Accessibility of Online Resources at the Library from remote locations

Objectives of the Practice:

Objective: to enable the users of TERI SAS library to access electronic resources from locations outside the library.

Principles: physical location of the users of library should not be a limiting factor in accessing the electronic resources at the library.

Concepts: Electronic resources are abundantly available and accessed by anyone with an electronic device and internet connection. But authenticity and credibility of all such resources are doubtful. Young students may not always be able to separate the proverbial wheat from the chaff. Resources at the library, on the other hand, are tested for quality, before their procurement. Remote access to such materials may incentivise the students to use them.

The Context:

Space constraints prevent the library to procure hard copy of many materials. Also, electronic copies are environmentally benign. In most cases, licenses allow sharing of such resources among multiple users at a given point of time. Yet in most cases, it is allowed on the basis of internet protocol (of TERI SAS). Once an user was out of the range of TERI SAS WiFi, the access was no longer possible. This was reported by the users of the library to be a major hindrance.

In 2016, M/s Knimbus Online Pvt Limited approached TERI SAS with a proposal to access all the knowledge available and resources subscribed by its library on any device, from anywhere, anytime. It also provided the option of aggregating all TERI SAS subscriptions, multimedia learning contents, digital library, etc on one cloud platform. The then Library Committee, after due deliberation, had approved its procurement.

The Practice:

The pandemic induced by COVID 19 has showcased the importance of ensuring accessibility to resources in higher education. Many institutions such as UGC and AICTE have emphasised the importance of making available online contents over the last decade. A number of platforms have been developed including SWAYAM to provide such resources. Remote access to online resources of the library provides similar functions.

At TERI SAS, students and faculty can access e-recourses remotely through the following link: https://terivk.new.knimbus.com/. An introductory lecture on the use and benefits from using this platform is a part of PRAVAAH, the orientation programme for newly admitted students. This is conducted by the library.

Students can access online aggregators subscribed by the library such as JSTOR, Science Direct, etc. They can search online resources, browse them as well as download them to use at a later time.

Evidence of Success:

The table below shows that the decision to install facilities for remotely accessing resources at the library was a rewarding one.

Knimbus (Remote access platform) usage statistics

Period	Total Registered Users	Visits & Logins	Cumulative Views Searches & Downloads	Remote Access Views & Downloads
2016-17	437	*	*	*
2017-18	477	20391	21294	19879
2018-19	467	36465	37275	35921

Source: Annual usage statistics provided by Knimbus
Note: * Data in 2016-17 was made available in a format different from above.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The financial resources warranted by this arrangement is not a large one. Library budget could accommodate it. The benefits received from this far exceeds the cost.

Notes (Optional):

NA