Usage of E- Resources in Law Libraries in India

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Abstract

The significance of criminal training is gaining reputation day via way of means of day. A library is an area wherein we gather the statistics from numerous reasserts both on line or offline. Further that statistic is used to serve the want of the society without delay or indirectly. Objective of regulation library is likewise the same. A powerful regulation library might suggest the provision of the assets had to a criminal professional. In today's dynamic international because of the improvement of generation significance of criminal e- assets can't be ignored. It could be very beneficial for regulation students, academician for doing each day studies. The researcher in this text will spotlight the significance of e- assets for regulation libraries. This paper may even attempt to spotlight the alternative dimensions of criminal studies in addition to demanding situations confronted via way of means of the librarian and different users.

Keywords: Legal, Information, Technology, E-Resources, Legal Database, Law Library

Introduction:

Electronic Resource is described as a supply which want laptop get entry to or any digital object for intake that distribute a compilation of information, be it manuscript referring to finish ee-e book bases, digital periodical, depiction, different multimedia merchandise and arithmetical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available label that has been posted with an purpose to being marketed. Electronic Resources encompass contents which can be saved and displayed digitally and accessed thru computer systems and different digital devices. These assets are primarily known as online/offline databases, virtual content material or media. The foremost purpose you bought digital assets is to facilitate their get entry to to customers irrespective of bodily place and time. Law libraries are beneficial for presenting felony education. Law library is basically a comprehensive collection of Acts, Rules, Case laws, Textbooks and Law journals etc. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has made a greater change in utilizing the online resources for law professionals. In this electronic age, modern law libraries are the combination of both print and e-resources. Earlier due to lack of advancement of technology legal professionals were more dependent on the information which was available in print format. At Present the information is very easily accessible in electronic form. In comparison to printed resources electronic resources cover a wide range of legal information. Shift in the direction of retrieving facts electronically has delivered a few changes. Although conventional codecs are nonetheless being broadly used as they may be a time-examined layout specially withinside the subject of law. Role of both the print and electronic resources can't be ignored or avoided, as both plays an important role in the academic law library's survival.

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Literature Review of E- Resources:

According to Thomson (1996), "*Law is a system of rules instituted by act of parliament, custom or practice applying to individuals and corporate bodies in order to punish those who offend the conventions of society*". Susskind (1996) said that, "*Law is at the heart of our personal and social lives, it is the lifeblood of the commercial world and it is central also to our national security*". Law is always information based. Igbeka (1995) stated that "Library systems and information centers are the best agents to provide a platform to gather legal information as a sources or services".

According to Tewari (1997), "Law library truly plays a vital role in the administration of justice. It is an institution of extraordinary social significance in a free society, inspiring the men and women of vision who devote their talents in the creation and preparation of law libraries, whose benefits reach out far and beyond the personal interests of the original creators". Importance of law libraries was highlighted by; Dada (2007) that "*Law is a profession which is literally unable to exercise its work without the use of books*". According to Ukpanah and Afolabi (2011) "*Law library is a collection of legal information organized for use of those seeking to qualify as, or who have qualified as lawyers and those enacting or administering law*". Law library plays a vital role in the administration of justice. Without any hesitation we can say that it works as an institution of extraordinary social significance in a free society.

Legal Education in India:

During the shift from Mughal prison system, the advocates beneathneath that regimen, 'Vikils' too accompanied suit, aleven though they in general persevered their in advance position as purchaser representatives. The doorways of the newly created Supreme Courts have been barred to Indian practitioners as proper of target target market turned into restricted to individuals of English, Irish and Scottish expert bodies. Subsequent guidelines and statutes culminating withinside the Legal Practitioners Act of 1846 which spread out the career no matter nationality or religion. In India, prison training has been historically provided as a 3 years graduate diploma. However, the shape has been modified due to the fact 1987. Law diploma in India is granted and conferred in phrases of the Advocates Act, 1961, that is a regulation surpassed through the Parliament each at the component of prison training and additionally law of behavior of prison career. Under the Act, the Bar Council of India is the best regulatory frame to modify the prison career in India and additionally to make sure the compliance of the legal guideline's renovation of expert requirements through the prison career withinside the country. Traditionally the ranges that have been conferred carried the name of LL.B. (Bachelor of Laws) or B.L. (Bachelor of Law). The eligibility requirement for those ranges turned into that the applicant already has a Bachelor's diploma of any challenge from a identified institution. Thereafter the LL.B/B.L. publications have been 3 years, upon the a hit crowning glory of which the applicant turned into granted both diploma.

Concept of Legal Research:

Research is a systematic and systematic re-exam of current statistics or understanding to envision whether or not the present end may be various or not. History of studies is as antique as Indian civilization. Legal studies is that department of understanding which offers with the concepts of regulation and felony institution. Sources of regulation may be categorised beneath Neath the 3 heads i.e. legislation, precedent and custom. Finding regulation isn't smooth because it appears. It entails better diploma of systematic seek of felony substances, statutory, subsidiary and judicial pronouncements. To completely recognize the capacity of regulation library; it's miles important for regulation students, college members, studies students and regulation specialists to interact with felony studies manner for higher bring about teaching, learning, studies and profession. Legal studies isn't an exception to the overall idea of studies whose purpose is to understand or to find out solutions

to significant questions. The important purpose of felony studies is to find 'Authority' as a way to resource in locating the answer to a felony problem. It additionally facilitates in locating, information and making use of the regulation. We can't forget about that the felony studies is taken into consideration as one of the fundamental talent which a attorney have to own in today's dynamic international. Anyone who's curious to understand something approximately a selected regulation and/or its operational aspects may be a felony researcher. As an occupational exercise, felony studies wish to be undertaken via way of means of Legislators, Judges, Lawyers and Legal Academia (Frederick, 1959). The important activity of a felony researcher isn't best to discover the present legal guidelines however additionally to study the troubles connected to that and endorse the reformative alternate in regulation. Proliferation of records generation has created this kind of dynamic surroundings which calls for the researchers to be greater powerful and green in his/ her studies manner. The international of felony studies has been profoundly laid low with the explosion in ICT and e-assets in current years. Legal researchers stay modified and challenged via way of means of the trends in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as felony substances are actually greater reachable on line thru fee-primarily based totally databases, courtroom docket sites, federal and nation authorities' sites, and different unfastened databases.

Law Library:

Law as a subject is technical in nature. We can't ignore this fact that it is a living discipline which keeps growing a day by day. It is dynamic and ever growing in nature. An academic law library is different in its content, organization, and use. An ideal law library contains basics of primary and secondary legal materials in various forms. These materials are helpful in understanding a particular legal topic. The law library brings law, as legal information, to the law school (Dina et al. 2013, Lawal et al. 2012). In a regulation library setup file associated with criminal affairs constantly require unique abilities to handle; mainly courtroom docket judgments, legislative enactments, constitutions, treaties, ordinances and administrative policies and regulations. Law library is designed to help regulation professionals, regulation students, instructors and studies scholars. The number one goal of organizing the regulation library is to satisfy the desires of various person agencies for the achievement in their diverse educational sports such as: everyday classes, Assignments/Presentations, Moot Courts, Dissertations/Project Reports, Teaching, Research, and Legal Awareness Programs etc.

Role of E-resources in Law Libraries:

"E-resources have become the channel for legal researchers to search for information that help to develop research-oriented solutions to legal problems (Kenny and Qiang, 2004)". Impact of e-resources can be observed in many places of the world, and the library is no exception. E-resources consists of information which are in electronic form, and are characteristically easy to use when accessing information compared to sources in print. E-resources are "Materials consisting of data and/or computer program(s) encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer by the use of peripheral device directly connected to the computer or remotely via a network" (Reitz, 2005). It is a broad term that includes-journals, E-books, E-databases, ETDs, E-magazines, E-newspapers, E-reference sources, E-images, E-audio/visual resources etc. It can't be denied that E-resources are also reliable, accurate and timely access to information. Now the libraries have become the e-center where collection of e-resources is accessible via Internet, World Wide Web and also from open access journals, open access archives, websites etc.

In law libraries, e-resources act as a lifeline upon which legal profession and scholarship rest. According to Olson (1999), "The amount of legal resources available electronically is vast and continues to grow rapidly. In this electronic era, several legal e-databases are created and made

available in both online and offline form". There are many e-databases related to law are available. Some major one is mentioned below: -

(a) **SCC Online**: - SCC Online is a product of Eastern Book Company. It is a publishing house of international repute. SCC online is an acknowledged leader in the field of law publishing in India for more than 75 years. It is an extensive database which provides an authentic and reliable comprehensive research experience for legal content from India and many other nations. It covers the reports of Supreme Court of India, Federal Courts, Privy Council, High Courts, District Courts, Historical Courts, Tribunals and Commission etc. In the category of secondary materials, it contains constituent assembly debates, reports of commissions and committees, legal articles, treaties, historical trials, policy document etc.

(b) **Manupatra**: - Manupatra is India's first leading law publisher which provides a platform for online legal database to access the latest information regarding law, taxation, corporate and business policy. It offers over 2 million judgements from the Supreme Court, High Courts, Tribunals and 14 International Courts; over and above a comprehensive database of case laws reported in recognized journals central and state acts, business policies, bills, notifications and others.

(c) **Lexis-Nexis**: - Role of Lexis- Nexis as a search engine for legal professionals can't be ignored. It is a main international issuer of content-enabled workflow answers designed especially for specialists withinside the legal, danger management, corporate, government, regulation enforcement, accounting and educational markets. Across the globe, Lexis-Nexis is greater person pleasant for its customers.

(d) **Hein Online**: - Hein Online is also one of the premium electronic research products. It provides more than 186 million pages and 2,87,000 titles and more than 2,800 journals of historical and government documents of prison records to be had in an online, completely searchable, photograph-primarily based totally layout and is the world's biggest photograph primarily based totally prison studies collection.

(e) **Westlaw India**: - It is an electronic database service which is a part of *"Thomson Reuters South Asia Private Limited"*. It is a subscription-based service, which provides access to case law, legislation, law review, treaties, directories and other international legal information of various countries to the students, researchers, faculties and lawyers for their teaching, learning, research and practice area.

E-resources have proved to be a great boon for the users. Following are the characteristics due to which e-resources play a vital role in imparting knowledge in a law library setup: -

1. Anyone can access the document available in the form of e-resources around the world without any limitations.
2. It is easy to search, browse, access, copy, download and customize e-resources according to the needs of user.
3. E-resources are more updated version.
4. At one point of time electronic resources open up the possibility of searching multiple files.
5. No physical space is needed for e-resources.
6. Preservation and dissemination of knowledge through e-resources is faster and wider.
7. An electronic information resource provides global distribution, hypertext link and the ability to access from different sites.
8. Mixed media contents i.e. images, video, audio is one of the key features of e-resources.
9. It is interactive and allows interaction between author/publishers and users.
10. It can be accessed simultaneously by multiple users at one point of time.

Challenges for Law Librarians:

Due to the advancement of technology librarian also faces some challenges. Library professionals are facing two complementary challenges-

    (i)   The technology is vastly extending the scope of information work.

    (ii)   Secondly, user's demands are rising constantly, creating a demand for more and high-quality information services.

Marke (1964) once remarked "The future for law librarianship is highly challenging and exciting, pregnant with the seeds of great changes, even though the basic education and the core competencies of law librarians are similar to those of other types of librarians, there are sufficient differences in mission and responsibility to separate them." Law librarian must possess highly specialized knowledge, expertise and experience in providing services that affect the ultimate end users. Leiter (2007) outlined "the role of the law librarian in the electronic environment thus:

- Evaluate the quality, authenticity and accuracy of print and electronic resources,
- Teach legal research methodology, and
- Be seen as core participants in the missions of their institutions."

ICT has imposed a new role on librarians as educator. Law librarians are just like a guru of the information age. They have to be very proactive. It is the duty of the librarian to communicate to law academics through various modes of communication within the organization or institution about the recent developments in the legal profession. By doing so they are altering the users of that library to what is new regarding the profession. Law librarian's plays a unique role in shaping the quality of the legal education at all levels by understanding, planning, budgeting and controlling the same in the law library setting.

Challenges for Law Users:

Although e-resources are acknowledged worldwide for its perceived benefits, still these resources are not being used to its maximum extent by the users be it students, faculty members or research scholars. There are some challenges in front of users in using e-resources which are as follows: -

1. Non availability of ICT infrastructure in libraries can be seen as a major challenge.
2. Training for using e-resources is needed for the users.
3. Lack of awareness about e-resources present in the libraries is also a big problem.
4. Overloaded information or lack of required information is another major issue with e-resources.
5. Issues related to copyright and/or IPR may occur with the use of e-resources.
6. Lack of support from library staffs is also a reason of lack of use of e-resources.
7. Users with less IT skills may find it difficult to use e-resources.
8. Difficulty to read on computer screen is another major challenge of e-resources.
9. E-resources can't be accessed in case of technical problems like- power cut, low bandwidth etc.

Conclusion:

The main aim of any library is to provide its users with relevant up-to-date information. By providing the up-to-date information only we can attain the goal of fruitful teaching, learning and research. The challenges posed by advances in ICT and e-resources on libraries are enormous. Law libraries have to brace up to the challenge and embrace this global phenomenon that has enhanced free flow of information and instant transfer of knowledge. Presently, print and electronic formats have exclusive value in a law library setup.

We can't ignore this fact that libraries have started incorporating e-resources into their services. It gives more efficient, effective and reliable data to its users. E-resources are now widely

accepted in the field of legal education and practice. In addition to traditional services, the library should provide services by using computers and other electronic means. The law librarian should be cautious in acquiring or providing authentic legal information available in electronic form. They should look to polish their existing skills and add new skills, if they want to play a key role in the field of law library.

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