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Use and Impact of E-resources among faculty and students in selected Law College Libraries in Bangalore

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Abstract: The proposed study focused on the availability of e-resources and their utilization in using various tools and their impact on faculty members and students for teaching, learning, research and legal education. This study was conducted on selected law colleges in Bangalore to shed light on the contribution of e-resources in law college libraries and the usefulness of e-resources to students and faculty members for exposure to the digital transformation of legal education and legal research. The study also identifies the challenges which faced in acquiring and accessing these e-resources. The study proves that e-resources play a major role in enhancing research capabilities and contribute to legal research. Proper training programs for faculty members and students can increase accessibility, and using these resources can contribute to academic performance.

Keywords: E-resources, Information and Communication Technology, Legal Education

INTRODUCTION

The advancement of technology and the Internet of Things has transformed the landscape of law libraries and legal education. The advent of e-resources has drastically transformed legal research, teaching, and learning in legal education.

The changing needs of students and faculty members have been influenced by technological advancements. The vast amount of legal information is stored on legal databases and categorised for easy use by students and faculty members. Law college libraries have turned from collections of print resources to accessing and subscribing to e-resources, providing fingertip access to case laws, judgments, study materials, bills and acts, etc.

The study provides the faculty members and students' perspectives on the use of e-resources are helpful and the challenges they encountered in accessing these resources for their academic and research needs.

Objectives

1. To check the availability of e-resources in law libraries
2. To know the various types of e-resources available for legal research and legal education
3. To identify the use of e-resources in teaching, learning and research
4. To assess the impact of e-resources in legal education and legal research by law students and faculty members
5. To know the challenges in accessing e-resources by the users

E-resources for Law

a. Legal Databases for Case Law and Statutes:

- **Westlaw**: This is the most widely used database worldwide, and it delivers confident legal work through its Practical Law, accelerates legal delivery through HighQ, finds legal answers, provides integrated search, drafting with

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professional-grade tools, Legal Tracker to maximise legal efficiency and has 650 attorney editors to accelerate legal research technology through AI capabilities.

- **LexisNexis**: LexisNexis serves the legal community through its different products based on clients' legal information needs. LexisNexis offers an AI-assisted legal drafting tool and a legal analytics solution with data-driven insights for judges, courts, parties and counsel. It also provides a corporate legal operations solution with integrated contract and enterprise legal management, and a patent research and analysis tool with accurate intellectual property insights.
- **SCC Online**: SCC Online is the most widely used database in India for judgments from the Supreme Court and High Courts. SCC Online provides comprehensive resources for corporate and financial laws. It gives authentic and reliable information in real time, which saves the time of a researcher and helps them focus more on their academics, arguments, etc.
- **Manupatra**: it is the most commonly used legal database in academic institutions and law firms in India. It provides AI-assisted research with comprehensive global legal databases and analytics. It provides a custom-built AI toolkit that generates summaries, queries, translation, document comparisons, drafting, etc. Manupatra created a Student Hub and Faculty Hub to explore, learn and upskill their knowledge.
- **Hein Online**: An International database of law journals, law reports, judgments of U.S. and international courts, tribunals, etc. HeinOnline is a multidisciplinary online database which gives intuitive tools to incorporate natural language processing, machine learning and research aids. It publishes Law Library Journal, focused on legal research for the legal fraternity

b. Legal News and Updates:

- **Law360**: A legal news service that provides breaking news on cases, legal trends, and developments. It's especially useful for keeping up with ongoing litigation, regulatory changes, and corporate law news.
- **The Legal Intelligencer**: This platform provides news about legal trends, case outcomes, and the practice of law, often focused on the U.S. legal market.
- **Indian Kanoon**: It’s a free legal search engine that provides access to the users to search judgments, case law, and statutes.
- **Lawctopus**: Lawctopus is an open-access platform that provides legal news on conferences in the field of law, internships, job postings in law, moot court competitions, and details of indexing journals in law, etc.

c. Research and Citation Management Tools:

- **Zotero**: A free, open-source tool that helps manages references and citations. Law students and researchers can store legal references, cite them while writing papers, and generate bibliographies.
- **Mendeley**: Reference Management tool give access to the users to organize research papers, create bibliographies, and collaborate with others on legal research.

d. Open Access Legal Resources:

- **Public Library of Law (PLoL)**: Provides free access to statutes, case law, regulations, and legal forms for law students.
- **Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)**: This includes a section for open access law journals, providing free access to peer-reviewed legal literature across various legal topics.
- **Legal Information Institute (LII)**: Hosted by Cornell University, LII offers free access to U.S. federal and state statutes, regulations, and case law.

e. International Legal Resources:

- **United Nations Treaty Collection**: Provides access to International treaties and agreements. It is essential for students and faculty focusing on international law.
- **World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII)**: A global portal for accessing free legal information from across the world, with resources on case law, statutes, and more.

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- **European Union Law**: The EUR-Lex portal provides access to EU law, including treaties, case law, and legislation. It's crucial for students of European Union law and international law.

f. Case Study and Judgment Analysis Tools:

- **Case Mine**: This tool analyzes case laws and judgments in India. It uses AI to find related judgments and helps in understanding the impact of precedents.
- **Judis (Judgments Information System)**: A platform for accessing Indian Supreme Court judgments and High Court rulings.

g. Law Practice Tools:

- **Clio**: A cloud-based practice management tool for law firms, offering tools for managing cases, clients and documents for legal practitioners and students interested in legal practice management.
- **Legal Zoom**: Provides online legal services and document creation tools, ideal for students looking to understand the application of law in practice, such as creating legal contracts and documents.

Benefits of E-Resources for Law:

- **Instant Access to Information**: E-resources enable fast access to case law, statutes, articles, and legal materials from anywhere, at any time.
- **Cost Efficiency**: Students and faculty no longer need to purchase costly legal books and journals.
- **Wide Range of Sources**: E-resources provide access to an international range of legal texts and research materials, which is critical for comparative legal studies and research.
- **Up-to-Date Legal Information: Law is constantly evolving, and e-resources provide easy access to the latest cases, amendments, and regulations.**
- **Better Research Capabilities**: Advanced search tools, citation generators, and cross-referencing make e-resources indispensable for legal research.
- **Multimedia Resources**: Many e-resources offer multimedia elements (videos, lectures, etc.) that enhance understanding in complex legal topics.

Significance of e-resources and their impact on the academic community in these Law College libraries:

a. Access to updated Legal Information:

- **Faculty Impact:** Law educators can easily access the latest case laws, statutes, legal commentary, and research papers. E-resources are helpful to faculty members to update the information required for teaching and research. This helps in enhancing the quality of teaching.
- **Student Impact:** Access to law journals, legal case studies, and reports required for students' academic requirements, such as assignments, projects and research work, will be completed within the timeline through remote access and will reduce the demand for physical books or visits to physical archives.

b. Enhanced Research Capabilities:

- **Faculty Impact:** Professors and researchers in law can use e-resources to conduct advanced legal research. Subscription-based legal databases like LexisNexis, Westlaw, and SCC Online enable faculty to access international and national legal materials that enhance their academic work.
- **Student Impact:** Students participate in Moot Court competitions, Debates, Model Parliament and other competitions to benefit from these research databases by accessing both primary and secondary legal materials. This helps students complete their research projects, assignments and thesis with credible resources.

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c. Cost-Effective Resource Management:

- **Faculty Impact:** Faculty members benefit from the cost-effectiveness of e-resources as they don't need to purchase physical copies of journals or books for research or teaching through institutional subscription to the e-resources.
- **Student Impact:** Students can access expensive legal textbooks and journals at no additional cost as e-resources are subscribed by the college; students will get access to the e-resources.

d. Ease of Access and Availability:

- **Faculty Impact:** E-resources can be accessed remotely by faculty members, allowing them to work on research from any location and at any time. This increases flexibility in terms of academic work.
- **Student Impact:** Students can access e-resources from anywhere (e.g., home, hostel, or library) without needing to visit the physical library. This saves their time and helps to focus more on their academic activities.

Challenges in Utilisation of E-Resources

- Lack of awareness of the availability of e-resources
- Limited access to advanced databases
- Lack of Internet Access
- Lack of training programs in understanding and using e-resources
- Impact of traditional library use

CONCLUSION:

This article provides a complete view of the use and impact of e-resources in law college libraries among students and faculty members. The study throws light on the availability of legal e-resources and their products, and it clearly states that these resources contribute to legal education and legal research is stated clearly.

The study covers e-resources content coverage, use of AI in acquiring data, various AI Tools and Techniques used in providing comprehensive legal information to students and faculty members in limited time, remotely, whenever, wherever they need it.

This study mainly focuses on the impact of these e-resources on faculty members and students by updating legal information for teaching and learning, enhancing research capability, encouraging the students to gain more legal knowledge and improving their technical skills.

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