



Intensify the Virtual Library Services through the Knimbus mLibrary App

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ABSTRACT

Many educational institutions nowadays are utilising the Internet to offer online learning services. The primary goal is to comprehend how and why libraries are transforming and to enable libraries better to meet the demands and expectations of university library users. In response to the growing demand for remote access to electronic resources, libraries have shifted their focus from information ownership to "Anywhere, anytime" access to data. This paper aims to explore how the K-nimbus mobile app will aid library users.

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1. Introduction

Over the past five decades, the ICT revolution and the internet have fundamentally altered information management and dissemination methods. These technologies have also led to the development of user-centric services and tools that are both easy and convenient to use. Libraries have quickly adopted new technologies and provided their users with a seamless service. The widespread availability of mobile phones has played a significant role in improving teaching and learning processes worldwide. As a result of the change in the format of information made possible by technology, the world has become a 'Mobile World.' Today's users prefer electronic resources to print resources, which save time, are user-friendly, and provide access to a vast range of information from any location and at any time. Remote access is a one-stop interface for all accessed e-resources in the library, requiring only a single login and password. It is compatible with all electronic devices and offers access to various commercial and open-access software.

Knimbus mLibrary: Remote Access

Remote access is accessing a computer or server remotely through a network

connection. We facilitate remote access in the library. The library user easily accesses resources remotely away from the institution through the institution credentials; this is a very gratifying platform. The various library resources available through remote access encompass e-resources, a range of databases, including open and commercial ones, citation databases, indexing and abstracting databases, subject guides, consortium resources, materials from different publishers and vendors, and institutional repositories. Today's off-campus access is needed in higher education institutes to manage and share resources effectively.

Knimbus mLibrary is a mobile application; it is a single-sign platform and cloud-based remote access application that works on the Android and iOS operating systems. It plays a vital role in the library, giving off-campus e-resources access. This platform brings universal search and access anywhere and anytime; it allows library users to effortlessly access library resources from any location and on any handheld device like a smartphone, iPad, etc. And it increases the usage of library resources.

Benefits of Knimbus mLibrary

- 24/7 access to the e-resources from anywhere, anytime, on the internet.
- Works with speed, convenience, and portability
- It improves the user experience.
- It helps save the user time.
- Flexibility to access information anytime, whether content-based or subject-based.
- This platform extends the student's knowledge through various resources.
- It helps in honing their research skills and enhancing their academic performance.
- It facilitates a single keyword search.
- It provides a wonderful discovery service: we can access the millions of subscribed content with a single login.

Review of Literature

S. N. Dongare and U. Y. Magare (2020) in their paper offered a comprehensive look at the creation and usage of mobile technology in libraries, highlighting its advantages and the challenges of developing high-quality mobile library services. It also covers the future of mobile library architecture, identifying potential obstacles to implementation.

Ernest, Ganaa D., et al. (2016) stated that this study aimed to determine how network administrators incorporate remote access tools into their daily tasks and assess the efficiency and dependability of these tools in delivering the desired outcomes for users.

Dixit, Gopal Prasad (2018), explains how Chandigarh University, Kharar (CUK) has integrated the Knimbus remote access software to provide users access to otherwise unavailable resources. Additionally, this article outlines the steps in implementing an off-campus access facility in a library, making it an ideal resource for novices who want to learn how to use the Knimbus remote access software.

Objectives of the study

The study's main objectives were as follows:

- To raise awareness about remote access facilities at REVA University.
- To assess the degree of satisfaction among users who utilise remote access services.

Methodology

We have explored data from REVA University users who have installed the Knimbus mLibrary. A few questionnaires were formed to collect data and gain insight into the experiences of its registered users.

Knimbus mLibrary at REVA University Library

REVA University Library facilitates the Knimbus mLibrary platform for its users. This platform makes all the subscribed and open-access electronic library resources available on a single platform to users with internet or Wi-Fi connectivity and institution login. It permits users to access the library website or OPAC via the Knimbus mLibrary.

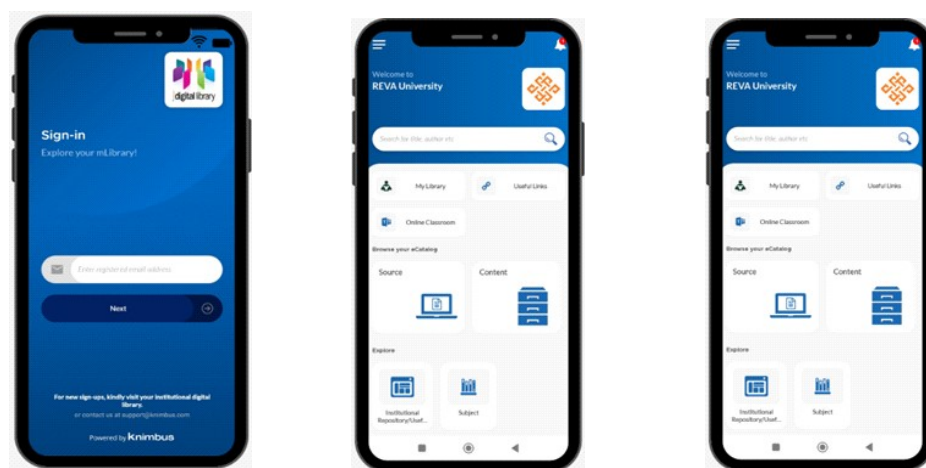


Figure 1. Login Page, mLibrary Homepage

The Knimbus mobile application lets users access their subscribed resources anytime, anywhere, including books and articles from the source category. The content category features diverse document types, such as case studies, e-books, e-journals, news articles, magazines, databases, proceedings, and more. Additionally, the app offers access to Academia.edu's platform.

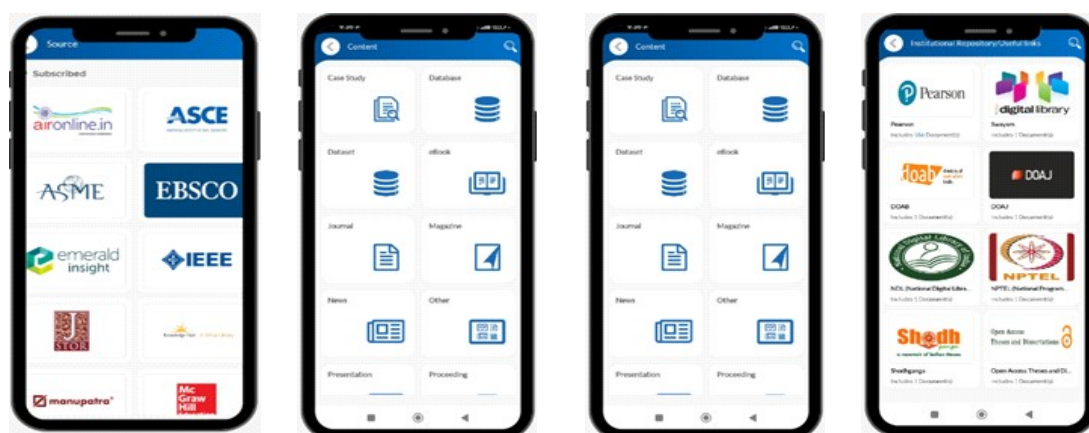


Figure 2. mLibrary Interface

Data Analysis

User-wise Response

A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed to faculty, research scholars, and students. Out of the 150, only 128 responses were received; the primary data and the response were 83.3%.

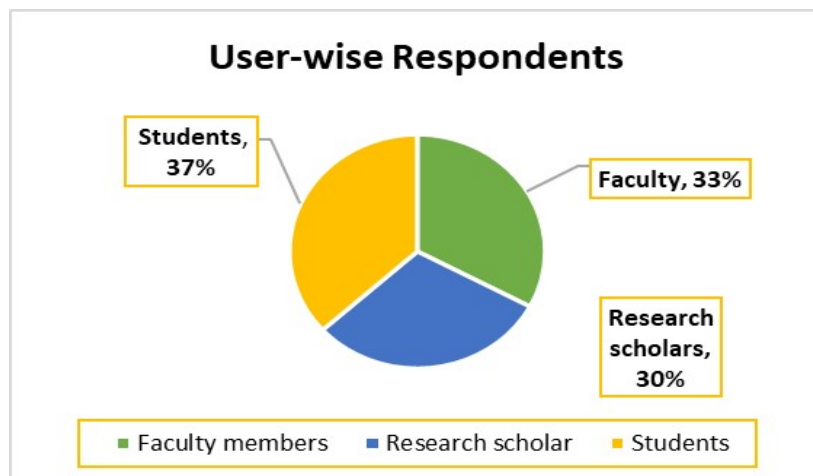


Figure 3. User-wise Response

The above figure shows that most of the responses received are from students (37%), followed by faculty and research scholars (33% and 30%).

Awareness about the Knimbus mLibrary

The data presented in Figure 4 indicates that 100% (128) of respondents were aware of the Knimbus library facility provided by the REVA University Library.

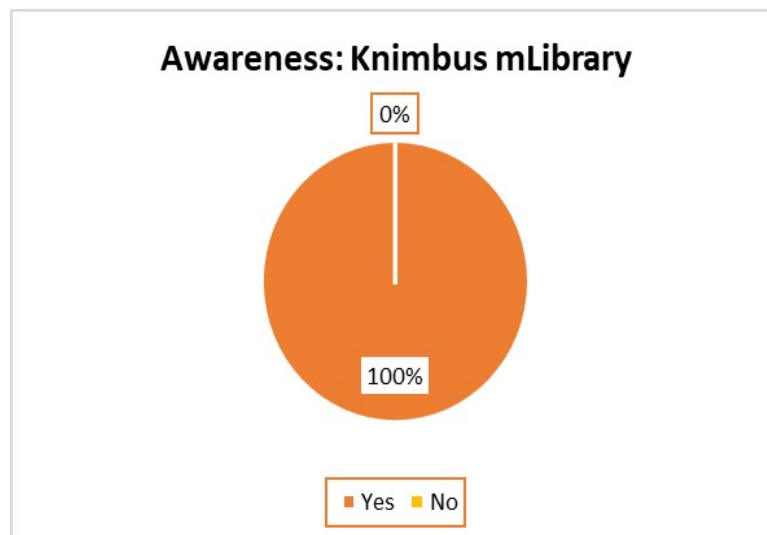


Figure 4. Awareness about the Knimbus mLibrary

User Satisfaction mLibrary

The data presented in Figure 5 indicates that 73% of users are satisfied, 25% are highly satisfied, 2% are uncertain, and nobody is dissatisfied with the Knimbus library.

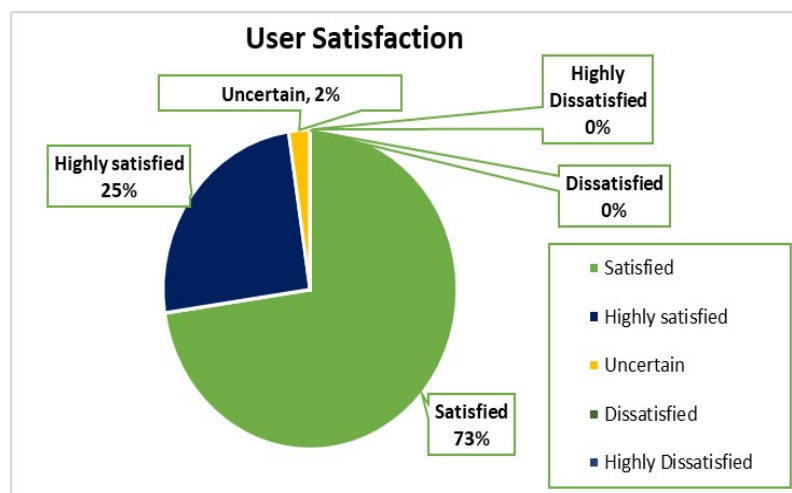


Figure 5. User Satisfaction

Findings

- The study has observed that the majority of library users are aware of the Knimbus mLibrary facility, which REVA University provided.
- The study reveals that students use Knimbus mLibrary more than faculty and research scholars.
- The study revealed that 98% of library users are satisfied or highly satisfied with the Knimbus mLibrary facility provided at the REVA University Library.

Conclusion

According to recent studies, the trend of remote access to electronic resources is showing promising results and gaining momentum daily. In light of these findings, it is suggested that libraries should take similar initiatives to provide remote access platforms for students, researchers, and faculty members to enhance the teaching and learning experience. In today's knowledge-driven society, remote access software has proven to be a valuable tool. This study proposes the adoption of Knimbus mLibrary remote access platforms in libraries to enable users to easily access library resources from their respective locations, especially for researchers who are geographically distant from the physical library.

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