UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AT AKAKI BRANCH LIBRARY
GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Akaki branch library established in 2007 at Akaki campus located 25 km towards east from the capital Addis Ababa.
- The library shares the same building with Addis Ababa University library.
- Akaki branch library provides library and information service to registered students, staff and authorized persons.
GENERAL OVERVIEW CONT...

Services include:

- **Lending books** (Check In, Check Out and Renewal)
- **Electronic access** (student workstation),
- **Library training** both basic and advance library training,
- **Reference service**
- **Courier services**
- **Library seat** (reading space)
- **Photocopy services**
AKAKI BRANCH LIBRARY PICTURES

Akaki Branch Library

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With the advancement of computer and networking technologies there are significant growth in availability and use of electronic information resources

What are E-resources?

Electronic resources (e-resource) are an electronic information resource (bibliographic or full-text) that can be access through the Internet
It includes electronic journals, databases and electronic books, websites, subject gateways, etc.

Brophy (1993) mentioned that the advantage of electronic information resources include:

- Speed (Provision of time-saving features)
- Ease of use
UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES CONT.....

► Ability to search multiple files at the same time

► Ability to download, save, print and send a desired document instantly

► More frequently updating,

► The ability to access information from outside of the library, this is highly important for the distance learning.
UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES CONT...

- Students are expected to use electronic information resources since it is one of their major sources of information. And also as UNISA is shifting to ODeL. So more emphasis should be given to digitalise the information resources.

- Although, some students are appreciate and able to use the e-resources that are available at UNISA library, however, evident from our branch library statistics and from information obtained informally (discussion with students) indicated that there is lesser than expected of e-resource usage.
Experiences and observations show that some of the students have some challenges to use e-resources due to the following reasons:

- **Lack of awareness** of the available resources,
- **Attitude** towards electronic resources,
- **Poor Internet connection and information technology (IT) infrastructure** by internet service provider, and
- **Lack of available Technological equipment** in Akaki branch library.
LACK OF AWARENESS

- Akaki branch library has been providing orientation about the availability of services and information resources at UNISA library.
- However, some students are not attending the orientation, so they are not aware of the availability of electronic information resources.
LACK OF AWARENESS CONT...

- The location of Akaki Branch Library is far from the city and also inaccessible of transportation.
- This leads to, less than expected very few students are attending the orientation because of;
  - Locational Inaccessibility and
  - Less attention to attend orientation.
ATTITUDE TOWARDS ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

- Our experience and observation indicated that most students come to the library and prefer to consult printed information resources than e-resources.

- Most UNISA students in Ethiopia, their attitude towards electronic information resources are not developed to the level of expected.

- This is due to:
  - Usage of e-resources is a recent phenomena since students were dependant on printed material for their academic study and research.
  - ODL system and practice is not developed, since before two decades private sectors were not allowed to be involved in education sector due to educational policy.
Poor network connectivity is the major problem faced by Unisa students in Ethiopia.

Internet bandwidth at Internet cafés and offices are not fast.

Most of the students are living in remote regions of the country where there is either no access or weak access to the Internet and information technology (IT) infrastructure.
In this regard Gelaw (1998: 14) identified that lack of strong IT infrastructure is one of the main barriers that limit students to access and use IT-based information services effectively. Chekol (2010:123) further found that a number of factors impact on the spread and use of ICT’s in Ethiopia. These include access and ICT infrastructure.
Therefore, poor network connectivity, access to Internet and lack of IT infrastructure are the main barriers impacting on students on using electronic information resources.
INSUFFICIENT AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT IN AKAKI BRANCH LIBRARY

- The student workstation computers are very old and outdated (originally the computers came from previous Technicome as old status and even served more than 7 years in our branch)

- The processing speed is very slow which affects searching and downloading e-resources

- **Printer facility** and **Wifi access** are not available in Akaki branch library

- The remoteness of the Akaki Branch Library has its own limitation on students’ utilization of the electronic information resources.
RECOMMENDATION

- Orientation should be a continuous effort, since the new students admitted on a regular basis
- Improve and equipped the Akaki branch library facilities
- Relocate the branch library so that the students would be utilised the workstation effectively
- Library management should visit the akaki branch library to provide both administrative assistance and supportive supervision on regular bases.
REFERENCE


Thank You!