

A Study of User's Attitude about ICT in Library with Special Reference to the Colleges Affiliated to Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

The present study aims at user's attitude about ICT in Library with special reference to the colleges affiliated to Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu. In the present investigation a sample of 600 users were selected randomly from these colleges to measure adjudication of the performance. The researcher framed some objectives and hypothesis. After framing the objectives, using standard questionnaire, data were collected from the respondents. After collecting the data, they were coded using Microsoft Excel. The researcher used chi-square test and the data were analysed using standard statistical package called SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Result shows that there is a significant difference in the attitude of users about ICT in library.

Keywords: Information Communication Technology, User's Attitude

1. INTRODUCTION

Information Technology is a generic term that denotes the application and use of computer and communication techniques for the acquisition, processing, storage and retrieval of information. Computer applications for information storage and retrieval provide accuracy and bring an increased ability for information dissemination efficiently from the enormous collection of documents.

The integration of computer and telecommunication is a prerequisite for the present day society, which can be called an information society. Information is considered as source of immense economic value and vital for proper functioning of democratic society. Telecommunication involves transmitting information whereas the computer involves processing information. The combination of computers and telecommunication has offered a new means of communication and storage media such as electronic mail (E-mail), electronic journal and video text.

Information Technology can play a crucial role in the effective learning process of staff, research scholar and student engaged in higher studies. Today a lot of information is generated through printed world and mass media, which has resulted in information explosion. It is estimated that over 4000 pages are being printed every minute at the global level during 24 hours a day which is

enough to compile an encyclopedia of 24 volumes. The growth rate of publications is greater in science and technology than the social science.

1.1 Impact of Library and Information Center

No need to say that libraries are changing nearly from day-to-day. They offer totally new services like portals, change existing resources like journals to electronic form, or add online delivery forms to existing services like reference. As expenses and workload for new information resources and services are rising, libraries need to justify the investment into change and to prove the efficiency and positive impact of the new resources and services. This need is enforced by the fact that the development and introduction of new services can in many cases only be managed with special funding and that the funding institutions want evidence of positive effects.

Another reason for assessing the impact of new or enlarged services is to gain a basis for resource allocation. If the services are widely accepted and yield positive results, the library will have to shift more staff and financial resources into that sector and may plan to add other services of a similar kind. If there is no positive outcome apparent, services could be cut down again and resources set free for other activities.

1.2 Impact of Information Technology on Library Services

Introducing new services in libraries actually means in the first place implementing electronic services. This is not restricted to the electronic collection but covers online access and delivery and all reference, support, and training options that help users in the electronic information world. Libraries of all sizes and types are embracing digital collections. New purchases and purchases of journals, magazines, and abstracting and indexing services are only beginning to become a presence in library collections.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Krishna, K.M. and Singh, Neena [1] in Global scenario, the output of information are measured by both quality and quantity of information being used by respective scientists, researchers, etc. however, print media has still not solved accurate and faster delivery of information, irrespective of time, space, and cost factors. The outputs of information have increased much faster now as compared to the last five decades, but their retrieval is comparatively less as compared to users need. The paper states that the "Vision 2020" would be marked as blocks of digital information, concept of virtual library, global information access through internet, giant sharing of three professional bodies, i.e. library entrepreneur, publishers and technocrats.

Mughammad Ramazan,[2] presented the extent of information Technology (IT) Utilization in libraries in Pakistan together with librarian's level of knowledge in IT and their attitudes toward IT in libraries. Primary data were collected through a questionnaire survey of 244 librarians working in libraries in Pakistan. The study revealed not only a low level of IT usage, but also a low level of IT knowledge among librarians. Analysis of relationships revealed that IT utilization in libraries, librarian's awareness of the potential of IT, regency of attaining professional qualifications, and knowledge in IT had a significant relationship with librarians' attitudes. The findings of the study also revealed that the level of IT utilization and the librarians, level of knowledge on technology are good predictors of librarian's attitudes toward application of IT in their libraries.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives are framed for this study.

1. To know the user attitude about ICT and its impact in the colleges affiliated to Bharathiyar University, Tamil Nadu;
2. To know the users preference of various search options.

4. HYPOTHESES

1. Users do not differ in their attitude about ICT and its impact in the college libraries.
2. There is no association between the designation and preferred search option.

5. METHODOLOGY

Random sampling method was used to collect the data and 600 samples were selected for this study.

6. DATA COLLECTION

Primary data were collected by conducting direct structured interview using questionnaire. All the respondents were asked the same questions in the same fashion and they were informed the purpose of study.

7. RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

The data were collected by using questionnaire as an instrument.

Survey Format

The survey collected data to describe respondent's user behaviour to identify impact of Information Technology and to relate this behaviour to a number of variables. The survey form included questions about characteristic of the respondents that might influence their information seeking behaviour.

8. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As per the obtained result 25% of the respondents are faculty and 75% of them are students.

Table 2 shows that the gender-wise distribution of the sample. It could be noted that majority of them are male respondents (60.50%) and 39.50% of the respondents are female. It is clearly noted from the above discussion that majority of the respondents are male.

Table 1 Distribution of Respondents According to Category

Sl. No.	Category	Number of Respondents	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1	Faculty	150	25.00	25.00
2	Students	450	75.00	100.00
Total		600	100.00	-

Table 2 Distribution of Respondents According to Gender

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	363	60.50
Female	237	39.50
Total	600	100

Table 3 Distribution of Respondents According to Age

Age group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
20 - 30	144	24.00
30 - 40	248	41.33
Above 40	208	34.67
Total	600	100

Table 3 reveals the age of the members who were considered for this study regarding the age. Users in the age group are ranging from 20-40. Out of this information, users in the age group of 20-30 years (24%) are also found to be average followed by the age group of 30-40 (41.33%) and followed by this is age group above 40 which is found to be 34.67%.

The reason for gathering information from this age group is that majority of such users are working in that institution and it is also observed that most of the users are in the age groups of 30-40 (41.33%).

Table 4 Chi-Square Test between Designation and Preferred Search Option

Designation	Preferred Search Option			Total
	Simple Search Option	Advance Search Option	Both, Depending on the Query	
Assistant Professor	18 (37.50)	11 (22.91)	19 (39.58)	48
Associate Professor	7 (33.33)	5 (23.80)	9 (42.85)	21
Professor	2 (22.22)	2 (22.22)	5 (55.55)	9
Research Scholar	28 (38.88)	13 (18.05)	31 (43.05)	72
U.G Students	211 (54.10)	72 (18.46)	107 (27.43)	390
P.G Students	21 (35.00)	17 (28.33)	22 (36.66)	60
Total	287 (47.83)	120 (20.80)	193 (32.16)	600

Calculated Chi-Square Value	Degrees of Freedom	Level of Significance
41.47	10	0.01

H_0 : There is no association between the designation and preferred search option.

It is inferred from the obtained result that the stated null hypothesis is rejected. Since the calculated chi-square value is significant at 0.01 levels, it is concluded that there is an association between the designation and preferred search option.

Table 5 Users Attitude about the Usefulness of ICT

Category	Usefulness of ICT			Total
	Extremely Useful	Quite Useful	Not Useful	
Faculty	116 (77.33)	34 (22.66)	-	150
Students	301 (66.88)	142 (31.55)	7 (1.55)	450
Total	417 (69.50)	176 (29.33)	7 (1.16)	600

P>0.53

H₀: Users do not differ in their attitude about the usefulness of ICT

It is evident from the table that among the Faculty, 77.33% find it extremely useful, 22.66% of them find it quite useful and none of them find not useful. Here the P-value is not significant. So the null hypothesis is accepted.

Among the Students, 66.88% of them find extremely useful, 31.55% of them find it quite useful and 1.55% of them find it not useful.

9. FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. As per the obtained result 25 % of the respondents are faculty and 75 % of them are students.
2. It is clearly noted from the above discussion that majority of the respondents are male.
3. The reason for gathering information from this age group is that majority of such users are working in that institution and it is also observed that leastmatic goes to the age groups 30- 40 (41.33%).
4. From the obtained result that the stated null hypothesis is rejected. Since the calculated chi-square value is significant at 0.01 level. So it is concluded that there is an association between the designation and preferred search option.
5. Result found that among the Faculty, 77.33% of them find it extremely useful, 22.66% find it quite useful and none of them find it not useful. Here the P-value is not significant. So the null hypothesis is accepted.
6. Also result found that among the Students, 66.88% of them find it extremely useful, 31.55%

of them find it quite useful and 1.55% of them find it not useful.

10. CONCLUSION

The present study attempted to know the user attitude about the impact of Information Technology in the Colleges among the users. Now-a-days, IT plays a significant role in all fields. Especially in libraries, it gives high impact for the uses. Technology changes fast. Information also update then and there. For the researchers and students getting information through e-resources is very easy and effective. They develop knowledge up to date. Here the usage of computer in the library, i.e. digital library is very important for all colleges. So all the colleges try to implement advanced technology in their libraries and try to provide easy access facilities to the researchers, faculties and students. This will motivate the users to use the informations effectively. Further time and infrastructure of the library factor to create interest among the users to use libraries more time. Therefore the researcher suggests from the research to all the institutions, to try and implement new technology in the library.

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