

Behavioral intention to use electronic resources by distance learners: An extension of the technology acceptance model

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Abstract

This study aimed to discover the factors affecting behavioral intention to use electronic resources by distance learners of the Open University of Sri Lanka, and to develop a model explaining behavioral intention to use such resources. Using the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) as the theoretical basis, this study explored the effect of five external factors on the behavioral intention of distance learners toward using e-resources. A quantitative research approach was used, and data were collected from a survey of 379 active undergraduates of the Open University of Sri Lanka. Partial Least Squares-Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) was conducted to obtain the results of the study. The results of PLS-SEM reveal that the distance mode of learning and relevance of information are the two major external factors that affect behavioral intention to use e-resources. Computer self-efficacy and user satisfaction also have a significant influence on the dependent variable. Social influence, on the other hand, shows no significant impact. Of the TAM constructs, perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, and user attitudes significantly affect e-resource utilization behavior.

Keywords

Behavioral intention, distance learners, e-resources, structural equation modeling, technology acceptance model

Introduction

In this technological era, e-resources have influenced the educational sector of the world, resulting in both benefits and drawbacks. This trend has also significantly impacted libraries and information professionals, where information professionals have an opportunity to bring knowledge together to meet the information needs of different kinds of information seekers. Hence, advancements in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) affect library operations primarily by changing the delivery format of information resources and services. According to Daramola (2016), the e-library has transformed how

information is accessed and utilized because it saves time, since people can access publications at their convenience.

Distance learning is a popular method of education with advantages for both students and institutions. It is an effective and economical way of extending educational opportunities, thereby contributing to human resource development (Boadi and Letsolo, 2004). It allows educational institutions

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