

Awareness and Attitude towards using e-Journals and Databases by Postgraduate Students: A Case Study of Sabaragamuwa University, Sri Lanka

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In the global movement towards the knowledge community, e-Journals and databases have become a prominent medium for teaching, learning, and research. In Sri Lankan context e-Journals and databases have an emerging trend in the current digital era. The nation has been massively investing in the growth of electronic-based education products for the betterment of the country education. Particularly, adoption and usage of electronic-based digital resources have several challenges such as accessibility, reliability, copyright, etc. This paper focused on the postgraduates' student's awareness and attitude towards the use of e-Journals and Databases available in the Library, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL). The survey method was adopted with registered users of the Faculty of Graduates Studies between the 2017-2019 period numbering 334 formed the population of the study where the sample size was 181. Data were collected through an online questionnaire and analyzed using SPSS. The study used diffusion of innovation (DOI) theory and the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) to measure the awareness and attitude level of postgraduate students towards the use of e-Journals and Databases. The findings suggested that the students have a high level of awareness about e-Journals and Databases. However, there was a different attitude among the students. Also, the results indicated that the students have not regularly accessed e-Journal and databases for their research work because the majority of them did not aware of how can they access remotely [off-Campus]. The study concluded with a suggestion that the library should provide appropriate awareness programs and training to students about the benefits of using e-Journals and databases and should encourage them to access e-Journals and databases regularly for their research work. Finally, it was revealed that the use of e-Journals and databases is jointly determined by the level of awareness and attitude.

Keywords: Awareness, Attitude, e-Journals, Databases, Diffusion of innovation, Theory of reasoned action