

Use of ICT Based Resources among Faculty Members and PG Students of Arts and Science Colleges in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu: A Study

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Abstract – This paper aims at analyzing use of ICT based resources and services by the faculty members and PG students of Arts and Science colleges. From the study the investigator is able to find out that most of the faculty members and PG students prepare E-Journals as the first source of information for keeping up to date information and study purpose. This study reveals that the majority of the faculty members and PG students are using ICT based resources more than 1 hour.

Key words: ICT based resources, Arts and Science Colleges

I. INTRODUCTION

Libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis in recent years; print medium is increasingly giving way to the electronic form of materials. Use of information technologies has marked a tremendous impact overall on the functions and services catered by the libraries. E-Resources are now emerging as a vital source of information for all recent and nascent thoughts and ideas coming into existence in whatever area of research. Books and periodicals have started appearing on CD ROM's and in other formats. Emergence of internet and World Wide Web have provided a platform to display these resources globally.

The advances in networking and communication technology have made the information services available to the users on their desktop. The features in built in the search and retrieval of these resource have made the usage to the maximum. Electronic information serves as a motivating factor to students as it provides them opportunity to transmit, acquire or download and disseminate information over their subjects of interest.

II.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are

1. To analyze the awareness of ICT based resources and services among the Faculty members and PG Students of Arts and Science Colleges in Cuddalore District;

2. To study the use of various online services by the Faculty members and PG Students of Arts and Science Colleges;
3. To study the time spend by the faculty members and PG students of Arts and Science colleges for accessing ICT based resources and services;
4. To study the purpose of using ICT based resources and services;
5. To analyze the usefulness of ICT based resources and services.

III. METHODOLOGY

The pertinent data has been collected from the Faculty members and PG students, by administering the questionnaire method. The respondents were encouraged to give free and frank information. The respondents extended their full cooperation in the data collection. The investigator could collect questionnaire from only 1250 out of 1500 respondents among whom the questionnaire were distributed. This constitutes 83% (1250/1500) of the total response. The data collection was carried out from July 2012 to October 2012.

The result of gender wise distribution of respondents depicted in Table I. It is evident from table that 25.92 % of the overall respondents are females while the remaining 74.08% are males. The result of category wise distribution incase of faculty members shows that 372 (82.67%) are recorded as males while the remaining 78 respondents which come to 17.33 % are females. In respect of PG students, majority of the respondents are males. It is 554 out of 800 in number the percentage share is 69.25 where as 30.75% is recorded by females. It is evident from the result that the technological developments have minimized the barriers irrespective of as in accessing electronic information from anywhere, anytime, and any format. However, it is seen that majority of the respondents, in the case of faculty members and PG students are males.

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TABLE I CATEGORY WISE AND GENDER WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	User category	No. of respondents				Total	%
		Male	%	Female	%		
1	Faculty members	372	82.67	78	17.33	450	36
2	PG Students	554	69.25	246	30.75	800	64
Total		926	74.08	324	25.92	1250	100

TABLE II CATEGORY WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS AWARENESS OF ICT BASED RESOURCES AND SERVICES

S. No.	ICT Resources	No. of Respondents				Total	%
		Faculty members N=450	%	PG Students N=800	%		
1	E- books	342	76.00	504	63.00	846	67.68
2	E-Journals	405	90.00	607	75.88	1012	80.96
3	E-Reference Sources	348	77.33	528	66.00	876	70.08
4	CD-ROM Database	278	61.78	428	53.50	706	56.48
5	On-line Database	301	66.89	372	46.50	673	53.84
6	E-Mail Discussion Groups	291	64.67	367	45.88	658	52.64
7	OPAC	272	60.44	342	42.75	614	49.12
8	Library Websites	204	45.33	401	50.13	605	48.40
9	E-News papers	248	55.11	429	53.63	677	54.16

Table II reveals the awareness of ICT based resources and services among the users of arts and science colleges. There were nine kinds of ICT based resources were specified in the questionnaire. The analysis shows that the majority of ICT based resources, of which faculty members were aware, were e-journals (90.00%), e-reference sources (77.33%), e-books (76.00%) and online databases (66.89%). The majority of ICT resources, of which PG students were aware, were, e-journals (75.88%), e-reference sources (66.00%) and e-books (63.00%).

A study in Table III indicates the category wise distribution of respondents time spend in accessing ICT based resources and services. It could be noted that out of 1250 respondents, 7.84 % of them spend less than one hour per day, 32.56 % of them spend one hour per day, 29.44 % of them spend more than one hour per day, 18.16 % of them spend two hours per day and 12.00 % of them spend more than two hours per day.

TABLE III CATEGORY WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS TIME SPEND IN ACCESSING ICT BASED RESOURCES AND SERVICES

S. No.	Time Spend	No. Of Respondents				Total	%
		Faculty Members	%	PG Students	%		
1	Less than one hour	36	8.00	62	7.75	98	7.84
2	One hour	161	35.78	246	30.75	407	32.56
3	More than one hour	120	26.67	248	31.00	368	29.44
4	Two hours	91	20.22	136	17.00	227	18.16
5	More than two hours	42	9.33	108	13.50	150	12.00
Total		450	100.00	800	100.00	1250	100

TABLE IV CATEGORY WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT’S PURPOSE OF USING ICT BASED RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Sl. No.	Purpose	No. of Respondent’s				Total	%
		Faculty members	%	PG students	%		
1	Study	21	4.67	389	48.62	410	32.80
2	Research	49	10.89	3	0.37	52	4.16
3	Publishing Articles/Books	33	7.33	9	1.13	42	3.36
4	Keeping up-to-date information	128	28.44	132	16.50	260	20.80
5	Finding relevant information	88	19.56	76	9.50	164	13.12
6	Professional Development	72	16.00	8	1.00	80	6.40
7	Entertainment	35	7.78	121	15.13	156	12.48
8	Chatting	24	5.33	62	7.75	86	6.88
Total		450	100	800	100	1250	100

Table IV depicts the category wise distribution of respondents purpose of using ICT based resources and services. Out of the total number of 1250 respondents, 410 (32.80%) respondents are using ICT based resources for their study purpose, 52(4.16%) respondents are using ICT based resources for their research work,42(3.36%) respondents are using ICT based resources for writing articles and books, 260(20.80%) respondents are using ICT based resources for keeping up-to-date information, 164(13.12%) respondents are using ICT based resources for finding relevant information, 80(6.40%) respondents are using ICT based resources for their professional development, 156(12.48%) respondents are using ICT based resources for chatting.

Table V shows the category wise distribution of respondents frequently used ICT based sources and services. Out of 1250 respondents from Arts and Science colleges,95 (7.60%) respondents use e-book, 352 (28.16%) respondents use e-journals, 102 (8.16%) respondents use e-reference sources, 116 (9.28%) respondents use CD-ROM databases, 133 (10.64%) respondents use On-line databases, 272 (21.76%) respondents use-mail, discussion groups, 104 (8.32%) respondents use e- newspaper and 76 (6.08%) use any other sources.

TABLE V CATEGORY WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT’S FREQUENTLY USED ICT BASED RESOURCES AND SERVICES

S. No.	ICT Resources	No. of. Respondent’s				Total	%
		Faculty Members	%	PG Students	%		
1	E-books	38	8.44	57	7.13	95	7.60
2	E-Journals	142	31.56	210	26.25	352	28.16
3	E-References sources	41	9.11	61	7.63	102	8.16
4	CD-ROM Databases	28	6.22	88	11.00	116	9.28
5	On-line Databases	31	6.89	102	12.75	133	10.64
6	E-mail, discussion groups	98	21.78	174	21.75	272	21.76
7	E-Newspaper	30	6.67	74	9.25	104	8.32
8	Any other	42	9.33	34	4.25	76	6.08
Total		450	100	800	100	1250	100

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TABLE VI CATEGORY WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT'S REGARDING THE USEFULNESS OF ICT BASED RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Sl. No.	User category	Very useful	Useful	Average	Not useful	Total
1	Faculty members	102 (22.67)	324 (72.00)	21 (4.67)	3 (0.67)	450
2	PG students	238 (29.75)	522 (65.25)	34 (4.25)	6 (0.75)	800
Total		340 (27.20)	846 (67.68)	55 (4.40)	9 (0.72)	1250

Table VI presents an interesting result about the usefulness of ICT based resources and services. It could be noted that out of 1250 respondents, 340(27.20%) respondents were of the opinion that the ICT based resources very useful, 846(67.68%) respondents were of the opinion that useful, 55(4.40%) respondents were of the opinion that average and 9(0.72%) respondents were of the opinion that not useful.

IV. CONCLUSION

It is found from study that e-journals, e-reference books and e-books are very familiar among the users of Arts and Science colleges. It is evident from the data that 32.56 % of respondents spend 1 hour per day. It is clearly observed from the data that 32.80 % of respondents are using ICT based resources for the study purpose. It is evident from the data that maximum number of respondents using e-journals. It is also found that 67.68 % of respondents were of the opinion that useful.

ICT based resources and services are playing a very important role in the present day society and also in the library too. It is the prime duty of the concern authorities to select and access the relevant e-resources for the benefits of the user community.

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