THE USAGE OF LEGAL RESOURCES FROM INTERNET AND E-RESOURCES IN THE LEGAL EDUCATION AND LEGAL RESEARCH: A CASE STUDY OF DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (DSNLU) LIBRARY, VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH

Dr. Burra Manikya Rao
Deputy Librarian
Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India

Abstract

Law Libraries are the center points for transmission of the knowledge to the users. A great deal depends on the organization of law libraries on scientific lines. Law libraries have been the significant contributors to the support of legal education and doctrinal as well as non-doctrinal quality research. As the legal education is stepping into the twenty first century, the academic law libraries are experiencing pressures due to the influence of technology and globalization. As a response to such challenges, academic libraries have begun developing stronger collection that does not only include national laws but also International, non-law materials. Internet is a sea of information related to Legal education. Internet is a valuable source of global information. It not only contains a lot of information but also gives extensive access to various online databases and services. The influence of internet and associated web technologies on the provision of library services was seen in the early part of this century. The expanding network technologies have been transforming the society by enabling easy access to information to the masses. Usage of Internet is growing day by day, as it is time saving, more knowledge providing and less costly.

Legal education has undergone a sea change in India. The law schools were primarily setup with the intention to provide the best legal brains to the Bar and Bench. The primary objective of the Indian legal education system is to produce the professionals to enable the smooth running of society by restraining the arbitrary power of the state. The mission of DSNLU is to enhance the traditional culture of national law universities to establish a temple of learning. It focuses on providing quality legal education and conducts advanced studies and research in all areas of legal education. The main intention is to facilitate faculty and student curriculum and research requirements. Use and the user survey was carried out to identify the available internet facilities and services in DSNLU Library.

This article discusses the result of a sample survey to comprehend the utilization of the internet and legal databases facility for the purpose of legal education and its effect on students of Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The current research paper consists of both doctrinal and empirical approaches. Data had been gathered from primary and secondary sources with emphasis on the use of internet and E-Resources for the library user's community with special emphasis on Law students. From 325 students 216 replied to the study through questionnaires and direct interactions, giving important information to support the hypothesis of the study.

Key words: Internet Facility,Internet & Legal Education, E- Resources,Students of User groups

Introduction:

Legal Education has the objective of providing knowledge of law of the nation as part of required culture of a gentleman, noble gentleman and common man pursuing a learned profession. Legal education must be regarded as professional education. It is also to be kept in mind that law is not merely a professional skill limited to courts and litigants, but a social science, which mirrors social culture.[1] As rightly, noted by then Chief Justice, K.G. Balakrishnan, it demands

---

[1]Agrawal. S.K. (1972). "A Report on Legal Education in India problems and prospective, University of Pune

and citizens deserve a very independent and professionally capable Bar at every stratum of the system.[2] Legal studies and research in legal studies on all facets of legal system has picked up pace to augment to legal education through the platform of offering good literature at the disposal of the future researchers, law students and legal fraternity. Computer and communication technologies have made tremendous advancements particularly over the last decade to manage the information explosion. Legal education learns the means and manners of explaining to us how a legal system works and learns the manner in which it operates and influences society.

Legal education purpose is an understanding of law within its social, economic, political, and scientific environments. Legal education has the capacity to both encourage social change and act as an instrument for social control. The change in society occurs by the functioning of the law, the judicial process. Law is not static, and justice is the changing process. The legal study benefits the legislature and judiciary by examining, critically assessing the effect of the evaluation of the laws and the inference or interpretation of the laws by the court. Therefore, legal research is a skill and needs to be guided properly to navigate legal information and resources. The aim of legal education is not only to produce lawyers with litigation-oriented skills; it should also be able to provide lawyers with an assortment of skills, visions, and tools that will help them operate as administrators, social engineers, and policymakers.[3] It would have been easier to introduce society into harmony if legal education were directed towards producing social engineers.[4] Academic law libraries have mainly linked to teaching and research, and these libraries fit the universities of law needs of the academic legal curriculum. The law libraries are a functional head of legal information in the shape of print and e-resources i.e., books, journals, reference books, statutes, bare acts, reports, and non-book materials followed by the legal general books. Legal knowledge can foster a positive frame of mind amongst readers.

Computers play a very crucial role in contemporary legal education and legal research. Computers play an equally significant role in legal research. Internet and associated web technologies have made a profound impact on the provision of Library services in the first decade of the present century. Internet is a wide ocean of information related to legal education. The contemporary academic society consists of students and faculty members more aligned to web generated or online information resources. Legal research forms a critical element of the legal practice and legal research enables us to comprehend the law with precision. The legal education uncovers the means and methods to tell us how a legal system works and unearths the manner by which it operates and influences society, it signifies expert knowledge continuously expanding as a response to human situations and inspired by visions for the future. Today Legal Education is focused around lay the academic law libraries rather than class center. The law library is a function leader of legal Information in the shape of books, journals, reference books, statutes, reports, followed by general books.

The most powerless information sources utilized by law students were search engines and subject related databases. The electronic resources allow the academic user to reach a vast amount of scholarly journals published by prestigious publishers, aggregators and societies. The electronic resources opens the way for improved information services since these resources can be accused, manipulate managed with ease. Multiple users at any given point of time in necessary can accuse one of the improved advantages of electronic resources.

Internet and Legal Education:

Information technology's rapid advancement has changed the way libraries function on a day-to-day basis. These emphasized the need for automation, which 0affected all library services.[5] In India, legal education seeks to achieve the objectives established by the framers of the Constitution. An essential link between information professionals and information itself is the internet. Since internet technologies effectively satisfy people' requirements, learning how to use

---

[2] Balakrishnan K.G (2007), law day 8 SCC (Journal) P. 10,

[3] K.L.Bhatia, (2006). Legal Justice Education: Vision Plan for Legal Schools, (Deep & Deep Publications Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, Delhi,

[4] G. Manoher Rao and K. Srinivas Rao, Legal Education in India- Challenges and Perspectives,166 (Asia Law House, Hyderabad, 1st Edition, (2007).

[5] Durga Prasd A. (1999).Accessing E- Resources and services to the users of NALSAR University library, Innovative change, 248-255p

them is now crucial. Professionals may simply, affordably access, and exchange information in a variety of multimedia formats, including text, graphics, and voice, thanks to the internet, which serves as a worldwide information infrastructure. The fundamental function of law University library is to meet the needs of its user community. In today's era of information, students are not keen on visiting the library in person regularly; they are more accustomed to getting information electronically.

Effects of the Internet on Legal Research:

Internet as a perfect medium upon which knowledge and information could be communicated very effectively to all books and corners of the world. Law schools, being institutions of excellence, enhance research culture largely. Legal research is a part of the legal profession. Legal research assists in perceiving the law with specially. Knowledge is acquired through research, and law librarians' abilities are essential to the expansion of legal knowledge. Although there has been much discussion about how the Internet and digital products affect libraries, few studies have provided quantitative data showing how these items affect library patron usage patterns.[6] Internet refers to interconnection of computer networks globally, which enables transfer, or exchange of information among all the users of the computers that are linked to these networks. The future of legal research is shifting to the internet, simply due to the universality of accessing the internet.

Computer lawyers, law librarians, and countless other netizens are slavering over the potential of a system of citation and research available for the use of any citizen of the net, and it is sure that lawyers in the future will utilize the internet as a prime source of legal research. These innovations are good news for the small and solo practitioner, and for the public at large. There is a huge unmet demand for cheap online legal research. Further evolution of such cheap web based legal research resources and tools is obviously inevitable. The legal research and legal education do play a vital role in delivering social justice.

Through the introduction of technologies like Wi-Fi, virtual classrooms, webcasts, video conferencing, and e-sources, information and communication technology (ICT) has significantly improved legal education. A new benchmark for excellence in legal education and research has been established by these curricular changes for law students and research scholars. The Internet and all digitalization initiatives have provided instant access to legal materials like statutes, bills, law reports etc., through government websites and the legal information institutes.

About DSNLU Library Resources:

Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, being one of the best, provides B.A. LL.B (Hons.), LL.M., Ph.D. and LL.D courses. The DSNLU Library is situated at the academic block of the University campus. It is the core of self-education of the students, faculty members, and research scholars of the University. It is to serve the purpose of the user community. DSNLU has the mission of providing quality legal education and arranging higher studies and research in all areas of law. The major objectives have to cater to the curriculum and research requirement of faculty, students and research scholars. The DSNLU Library is equipped with Wi-fi and LAN facilities. Is available for Library Users and it is supplemented with digital and print materials. i.,e., e-databases, e-journals, and e-books, accessible anywhere and at any time as well as print resources. The DSNLU Library subscribes to many databases for the benefit of the users.

Significance of the study:

This research on Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU) Library's internet and e-resource use is essential in the contemporary digital environment. It highlights the trend away from conventional print towards new digital media in legal learning and research, with a focus on the quality of legal practitioners' use of internet resources.

---

[6] Gary J. Bravy and K. Celeste Feather. (2001). The Impact of Electronic Access on Basic Library Services: One Academic Law Library's Experience. Law Library Journal Vol. 93:2 261-268

Through analysis of DSNLU's practice, the research can make recommendations on best practice in enhancing access to huge sums of legal information, enhancing research effectiveness, and keeping students and teachers informed about recent legal trends, thereby enhancing legal education in India.

Need of the Study:

Current rapid advancements in Law University Libraries within the provision of resources to law students are worth noting. Internet has proved to be an essential information source in the modern setting. To make available the information of the present times, libraries must utilize the internet resources. Internet is an inevitable component of the educational system of law in present times. Law Universities spend a good amount of amount on offering this facility to the students. It is thus essential to know up to what level the Internet facility is being used by the students. The current survey is thus an effort to examine the utility of internet as an educational tool and how effectively it is serving in the educational system with special reference to the DSNLU Library, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh State. DSNLU Library offers Internet facility to the students and expects them to make it use for educational purposes.

It aims to undertake a study to find out if Internet is utilized for academic purposes and that it has affected the academic proficiency of student's user groups. The study also examines the level of satisfaction the users have with the Internet facility offered by the DSNLU. The study has primarily been undertaken to evaluate the advantages of Internet over traditional documents.

Review of Literature:

Review of related research brings clarity and expands the knowledge base in the topic. The review indicates various studies were carried out in India and overseas to analyze the various aspects of law college libraries. The review of the studies has been done under various headings including law colleges and law universities services, special services, use and user studies, and role of law universities libraries. The following reviews include major Indian studies on the subject of current investigation.

Following Gikandi & Kamau (2020), online legal resources have significantly enhanced access to legal information between jurisdictions; particularly in less-resourced areas. These online platforms provide students, researchers, and practitioners with access to statutes, case law, and academic literature previously monopolized by well-endowed institutions. Free and open-source tools such as Africanis and World-II have most significantly facilitated narrowing the gap in legal information. But difficulties like inadequate internet connectivity, lack of digital expertise, and linguistic differences still limit access in most developing regions.[7]

As stated by Singh and Sharma (2021), interactive legal education enabled by technology has revolutionized conventional legal pedagogy. Virtual moot courts, legal databases, and online forums are some of the tools used to make learning more practical and interactive. The authors posit that the integration of these interactive features not only makes students better understand intricate legal concepts but also develops critical thinking and research competencies requisite for contemporary legal practice.[8]

Objectives of the study:

The major objectives of the study are:
1. To study the use of the internet and E-resources by the students in DSNLU under study.
2. To study various internet resources used by the respondents.
3. To find out the problems faced by the respondents while using the internet.

---

[7] Gikandi, Michael, and Peter Kamau (2020) "E-Learning and Legal Research in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities." African Journal of Legal Studies, vol. 12, no. 2, pp. 145–162.
[8] Singh, R., & Sharma, A. (2021). Interactive legal education. Journal of Law and Technology, 15(1), 45–56.

Hypothesis:

The present work is being carried out to verify that students are fully satisfied with the Internet facilities and e-resources provided by DSNLU Library. Library users have awareness about the e-resources information in the internet for their study.

Research methodology:

The use of Internet resources is rapidly increasing in the world. It has efficiency and capability in providing right information to the right person at the right time. It works round the clock and connects every corner of the world. Internet has become an unavoidable and yet necessary for every institution of higher learning. As the legal education being important for the development of the country, law universities are very much needed for the scientific advancement of the country. DSNLU aims at imparting quality legal education and organizes advanced studies and research in all branches of legal education. The primary goal is to support the curriculum and research needs of faculty and students. Use and the user survey was conducted to find out the existing internet facilities and services in DSNLU Library.

Scope of the Study:

The main aim is to present an insight into the functioning and problems of the Internet facility in library operating in DSNLU library and to suggest certain steps for improving internet and E-Resources facility in the University library, their current situation to provide qualitative internet facilities and E-services to users. The present study covers only DSNLU library at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. For this data was collected through questionnaires and directly interact with library user community i.e., 5, years, 3 years and LL.M law students. Participants were randomly selected due to time consultants and limited financial resources. Therefore, the sample does not represent the entire library user's community i.e., research scholars and faculty. Out of 325 users approached, only 216 users responded to the questionnaire and interviews, while the remaining were unwilling or uninterested in participating. The collected data was analyzed and systematically presented to support the goal of e-facilities for law students in DSNLU. The following data is analyzed the table format.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

1. Frequency of visits to the library by the Library User community

The results of the survey conducted on Library user community of DSNLU in the light of the objectives of the study showed that there were significant differences in the satisfaction levels of Internet and E-sources of information facility resources among the respondents of various categories. DSNLU Library User community consists of various individuals with varied information needs and information seeking behavior. To satisfy their information needs, users, interact with the information facility in different ways. In order to find out the extent of use made of the library, users has asked to indicate their frequency of visiting the library the data regarding frequency of visit made by users of library is presented in following table.

Table No.1: Frequency of Visits to the library

S. No	Number of Respondent (216)	Total No. %
1	Daily	151 (69.90)
2	Weekly	45 (20.83)
3	Rarely	20 (9.26)
4	All most never	(0.00)

Analysis of data in the above table, shows that significant of users exist, among users of library in term of their visit to the library. Visiting the library daily is found to be common among highest percent (69.90%) of library users. Nearly (20.83 %) of library, users are found to be visiting the library weekly for using the library. About 9.26 percent of them stated that they visit the library rarely respectively.

2. Which format do you use for need of Legal information in Library?

Today, the mode and process of legal education and legal research has changed considerably with the introduction of digital legal information and legal research and shifted its course from manual to electronic format. The computer assisted legal education research is undertaken for the search of legal information with the help of databases from online resources.

Table No. 2 Format of using legal information

S. No	Number of Respondent (216)	Total No. %
1	Print	12 (5.55)
2	Electronics (internet and web-based)	79 (36.57)
3	Above All	125 (57.87)

The analysis of data indicated that information with regard to the form of information or document mostly use, mostly 57.87 % of students use print and electronic sources for their study purpose and second highest 36.57% percent of library user use Electronics (internet and web-based). Only less 5.55 % of students use print sources respectively.

3. Use of internet facility

Early in the twenty-first century, it became clear how the internet and other online technologies affected library services. Both students and instructors in the contemporary academic community are becoming more and more reliant on web-based and online information sources. The Table 3 shows satisfaction of the facility of internet in DSNLU

Table No.3 Satisfaction with Internet facility in Library

S No.	Number of Respondent (216)	Total %
1	Yes	212 (98.14)
2	No	4 (1.86)
	Total	216 (100.00)

Analysis of data shows that almost all students (98.14%) considered Internet facility satisfactory; only a few (1.86%) are not satisfied with internet facility in University library.

4. Purpose of the Using the Internet:

The growth of internet has been global and continues. Technologically development have greatly influenced the platform of providing information as well as legal information sources Internet is an important source of worldwide information. Table 4 represents the main reasons for using Internet by the students of DSNLU library.

Table No. 4: Reasons for Using Internet facilities (More than one)

S No.	Reasons	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%) (N=216)
1	Academic purpose	198 (91.66)	18 (38.34)	216 (100.00)
2	Legal Conference Proceedings and Moot Court	89 (41.20)	127 (58.79)	216 (100.00)
3	Legal Databases	216 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	216 (100.00)
4	E-Mail	54 (25.00)	162 (75.00)	216 (100.00)
5	E- Books and E-Journals	216 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	216 (100.00)
6	Project Work	216 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	216 (100.00)
7	Above All	212 (98.14)	4 (1.86)	216 (100.00)

The analysis of response from student's shows that majority of the students (100%) are accessing Internet for E-Books and E-Journals and Legal databases. Second highest 98.14 % of library users for using on Above All i.e., academic purpose, Legal Conference Proceedings and Moot Court , legal databases, emails, e-books , e-journals, and project work purpose followed by those using Internet for Academic purpose (91.66%). While about 25% percent of students are using for e-mail purpose, only (41.20%) using Internet for Legal Conference Proceedings and Moot Court purpose respectively.

5. Benefit of the Internet over Print Documents:

As Internet is a powerful resource for learning, and is an efficient means of communication, it is very useful in education and provides a number of learning benefits. It includes the development of independent learning and research and legal research skills, by improving access to specific subject learning across a wide range of learning areas, as well as in integrated or cross- curricular studies and communication and collaboration, such as the ability to use learning technologies to access resources, create resources and communicative with others Internet becomes a crucial source of information in the contemporary environment. The present study has attempted to find out the opinion on benefit of internet to users on this issue and the responses are given in Table 5.

Table No. 5 Benefits of Internet (More than One)

S No	Response No.216	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)
1	Time Saving	210 (97.22)	6 (2.77)	216 (100.00)
2	Easy to Use	198 (91.66)	18 (8.33)	216 (100.00)
3	More Informative	216 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	216 (100.00)
4	Less Expensive	205 (94.90)	11 (5.09)	216 (100.00)
5	More Useful	204 (94.44)	12 (5.56)	216 (100.00)

It may be observed from the table that majority of all the students (100%) say that internet is more informative and time saving most useful to the study with ease of use of internet being second highest (97.22%) of them shows that. Besides 94.90% and 94.44 % of the students, respectively state that the Internet is less expensive, and more useful. About 91.66 % of students show the internet is easy to use for development of the study.

6. Awareness about the Indian Online legal Databases:

E- Resources and services is University library electronic information resources offer unique benefits: compact storage quick retrieval and delivery, interactivity and flexibility in information transfer. The impact of computerization is significant in the area of legal reference work of law librarian commercial database providers are providing access to number of Indian and International legal database. Today, we are living in the age of information technology (IT).

The storage and retrieval of information has taken various forms and formats like on-line databases, the present study has also attempted to find out whether the students are aware of databases accessible online. Table 6 presents the details of awareness of e-resources/databases.

Table No.6 Awareness about Indian Legal Databases and E-Resources (More than One)

S. No	Respondents No.216	Yes %	No %	Total %
1	Taxman	162 (75.00)	54 (25.00)	216 (100.00)
2	Bar and Bench	198 (91.66)	18 (8.34)	216 (100.00)
3	Livelaw.in	159 (73.61)	57 (26.39)	216 (100.00)
4	Manupatra	212 (98.14)	4 (1.86)	216 (100.00)
5	SCC Online	210 (97.22)	6 (2.78)	216 (100.00)

The data analysis of responses shows that highest percent (98%) of students are aware of Manupatra Legal databases information, followed by SCC Online (97.22%). About 91.66% of them also are aware of Bar and Bench legal information through legal databases only 75% law students aware on Taxman Indian legal databases.

7. Awareness about the International Legal Databases

Law libraries worldwide offer research services to assist their patrons in locating the legal information they require in law schools, law firms, and other research environments. Sources of legal information include printed books, free legal research websites, information portals, and free databases and vendor research websites like Lexis-Nexis, Westlaw, JSTOR, and Jus Mundi etc., law libraries preserve and make publicly accessible legal knowledge accessible to everyone via their webpages.

Table No.7 Awareness about International Legal Databases and E-Resources

(More than One)

S. No	Respondents No.216	Yes %	No %	Total %
1	Jus Mundi	168 (77.77)	48 (22.23)	216 (100.00)
2	JSTOR	197 (91.20)	19 (8.8)	216 (100.00)
3	Lexis Advance	211 (97.68)	5 (2.31)	216 (100.00)
4	Westlaw Asia	204 (94.44)	12 (5.6)	216 (100.00)
5	Henionline	178 (82.40)	38 17.60	216 (100.00)
6	Max Plankck Encyclopedia	187 (86.57)	29 (13.43)	216 (100.00)
7	Oxford public International law	196 (90.74)	20 (9.26)	216 (100.00)

The analysis of data shows that majority of the data analysis of responses shows that highest percent (97.68%) of students are aware of Lexis Advance international Legal databases information and 94.44% and 91.20% aware on Westlaw Asia and JSTOR internal legal databases and followed by Oxford public International law (91.74%). About 77.77% of them also are aware of Jus Mundi international legal information through legal databases respectively.

Major Findings:

The study at Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU) highlights significant trends in the use of internet and electronic resources among law students. Approximately 69.90% of students reported daily library visits, indicating strong engagement. A majority (57.87%) use both print and electronic formats, while 36.57% rely solely on digital sources, reflecting a shift toward online learning. Satisfaction with the internet facility is notably high at 98.14%, with all respondents utilizing it for accessing legal databases, e-books, e-journals, and project work. Key advantages identified include the internet's informative nature (100%), time-saving capacity (97.22%), cost-effectiveness (94.90%), and ease of use (91.66%). Academic purposes (91.66%) remain the primary reason for usage, followed by moot court preparation (41.20%).

The study also reveals strong awareness of legal databases. Among Indian platforms, Manupatra (98%) and SCC Online (97.22%) are the most recognized, while Taxmann lags behind at 75%. For international resources, Lexis Advance (97.68%), Westlaw Asia (94.44%), and JSTOR (91.20%) are well known. These findings suggest that DSNLU students are digitally proficient and actively integrate e-resources into their legal education, although targeted awareness efforts are needed to close remaining gaps.
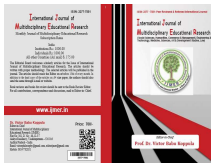
Conclusion:

The Internet is a vast ocean of knowledge covering practically every subject. There is a significant change from manual to technological to electronic modes of communication. Electronic resources are extremely valuable to academic law students and research scholars. The legal education system is developing rapidly, and the legal information system is not far behind. As a result, the onus has shifted from legal scholars and teachers to law librarians, who must keep up with both and seek to provide better services. To increase the use of e-resources, legal educational institutions, particularly the DSNLU library, should conduct more awareness programs to educate users about the facilities and benefits accessible in electronic format as opposed to print. In this paper, we have discussed current trends in legal education and research in the digital age. The Internet is a vast ocean of knowledge covering practically every subject.

The present study analyzed that a majority of law student's user community use internet as their sources of information. The study also analyzed that majority of the law student's users are satisfied with the information available on the internet and e-resources. The present study has highlighted the existing situation of the internet and e-resources facility provided by the DSNLU library, so that the library users can make maximum utilization of these e-facilities, e-resources and services.

Suggestions:

DSNLU should take immediate steps to strengthen its digital infrastructure by expanding its collection of e-books, e-journals, and legal databases to cover both foundational and emerging areas of law. The University must upgrade its internet backup systems and increase the number of computer terminals to ensure consistent, uninterrupted access to digital resources. High-speed internet and strong Wi-Fi connectivity across the campus should be made a standard feature to support the growing demand for online research and learning. The development of digital literacy among students must become a key priority. The library should conduct regular workshops and hands-on training sessions to teach students how to navigate legal databases, use citation tools, and conduct in-depth legal research. This will enable students to make more effective and meaningful use of the digital tools provided. Efforts should also be made to expand subscriptions to include specialized and

international legal databases, enriching research opportunities for both students and faculty. A structured feedback mechanism should be introduced to gather user input and continuously improve services based on their needs. Collaboration with other law universities can also be explored to share digital resources and reduce costs.