E-book subscription in university libraries: a case of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Manorama Tripathi
Deputy Librarian
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi
India
Use of e books

- ARL report
- e- culture - “Digital India” - E-basta (www.basta.in)
- NCERT (National Council of Education Research and Training) text books
- Largest youth population in India
Jawaharlal Nehru University

- Publicly funded university
- 10 Schools of Studies
- 4 Special centres
- Constituency - 500+ faculty members, 8000 students, 1350 non-teaching staff.
Central Library

- The Jawaharlal Nehru University Library has a collection of 600,000 volumes. It subscribes to 260 print and 116 online journals. It has access to more than 56 databases and 200,000+ e-books across various subject areas. Recently, the library has already digitized more than 20,000 theses and dissertations that are available full text on the university LAN. Out of 20,000, 5000+ are accessible through Shodhganga.
Central Library

- The library has a separate unit, which is known as Helen Keller unit, to support the learning and academic endeavours of the visually challenged students of the University.
Reason for acquiring e-books

- During 2012-2014, Central Library, made a strategic decision to opt for the purchase of electronic access over print materials wherever it was possible to do the same.
- Other reasons
Collections of E-books at the Central Library

- E-Book collections have been developed in the following two ways at the Central Library of Jawaharlal Nehru University:
  - Library has licensed individual titles from Ebsco, Oxford, Cambridge and e-brary.
  - It has subscribed to various collections or bundles of e-books of Ebsco, Springer and ECCO.
Collections of E-books at the Central Library

- Library implemented e-books by subscribing to the collection of 135,203 EBSCO e-books from different subject areas. The size of e-book collection is an important factor in determining or driving or accelerating the use of e-books. If the size of the collection is big, the students are very likely to get what they need for their information and academic requirements.
E- book subscription

- Selection, Acquisition and Management of e-books
  - Budgeting and Finance
- Processing of e-books
- Promotion of e-books and training sessions for users.
- Usage statistics
Lessons learnt

- Non Availability of content
- Price of e-books
- Business models
- Digital Rights Management (DRM)
- Training of the staff
Conclusion

• use of e-book is on the increase as the new generation of users is more inclined towards using the e-content.
• at the same time, there are many dampers which curb the free use and popularity of e-books.
• cost of e-books is more than their print counterparts