

## Generation 'Z' Information E-resources in digital era: an initiative by Government of India

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### Abstract:

With the advent of paper the writing was start on paper and after the long time the printing press came to the human society for reading. Therefore, the books are the integral part of human learning since the invention of paper. Reading of books, magazines, journals and newspapers have a great role to enhance the knowledge of a person in any field like arts, medical, sciences, agriculture, general awareness, sports or business etc. to inculcate the reading habits among the children parents are emphasizing on reading the books. By the development of the technology e- resources are available in the market in the form of e-books, e-magazines, e-journals and e-papers of newspapers. These e-resources could also be accessed through 21<sup>st</sup> century high tech libraries which are providing electronic services in this digital era. This study describes the various e-resources, how to use e-resources and the problems facing while accessing the e-resources

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**Keywords:** Generation Z, E resources, Information

**Introduction:** Due to huge explosion of literature, information could not be confined to libraries only. There was a time when libraries were regarded as a store house of knowledge and information. It was a place where books were placed under lock and key. With the passage of time, automated and digital libraries overtook the manual trend of the earlier libraries. Today, the 21st century libraries, which are considered social institutions, with an aim to assist their patrons in term of how-to retrieve the information through various e-resources, are available in the library.

**Generation 'Z'** (children born after 1995) is more educated, tech savvy as compared to other past generations. Due to the binding of individuals into so many assignments, they do not have enough time to access the whole information through scrolling the book page to page. In this concern, following important Apps for example: **National Scholarships Portal:** for students looking for scholarship, **ePathshala:** for students and teachers who can access e-books on mobile devices and desktops, **mKavach** (Mobile security solutions), **DigiSevak:** for citizen volunteers, **DigiLocker:** for the safety of digital copies and **Basta app:** for teachers and students is another very handy app, suggested by Indian Government in Education Domain for teachers and students which helps them access e-books and

create study material. These E-resources are much helpful as they save the time of the users, are easy to access and more user friendly.

The Government of India has initiated major educational reforms aimed to improve the quality and access to education across the country. Setting up smart classes in government schools, emphasis on teachers training new premier higher education institutions have been opened across the country, interaction with globally renowned edu- leaders, opening new higher education institutes across the country are among many such initiatives that have helped the education sector to better the pedagogical approaches, curriculum and learning outcomes among students. Few of the initiatives are as follows:

**SWAYAM MOOCs Portal:**

Study Webs of Active learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) is an indigenous Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) portal that provides high quality education – anyone, anytime, anywhere at no cost- has been made operational. To make easy access of good quality educational content to even remotest part of the country, satellite communication has been used and 32 DTH channels have been made functional, under SWAYAM Prabhaprogramme. So far, more than 1,000 courses have been made available and more than 33 lakh users have registered on this forum.

**National Digital Library (NDL):**

The initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development is one of the largest virtual repositories of learning resources with a single window search facility. With over 15 million digital books and journals, the facility has been used by over 31 lakh learners.

**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA):**

It is a new initiative to make use of the knowledge base in the higher educational institutions for plugging technology gaps in the rural areas. It will help boosting the technology usage in rural India by customising the same as per local needs.

**PanditMadan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMNMTT):**

Launched in December, 2014, The scheme is aimed to address the issues of supply of qualified teachers, attracting talent into teaching profession, raising the quality teaching in schools and colleges.

**Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN):**

The initiative launched on 30th November 2015 to garner best international knowledge and experience into the country's higher education. GIAN is supposed to enable Indian students & faculty to interact with best academic and industry experts from across the world. So far, 1,075 courses have been conducted in which more than 40,000 students gained enriched academic inputs and knowledge.

**IMPRINT India:**

It is an effort to direct research in the premier institutions into areas of social relevance. 10 such domains have been identified which could substantially impact the living standards of the rural areas. More than 2,600 research proposals have been submitted by scientists in these areas.

**UchhtarAvishkarYojana (UAY):**

The scheme has been launched to promote industry specific need- based research so as to keep up the competitiveness of Indian industry in the global market. It is proposed to invest Rs 250 crores every year on identified projects. The Industry is expected to contribute 25 % of the project cost.

**Prime Minister Research Fellows (PMRF):**

The scheme is launched to support 1000 bright undergraduate students every year, for direct admission in the research programmes in the reputed institutions like IISc, IITs. The fellowship carries a lot of social recognition and it ranges from Rs 70,000 to 80,000 per month for five year period.

**Smart India Hackathon:**

The initiative is to promote innovation in the students by encouraging out of the box solutions for common problems faced by the society at large. In the first edition held in 2017, more than 40,000 students have participated to solve more than 600 problems. In 2018, the scope has been expanded to Hardware area also.

**National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):**

This is the biggest ranking exercise launched in 2015, in which more than 3,500 institutions participated. The first edition of India Rankings 2016 was released in April, 2016. The India Rankings 2018, the 3rd edition, will be released on 3rd April, 2018. The India Rankings is one of the biggest efforts for bringing in accountability and transparency in the higher educational institutions. The ranks

are released in the various categories of institutions namely Universities, Engineering, Management, Pharmacy etc.

**Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA):**

It has been approved by the Cabinet for creation of a fund with government equity of Rs. 1000 crores, to give a big push for building up robust higher educational institutions. The HEFA would finance the academic and research infrastructure projects through a 10 year loan. It is expected to spend Rs. 1,00,000 crore in next 5 years, for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier education institutions.

**RashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan (RMSA):**

It was launched by the Government of India in March, 2009 envisaging inter-alia provision of a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation and to improve quality of education imparted at secondary level by making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socio-economic and disability barriers etc. In 2013, secondary education the schemes of ICT, vocational education, Girls Hostel and IEDSS were subsumed under the umbrella of RMSA. Under the scheme, 12,682 new schools and 37,799 existing schools for strengthening have been sanctioned so far.

**E-pathshala:**

It has been developed by NCERT (National Council for Educational Research and Training) for showcasing and disseminating all educational e-resources including textbooks, audio, video, periodicals and a variety of other print and non-print materials. So far, 3,062 audios and videos, 650 e-books (e-pubs) and 504 flip books have been made available on the portal and mobile app.

**Conclusion:**

There are various 'Electronic Information Resources' available with in a click away. A librarian as total quality person who manages these information resources help the patrons through disseminating right information to the right person at the right time. Identifying the information seeking behavior of the patron helps the librarian to explore the specific user needs with required information resources. Electronic Information resources are need of an hour, but how are we choosing the specific one from tons of options is required.

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