

‘OPEN ACCESS RESOURCES’ FOR THE USERS OF SECONDARY/HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

Sri Kali Prasanna Karmakar* Dr. Nimai Chand Saha**

*** Librarian,**

Maladang Seharakuri
Bangshidhar High School
(H.S.), Seharakuri,
Birbhum, West Bengal
India.

**** Deputy Librarian**

Central Library, Visva-
Bharati, Santiniketan,
West Bengal India.

QR Code



Abstract: - *It is open truth that, the school libraries are suffering from lot of basic problems in general. Again, as there is no provision of library use in the regular routine the students have not formal scope to use/visit the library resources. As there is no regular/annual budget for the library, the resource collection (particularly print) of the individual library is very poor/back-dated and fails to meet the needs of the users. Most of the school libraries does not have any librarian and where librarian is there, he-she is being utilised for other than library activities (sometimes/somewhere academic and sometimes/somewhere non academic). As a result, the concept of library particularly in the school is under deletion. But, as the school libraries are the entry gate of the academic library, so enough attention is to be given by the all stakeholder to sustain the library services with the passage of time. In this context, the present paper is an attempt to represent the showcase of resources for school students through ‘Open Access Model’. Though the resources are open/free but to access basic infrastructure like Computer, Internet Connectivity is imperative in addition to training /awareness of both librarian and library users including teachers.*

Key Words: School Library, Open Access, Open Access Resources, Digital Reference Services, Challenges of Open Access, etc

Introduction

Education is vital for the prosperity of every human and human society or nation in general. Proper education makes a nation stronger—in socially, economically, politically and so on.

School education lays the foundation stone in building the personality of a person. So, the

growth and future of our country highly depends on the quality school education system. School is important for this educational process, to building up a love for reading and encourage lifelong self learning. School libraries around the world, in their many forms, share a common purpose: to enhancement of “teaching and learning for all”.

Libraries are being affected by digital agenda and by trends such as “open” access data, learning initiatives, and convergence (IFLA, 2015) .

1. Open Access Concepts

Open Access (OA) means unbridled access and free availability of scholarly information on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or use them for any other lawful purpose and of most copyright and licensing restrictions. According to Peter Suber, “Open access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions”.We can say that OA is “barrier-free” access (Suber, 2012) .

At present School libraries are called "learning resource centres" and the school librarians as the ‘learning resource centre managers' (Mahajan, 2010). Actually all types of libraries are hybrid library in 21st century. It has balanced collection of print as well as electronic information resources to cope up with changing information seeking behavior. It includes 3D models, audio visual e-resources, online resources as well as printed documents.

3. Some Open Access Resources for School Education

3.1 Wikibooks

(https://www.wikibooks.org/)-Wikibooks is a wiki-based free content textbooks and annotated texts that anyone can edit. All of the site's content is released under a Creative Commons

Attribution-Share Alike license. It available in more than 300 languages.

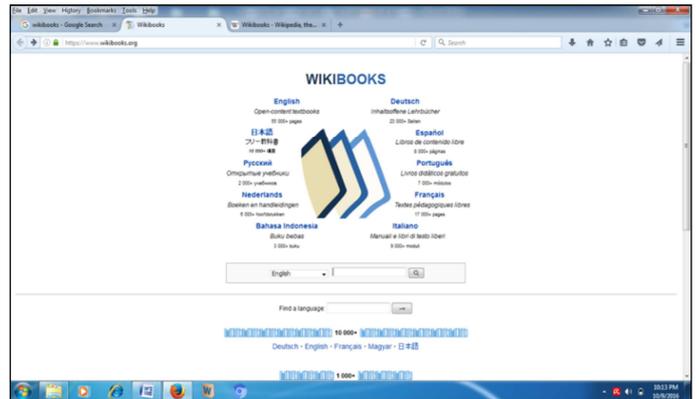


Figure 1:Wiki Books interface

3.2 Google Books -(1 googlebooks/about/index.html)

Google Books searches the full text of books and magazines that Google has scanned, converted to text and stored in its digital database. Books are provided either by publishers and authors, through the Google Books Partner Program, or by Google's library partners, through the Library Project. Additionally, Google has partnered with a number of magazine publishers to digitize their archives.

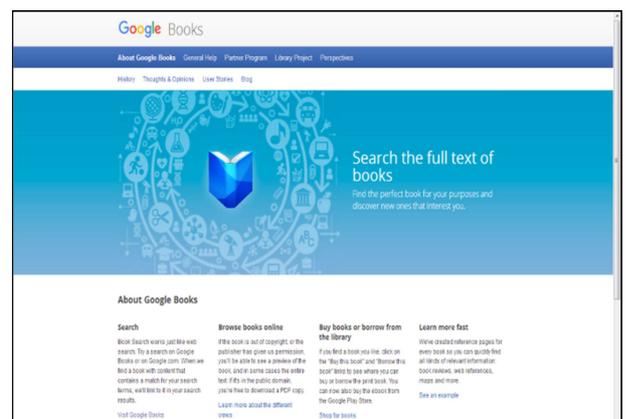


Figure 2: Google Books interface

3.3. Textbook Revolution (http://textbookrevolution.org/index.php/Main_Page) Textbook Revolution is a student-oriented site dedicated to increasing the use of free educational study materials. The link finds reviews of textbooks and select educational resources. The Textbook Revolution provide some documents in PDF files, others are visible online as e-books, or some are simply web based containing course or multimedia content.

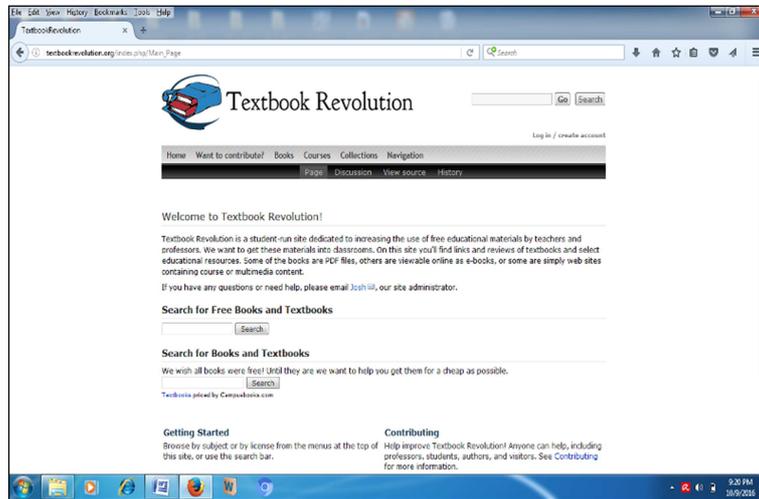


Figure 3:Textbook revolution interface

3.4 Project Gutenberg (<https://www.gutenberg.org/>)- Offers over 53,000 free e-books on different subject. Reader can choose books among free epub books, free kindle books, in different file or format; It can download or read online world wide. The founder of Project Gutenberg is Michael Hart.

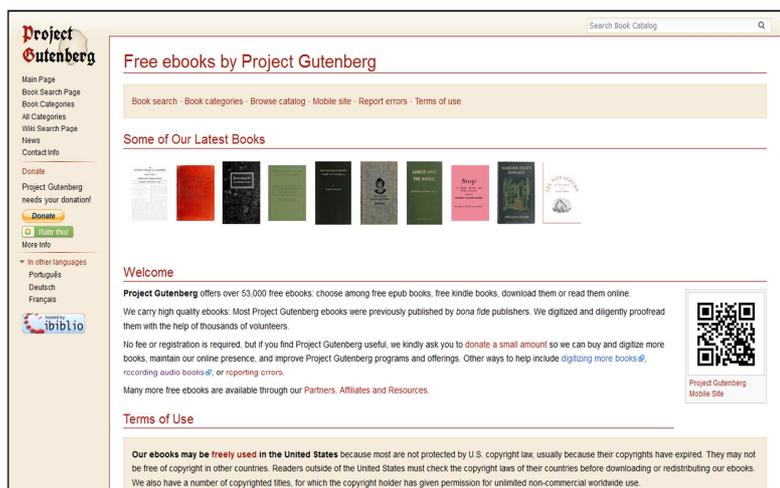


Figure 4:Project Gutenberg interface

3.5 International Children's Digital Library (<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/index.shtml>) – ICDL is a free online library of digitized children's books in 59 languages for the children ages 3 to 13 years, launched in November 2002. Children can search for books by country, Keyword Search, Recently Added Books , Award-Winning Books, Author & Illustrator List, language, intended age group, content type, and advanced search,among other qualifiers. Apps for iPhone and iPad also available.

Figure 5:ICDL interface

3.6 Oxford Owl (<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>) -Oxford Owl is a easy-to-use website built with teachers and parents. It includes, 250 free eBooks, phonics guide, helpful advice, storytelling videos and other fun activities to help child-parent-teacher to support children's reading and mathematics.



Figure 6: Oxford Owl interface

3.7 Story Place (<https://www.storyplace.org/>) Story Place, presented in both English and Spanish, offers children the opportunity to read online stories, participate in interactive activities, and print activity pages. Story time start journey in the year 2000.



Figure 7:Story Place interface

3.8 Children's Books Forever (<http://www.childrensbooksforever.com/>) world wide children’s favorite story books are freely available in 12 languages including English. It can use on smart board or Power point.



Figure 8:Children's Books Forever

3.9 Teaching Ideas (<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/>) Teaching Ideas gift us thousands of free classroom activity ideas, downloadable resources, display photos and other study materials on , Mathematics, science, computing, Art, Music, Geography, History , English and other languages. It can be use by teachers with their pupil. The teaching ideas and educational resources can be used by teachers, parents and other educators all over the world.



Figure 9: Teaching Ideas interface

3.10 Khan Academy -

([https:// www.khanacademy.org/](https://www.khanacademy.org/))- Khan Academy is a non-profit educational organization providing a "free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere". The main language of the website is English, but the content is also available in other languages. Huge number of subject tutorials; subject covered math, science, computer programming history, art history, economics, and more. OS and Android Mobile app also available.

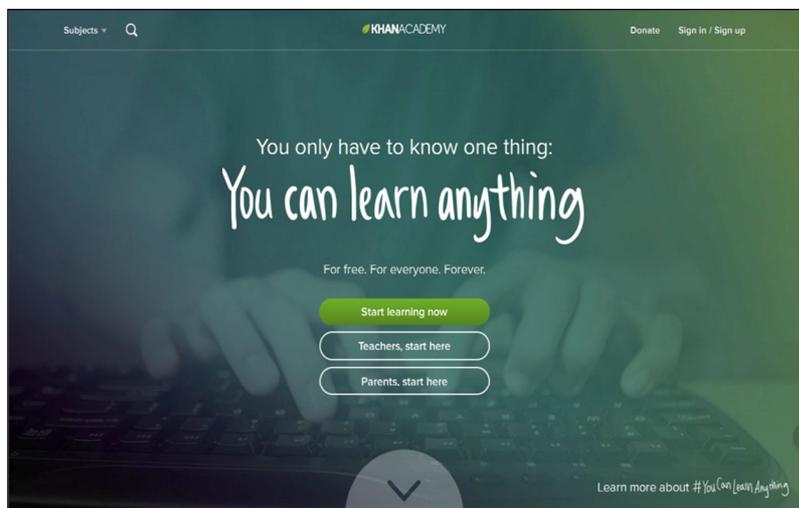


Figure 10:Khan Academy interface

3.11 ExamFear.com (<http://www.examfear.com/>) is a one stop platform which provides free quality education world wide. It contains large number of educational video lessons (near about 5000) on Physics, Mathematics, Biology & Chemistry with concepts & tricks for Class 6 to 12. Also available mobile app(android) from Google Play store.

Figure 11:ExamFear.Com interface

3.12 E-CBSE-([http://cbse.nic.in/ecbse/ welcome.html](http://cbse.nic.in/ecbse/welcome.html)) - Collection of CBSE Books in Electronic Format for the student of class I to XII . E-CBSE is an initiative to bring CBSE books close to students, so that students can read them on the go, just go the site and start learning. This is a part of Digital India initiative.



Figure 1:E-CBSC interface

3.13 The National Digital Library

(<https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in>):- **NDL** is a digital collection of freely accessible rare books collected from various libraries in India. It offers to across all the significant literary, artistic and scientific works of mankind and to preserve digitally and make them available freely for every one over Internet for life long education, research, study, appreciation and for

future generations. It is also usable for differently- abled learners. The National Digital Library of India is freely available or institutionally contributed or donated or publisher managed *documents available in* various forms like text, audio, video etc. It is *free-to-read*, of 1500000 documents have been authored by 1.5Lakh authors, more than 60 types of learning resources in more than 70 languages are available. Currently NDL interface support in English, Hindi and Bengali languages. Also available NDL Android Mobile App from Google Play Store.

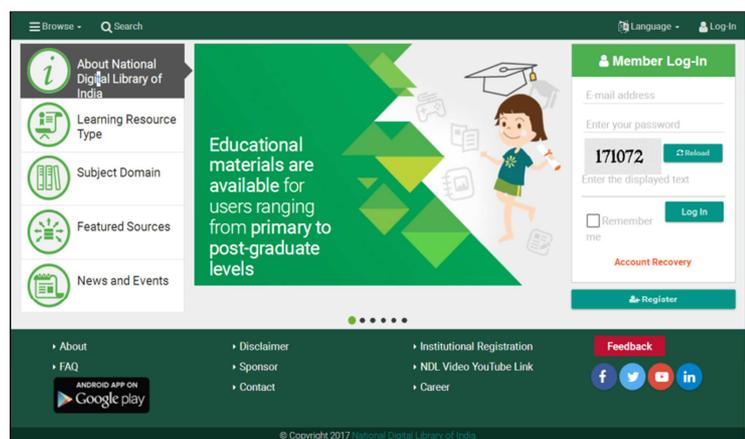


Figure13:NDL interface

3.14 The World Digital Library (<https://www.wdl.org/en/>) - WDL focus on culturally and historically significant content about every UN member country. The content is in a variety of formats and languages (appear in their original language) and from different places and time periods. The WDL focuses on significant primary materials, including manuscripts, maps, rare books, recordings, films, prints, photographs, and their types of primary sources.

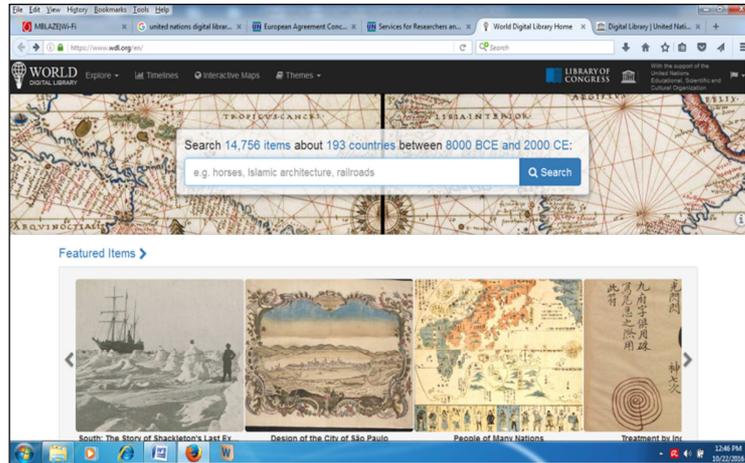


Figure 2: The World Digital Library interface

3.15 West Bengal Public Library Network–(<http://dSPACE.wbpublib.net.gov.in:8080/jspui/>) - The West Bengal Public Library Network is a digital repository of more than 30,000 copyright free rare books. It provides a free service to academics, researchers, and students which help to collect, preserve, distribute and study rare digital material from different libraries and The District Libraries of Govt. of West Bengal, India.



Figure 3: West Bengal Public Library Network interface

4.16 ePathshala (<http://epathshala.nic.in /e-pathshala-4/>) – It introduced by The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Government of India. It provides e-textbooks, supplementary material, newsletters, journals and develops educational kits, multimedia digital materials, etc. develop and disseminate innovative educational techniques and practices for the students, teachers, educators and parents. ePathshala mobile app also available.

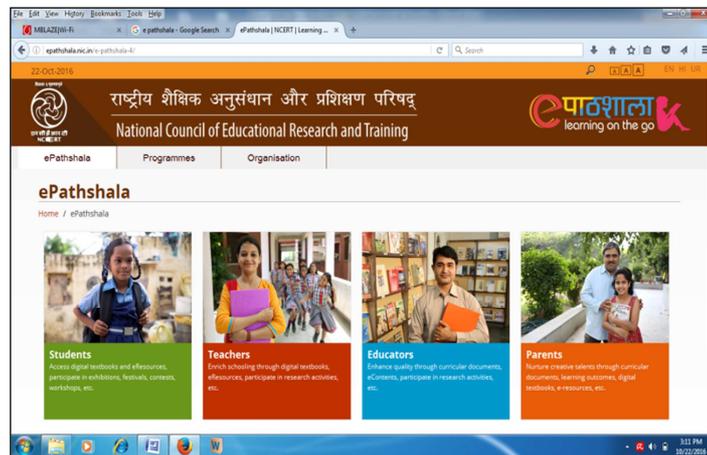


Figure 4: E-Pathshala of NCERT interface

3.17 eBasta

(<https://www.ebasta.in/>)–This project has been created under the Digital India initiative, Govt. of India. That makes school books accessible in digital form as e-books to be read and used on tablets and laptops. The main aim is to bring different publishers (as well as free & commercial) and schools together on a single platform. eBasta mobile app also available.

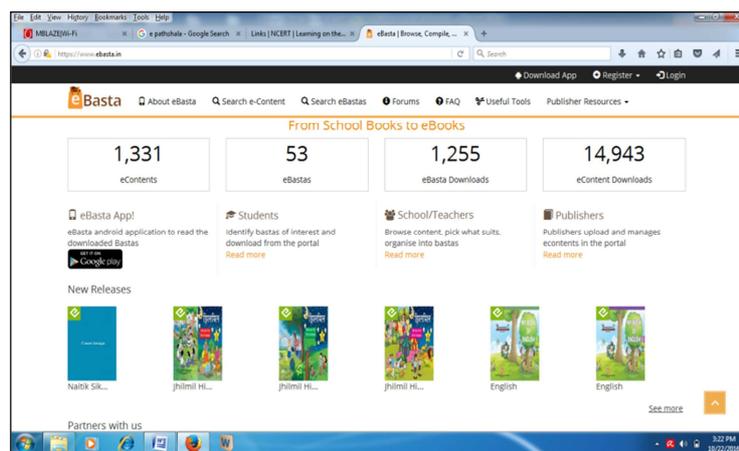


Figure 5: e-Basta interface

3.18 Online Labs (<http://www.olabs.edu.in/>)- The Online Labs offers experiments in Physical, Chemical and Biological sciences for the students from classes 9 to 12 with content aligned to NCERT /CBSE and State Board Syllabus. Access to the Online Labs is free after registration.



Figure 6: Online Labs interface

3.19 National Institute of Open Schooling (<http://www.nios.ac.in/>

default.aspx)- established by the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India. NIOS is giving opportunity to learn a number of Vocational, Life Enrichment and community oriented courses besides General as well as Academic Courses at Secondary and Senior Secondary level to remote areas under the motive to increase literacy and aimed forward for flexible learning. Online study materials freely available through website.



Figure 7: NIOS interface

3.20 e-TEXTBOOK (<http://www.wbsed.gov.in/wbsed/default.html>)- provide downloadable e-textbooks for primary and secondary level(I-IX) and other information also available related to secondary education, West Bengal.

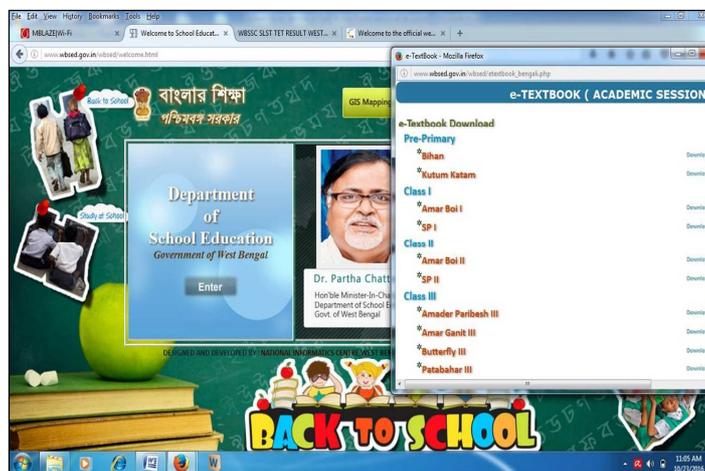


Figure 20: E-Text Book of WBSed interface

With the help of the following table 1, an attempt has been made to explore the accessibility of the different websites as noted above to the various category of users;

Table – 1: Accessibility of Open Resources to the various category of Users

SL No.	Name of e-resources/ Web site/portal	URL	Student	Teachers	Guardian	Educator
1	Wikibooks	https://www.wikibooks.org	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Google Books	https://books.google.co.in/intl/en/googlebooks/about/index.html	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Textbook Revolution	http://textbookrevolution.org/index.php/Main_Page	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Project Gutenberg	https://www.gutenberg.org/	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	International Children's Digital Library	http://en.childrenslibrary.org/index.shtml	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6	Oxford Owl	https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	StoryPlace	https://www.storyplace.org	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
8	Children's Books Forever	http://www.childrensbooksforever.com/	Yes	No	Yes	No
9	Teaching Ideas	(http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	Khan Academy	https://www.khanacademy.org	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

11	ExamFear.com	http://www.examfear.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	E-CBSE	http://cbse.nic.in/ecbse/welcome.html	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
13	The National Digital Library	https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
14	The World Digital Library	(https://www.wdl.org/en/	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
15	West Bengal Public Library Network	http://dspace.wbpublibnet.gov.in:8080/jspui/)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
16	ePathshala	http://epathshala.nic.in/e-pathshala-4/	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
17	eBasta	https://www.ebasta.in	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
18	Online Labs	http://www.olabs.edu.in	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
19	National Institute of Open Schooling	http://www.nios.ac.in/default.aspx	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
20	e-TEXTBOOK	http://www.wbsed.gov.in/wbsed/default.html	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

3.21 MOOC (Massive Open Online Course)

Teacher, educator or parents access state - of -art knowledge through MOOCs ; which helps upgrade teaching-learning environment for students. Some well known examples of MOOC providers are:

Table 2: MOOCs and courses

Sl. No	Name	Subject/Course	URL
1.	SWAYAM (MHRD, Govt. of India)	All subject (from 9th class to post-graduation)	https://swayam.gov.in/
2.	ALISON	750 course	https://alison.com/
3.	SAYLOR	294course	http://www.saylor.org/
4.	COURSERA	750 course	https://www.coursera.org/
5.	edX	700 course	https://www.edx.org/



Figure21: SWYAM MOOC interface

3.22 Digital Reference Service

The increasing availability of electronic information sources and services through web and digital libraries has altered the notion of traditional library services. Some well-known examples of digital references services are:

Table 3: Some Digital Reference Sources

Sl. No.	Name	Subject	URL
1	Allexparts	All	http://www.allexperts.com/
2	Internet Public Library	All	http://www.ipl.org/
3	Infoplease	All	http://www.infoplease.com/
4	Reference Desk	All	http://www.referenceDesk.org/index.shtml
5	Question Point	All	https://www.questionpoint.org/
6	Virtual Referenceself	All	https://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/virtualref.html
8	Encyclopedia.com	All	http://www.encyclopedia.com/
9	Bibliomania Reference	All	http://www.bibliomania.com/
10.	Word Web	E to E Dictionary	http://wordweb.info/free/

4. Problems- It is true that there are many resources as listed above and other are free to access. But, on the way of access of open access resources there are many problems encountered to an users or the same is not free to access. One has to obtain basic knowledge on handling computers and browsing resources through website, Internet, etc. again, maximum resources available in the web are in English but not in regional languages for which it is difficult to retrieve actual resources from the web or from so called 'Open Access'.

4.1 Speed of access: - Internet speed is not satisfactory always. If new technology will not evolve to solve the problem then in near future Internet will be untouched in the community of Rural areas in particular.

4.2 Initial cost is high: - The infrastructure cost of access electronic i.e. the cost of hardware, software; leasing communication circuit is generally very high.

4.3 Band width: - Need high band for transfer of multimedia resources but the band width is decreasing day by day due to its over utilization.

4.4 Efficiency: - With the much larger volume of digital information, finding the right material for a specific task becomes increasingly difficult.

4.5 Manpower Training: - dearth of properly trained manpower also a major challenge for accessing open source e-resources to the scholl students.

5. Suggestion – To meet the challenges, the following suggestions may be taken in to

consideration. The suggestions may not be able to remove the entire challenges still that may help to way out to retrieve minimum resources by utilising Open Access resources. The suggesetions are as below;

- 5.1 Teachers and parents specially mothers should be inspired children to read documents in addition to school curriculum and syllabus and for this they have to encourage the students /child to use libraries.
- 5.2 Develop the minimum infrastructure of the school libraries (separate library building / room , computer with internet connectivity, uninterrupted power supply etc.)
- 5.3 Librarian/library staff and readers must have minimum awareness about open access resources.
- 5.4 Librarian/library staff and readers must have knowledge on using ICT tools.
- 5.5 Librarian must be ready to accept state-of-art technology time to time to meet the user requirement and school authority shall also to be reday.

6. Conclusion

There is no annual budget for the school libraries of West Bengal niether from school authority nor from the Govt. Therefore, the print collection of the school libraries are not up-dating regularly and fails to satisfy the needs of the students of the

particularly rural areas. Again, in most of the school libraries, there are no library class in the routine and also no provision in the routine to use the library. The use f library is highly uncertain, librraian has to sit in the library with no prior intimation or consistancy regarding the visit by the students. Under this circumstances, the Open Access Resources may provide some solutions. Few computer with internet connectivity and trained librraian is the only ingredients for the fact. Teachers must take the responsibility to encourage the studnets to visit the library. It will be highly appreciated, if librray class is inserted in the routine by the school authority. Librarian should be well trained & equipped and finally must have mentality to train the school students and tecahers for developing their habits and ensure e-resource borwsing culture.

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