

Awareness and Utilization of E- Resources by Faculty Members with Special Reference to Angel College of Engineering and Technology Tirupur, Tamil Nadu: A Case Study

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Abstract - The importance and significance of electronic resources to teaching and research is widely recognized by many researchers. The applications of information and communication technologies such as the internet and the web, electronic resources have become a widely accepted scholarly resource for both students and faculty. E- Resources shown to be more helpful especially to faculty and academician who may have limited access to library resources in traditional formats. Applications of Information and communication technologies have transformed most traditional libraries into e- libraries storing most of their resources in electronic formats. The study seeks to investigate faculty's awareness and usage of online academic databases in order to determine the benefits they associate with electronic resources and the challenges they encounter in accessing electronic resources. The study established clearly that faculty members depend highly on online electronic resources not only for the purposes of research, but also to support their teaching. However, patronage of the library's online academic databases was very low. This was largely because faculty members were either not aware of the existence of these databases or were not aware the library had subscription to these databases. In the light of the above revelations, there is the need for the library to heighten awareness creation among faculty members and student on the existence and usage of its electronic resources.

Keywords: Library, Faculty, Electronic Resources, Automation, E-Databases

I. INTRODUCTION

The electronic resources are systems in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and computer networks. An electronic resource is defined as a resource which requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and so on. Electronic resources provide access to information that might be restricted to the user because of geographical location or lack of finance. Electronic resources also provide access to current information as these are often updated frequently. Through their various search techniques electronic resources provide extensive links to explore additional resources or related content. In addition, electronic resources are considered as important resources

of teaching, research and training. Thus, most of libraries as well as the universities of the present day provide electronic resources for higher education and research. Electronic resources deliver the collection of information as full text databases, e-journals, image collections, multimedia in the form of CD, tape, internet, web technology etc. E-resources may include e-journals, e-discussions, e-news, data archives, e-mail, on line chatting, etc

Electronic information sources are becoming more and more important and useful for the academic community. University academics are a unique population and rely on recent and timely information. Electronic resources are now used more often than print resources. Most of our students have considerable experience with the Internet and make use of it for much of their academic work. But it is not just students who find electronic resources valuable. Teachers benefit from these resources as well, by employing a series of useful tools. Electronic tools can make classes more efficient; lectures more compelling, informative, and varied; reading assignments more extensive, interesting, and accessible; discussions more free ranging and challenging.

The present study is an attempt to analyse the use of electronic resources by the faculty members of ACET college and to find out the problems faced by the users in accessing the electronic resources with some purposeful suggestions for its development.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are a number of studies related to the use of e-resources by the faculty members and researchers of various institutions and universities. There are many factors which affect the use of e-resources. The related studies discuss some of these issues. The present study is conducted in the light of the previous studies.

Maunissamy and Swaroop Rani (2005) in their study, "In the era of digital libraries, Web-based electronic databases have become important resources for education and research. Digital libraries of academic institutions started to subscribe to number of electronic journals to meet the expectation of the users, because accessing the web has become very convenient. Electronic journals usage

measurement is completely different from that of books usage measurement. This research article presents, problems experienced, usage, usability, and users' satisfaction in accessing electronic journals.

Manohar (2007) analyzed the internet usage of agriculture scientists and impact on Internet users and other E-resources on academic efficiency. Manohar studied the internet accessibility of agriculture scientists in the college of agriculture and analyzed the impact of internet, E-resources, print or electronic media on academic efficiency.

Manjunath ,Lohar and Mallinath ,Kumbar (2008) in their paper —Teacher attitudes toward library facilities and information resources in first grade college in Shimoga district: A surveyl gathered information through a questionnaire indicated that majority of college libraries in Shimoga district are not running satisfactorily but there are a good number of colleges, which have adequate and well organized document collection and provide the satisfactory services to the users.

Swain and Panda (2009) in their study, “The purpose of this paper is to assess and evaluate quantitative and qualitative use of electronic resources in the academic ambience of business schools in Orissa (India) with a view to examining the level of electronic information services (EIS) offered to the faculty members of the state with an opinion pool of the faculty members of the respective business schools. Moreover, the study aims to highlight some of the problems and constraints faced by the target users with some constructive suggestions and recommendations for the improvement of the status of electronic information services in the business schools of the state in days to come.”

Thanuskodi and Ravi (2011) discussed utilization of digital resources by faculty and research scholars of M. S University, Tirunelveli. Sharma, Chawla and Madaan were analysed the use of internet and related issues among teachers and students of professional colleges at Mathura region.

III. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study was to explore the use and awareness of the e- resources by faculty members and research scholars of Angel College of Engineering and Technology Tirupur. The main objectives were:

1. To assess the amount of knowledge and frequency in the use of the different types of digital resources made by the faculty members and research scholars.
2. To find out the purposes for using digital resources.
3. To discover problems faced by the faculties and research scholars while accessing the digital resources.
4. To know the adequacy of information in digital resources. Investigate whether the digital resources can replace the print resources.
5. To suggest suitable suggestions to improve the digital resources and services for the benefit of users.

IV. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

This study is based on the user capability of the faculty members and research scholars of Angel College of Engineering and Technology Tirupur, Tamil Nadu. The scope of the study is limited to the use of digital resources and to fulfill the teaching and research purpose of the faculties. It covers the availability of digital resources and services in Angel College of Engineering and Technology Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

V. METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire consisting of 14 questions was designed to elicit the opinion of faculty members. Data was collected which was further supplemented by informal discussions with faculty. The analysis and interpretation of the data is presented in subsequent sections.

VI. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE 1 TEACHING EXPERIENCE OF FACULTY MEMBERS

Sl. No.	Teaching Experience	No. of responses	Percentage (%)
1	0 to 5 years	32	35.5
2	6 to 10 years	24	26.7
3	11 to 15 years	16	17.8
4	16 to 20 years	12	13.3
5	Above 20 years	06	7.7
	Total	90	100

Table 1 shows that, only 35.5% of the faculty members have below than 5 years of experience in teaching and at the same time 26.67% of the faculty members have 6-10 years of teaching experience, followed by 17.8% of faculty members having 11 to 15 years of teaching experience, whereas, 13.33% of respondents have 16 to 20 years and 7.7% of the faculty members above 20 years of teaching experience respectively.

TABLE 2 FREQUENCY OF ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

Sl. No.	Frequency of accessing e-resources	No. of responses	Percentage (%)
1	Every Day	29	32.2
2	Twice in a week	32	35.6
3	Once in a week	20	22.2
4	Once in a fortnight	14	15.5
5	Once in a month	05	5.5
	Total	90	100

The distribution of faculty members frequency of using the e-resources is shown in Table 3. It is evident that 35.6 per cent of the faculty members and research scholars were using the e-resources twice in a week, 32.2per cent every day, 22.2 percent once in a week, 15.5 per cent fortnight,

5.5 per cent once in a month were as rarely using the e-resources.

TABLE 3 EXPERIENCE IN USING E- RESOURCES

Sl. No.	Experience in using E-Resources	No. of responses	Percentage (%)
1	Less than One year	05	5.6
2	One year	12	13.3
3	Two Years	14	15.6
4	Three Years	23	25.5
5	More than Three years	36	40.0
	Total	90	100

Data presented in table 3 indicates the academic respondents' experience in using e-resources. 40% respondents have been accessing e-resources for more than three years; 25.5% respondents have been accessing e-resources for three year; 15.6% respondents have been accessing e-resources for two years; 13.3% respondents have been accessing e-resources for one year and 5.6% respondents have been accessing e-resources less than one year.

TABLE 4 PURPOSE OF VISITING LIBRARY

Sl. No.	Purpose of accessing e-resources	No. of responses	Percentage (%)
1	For teaching purpose	17	18.9
2	For research	38	42.2
3	For publishing articles / books	23	25.6
4	For keeping up-to-date / current information etc.	07	7.8
5	For getting relevant information in the area of specialisation	05	5.5
	Total	90	100

Purpose of using digital resources by faculty members and research scholars is shown in Table 5. It is evident from Table 5 that 64.28 per cent of the faculty members and research scholars indicated that the digital resources were used for research purpose, 56.42 per cent for publishing articles/books, 46.42 per cent for teaching purpose, 45.71 per cent for keeping up-to-date in subject area, 34.28 per cent for getting relevant information in the area of specialisation, and 32.85 per cent of the faculties and research scholars were using digital resources for getting current information.

The analysis of data in table shows that e-databases and e-journals were the most used e-resources by the respondents as seen from their response which are 26.7 percent respectively. It is followed by use of E- newspapers /Magazines 15.5 percent, e- books 13.3 percent, and e-article 11.1 percent, and Other E-publishing 6.7 percent.

TABLE 5 PREFERENCE OF USE OF E-RESOURCE

Sl. No.	E- resources	No. of responses	Percentage (%)
1	E- database	24	26.7
2	E- journals	24	26.7
3	E- books	12	13.3
4	E- newspapers /Magazines	14	15.5
5	E- theses/dissertation	10	11.1
6	Other E-publishing	06	6.7
	Total	90	100

TABLE 6: PROBLEMS FACED WHILE USING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Sl. No.	E- resources	No. of responses	Percentage (%)
1	Limited access terminal	24	26.7
2	Slow access speed / bandwidth	18	20.0
3	Difficulty in finding relevant information	20	22.2
4	Access has been restricted to campus only	13	14.4
5	Poor Readability/ Lack of portability in contrast with original print materials	08	8.9
6	Virus / Power failure etc.	07	7.8
	Total	90	100

Table 10 shows that the main reason of dissatisfaction on e-resource as opined by user was Limited access terminal 26.7 percent. It was followed by other reasons such as Difficulty in finding relevant information 22.2 per cent, Slow access speed / bandwidth 20.0 percent, Access has been restricted to campus only 14.4 per cent, Poor Readability/ Lack of portability in contrast with original print materials 8.9 per cent. Other problems they encounter Virus / Power failure etc.

VII. CONCLUSION

The study aims at finding the use of e-resources by the students and research scholars of Arts Faculty in the University of Kerala. The study reveals that internet resources are the most used e-resources among the respondents from the Arts Faculty. It is also found from the analysis of the data given by the respondents that most of the Arts department are not giving enough facility for the use of e-resources. The study of this kind is very useful for the teachers, librarians and also for the parents. They can make use of the findings in their policy decisions related to the collection development, particularly e-resources in the library.

E-resources are directly impacting the nature and quality of learning, teaching and research across the globe. They are constraint by the limited availability to the users. They are

facing numerous problems such as insufficient number of terminals, inadequate electricity supply, lack of information retrieval skills for exploit electronic resources, thus making the level of usage of resources by the users very less. It is the responsibility of the library has to provide facilities to the users.

Nowadays Faculty members are heavily dependent on e-resources for their required information and to keep themselves up-to-date in their subject area. So the role of libraries in this age of e-resources has increased tremendously, particularly in providing training and guidance to use authentic and relevant information to the users. For this purpose libraries should develop new and necessary tools to provide better services to their user-community.

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