate collective knowledge, lectures, share ideas with other scholars. According to most of the researcher library website or University web site, computer lab facility/internet connection, Sign board /Notice board of the department, Fax, Wireless communication, University magazine, University research journals, Seminar/Conference /Face to face discussion facility, Training, Seminar library, Tutorial were the facilities which are provided by the University. It is very important to provide facilities like Telephone interchange, video conferencing, online discussion forum, and other important facilities to the research scholars so that they can achieve their desire goal.

Recommendation

Keeping in view the finding and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations were proposed:

1. It is recommended that proper training programs to strengthen the information sharing abilities of the researchers should be arranged; in this regard the supervisor can play a crucial role to compel their student to participate in such trainings, more ever the supervisor can also

highlight the important aspect (skills and abilities of their students and need to be strengthened).

2. It is also recommended that especial academic social networks like Research Gate and other alike networks related awareness should be made. Librarians and supervisors should create awareness in this regard so that researchers could exploit the current available academic social network.

3. To improve the opportunity of information resource sharing by research scholars at University of Peshawar an institutional repository (Digital library of the theses submitted o University of Peshawar and all the publication of the faculty and student of University of Peshawar) should be developed. It is expected that this tip if completed would benefit the scholarly community inside the University of Peshawar and outside the University of Peshawar in numerous ways, especially by saving their time and resources.

4. It is recommended that the researcher who does not like to use and share information resources in hard format such as printed Articles, Newspaper and magazines, personal collection etc and like to use and share it in electronic format because should easily covert these resources into soft form at their doorsteps like Central Library or departmental libraries should provide these services.

5. It is also recommended that video conferencing, online discussion forum Seminar/Conference /Face to face discussion facility should be provided to the research scholars so that they can improve their information sharing experiences

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