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Factors Influencing for Utilization of the Databases at Kotelawala Defence University

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Abstracts

Databases contain peer-reviewed scholarly articles arranged systematically with searchable items or fields that allow users to do quick and easy searching essential for the researchers of a university to fulfil the information requirement of its researchers. Therefore, KDU allocated a considerable amount to subscribe to electronic databases, even during these economic crises, to meet the teaching-learning and research requirements of students and academic staff of the faculties. Thus, it is impressive to use the subscribed databases to their best potential to maximize the financial investments made when acquiring the contents. Therefore, the main objective of this study was to investigate the factors influencing the utilization of the databases and suggest recommendations to increase usage. So, the study analyzed the usage statistics of 3 databases (IEEE, Hain Online and Emerald Insight) over the last three years (from September 2019 to August 2022) and interviewed a few heads of the departments to identify the factors affected. The findings of the study were reported using descriptive analysis. The study found that usage of all three databases increased during student assignments and final year research projects, right after the subscription (introductory programs done by the suppliers) and during library awareness sessions which stressed the significance of performing user awareness training regularly. The lowest usage in all three databases was observed (April, August and December) But the factor of student vacation is beyond control. In June 2022, there was an issue with accessing databases remotely through the KDU Library webpage, and the study found a decline in usage of the databases in the same month, which implies that a functional website is one of the main factors for database usage.

Keywords: *Academic libraries, Databases, Electronic Resources, User Awareness, User Demand*