Indian Journal of Information Sources and Services
ISSN: 2231-6094 (P) Vol.4 No.1, 2014, pp.22-26

DOI: https://doi.org/10.51983/ijiss.2014.4.1.401

A Study of Users Attitude to Electronic Information Resources with Reference to Engineering College Libraries in Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu

S. Rajendra prasath[1] and C. Muthusamy[2]

[1]*Librarian, Velammal Engineering College, Chennai - 600 066, Tamil Nadu, India*

[2] *Librarian, Mohamed Sathak Arts and Science College, Chennai - 600 119, Tamil Nadu, India*

E-mail: rajendraprasath62@gmail.com, muthulib1958@yahoo.co.in

(Received on 15 January 2014 and accepted on 20 March 2014)

Abstract - **The paper presents the various attitudes and seeking information by the users of engineering college libraries. Analysis shows that faculty and students have been shown more affection to formal collection in libraries. The present study is to highlight the study of users attitude to electronic information resources with reference to Engineering College Libraries in Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu. This study analyzes the search engine, frequency of using e-resources, and level of satisfaction. The study is based on questionnaire method. A questionnaire was distributed among the faculty members and students to collect desired data. A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed to the selected sample of Library users and 188 (94 %) valid samples were collected. The studies found that majority of respondents use (32.98%) e-resources for getting academic information and 67 respondents are satisfied with e-resources.**

Keywords: **Digital Library, E-Resources, Engineering College Library, User Attitude, User Study**

I. Introduction

Information technology has made a profound impact on availability and accessibility of e-resources. To provide quick and comprehensive access to resources by using best possible tools and techniques the ultimate aim of every library. Most of the academicians today have become internet dependent electronic resources are some of the most important aspects of a digital library. In information technology the internet can be used efficient retrieval and meeting information needs. E-resources works which are encoded and made accessible through a computer online or in physical format. Most of the academicians today have become internet dependent. It is the contribution of information and communication technology and impact of internet that information processing, storing, searching, dissemination and user have become expeditious, easy and user-friendly. Electronic resources are some of the most important aspects of a digital library which are found more helpful for easy access and time save for users. E-resources have provided excellent opportunities to access scholarly information, which were previously beyond the reach of libraries due to geographical constraints. E-resources possess many added features for the facilitation of libraries and its users. Time is the main consideration beyond the technology to create active searching about information at this competitive environment. Internet comes to the point that reflects discovery of data instantly to adapt the changes. Therefore, Internet is the main item for establishing new cultures among societies because of effective education.

A. Electronic information needs

Exponential growth of electronic information in the physical sciences has proved to be more value added in nature and time saving for an individual. The access to, use and awareness about the e-information resources are very essential for users as well as for libraries. E-resources are quick to access, save time and keep up-to-date with the current happenings in the specific fields and related areas. Further, electronic information plays a pivotal role in enhancing the research & development activities and improving the productivity of an individual. The users of information are finding it difficult to identify and physically locate the relevant information when it is required. In this

context, the libraries, being the reservoirs of knowledge and the centers of learning, have a greater responsibility in providing the right information to the users at the right time, in the right form so that electronic information are one of the interdisciplinary areas of research in library and information science.

II. Scope and Limitation of The Study

The present study is based on a sample of faculty members and students from ten engineering colleges in Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu. Data collected for this study is based on convenient random sampling. The present study is confined only to the Thiruvallur district engineering college students and faculty members.

III. Objectives of The Study

i. To understand the purposes of accessing and using the e-resources among users.

ii. To identify the most preferred search engine used by engineering college users when browsing electronic information resources.

iii. To find out the hindrance and difficulty faced by the users while accessing and using electronic information resources.

iv. To analyze the respondents' extent of satisfaction with respect to utilization of electronic resources.

v. To suggest suitable recommendations to improve the electronic information resources and services for the benefit of users.

IV. Hypothesis

The following hypotheses are formulated on the basis of content and coverage of framed objectives and they are tested by employing appropriate statistical tools.

i. There is a significant inter-institution difference in respondents' duration and quantum of time utilization in search of information through E-resource in Engineering Colleges in Thiruvallur District.

ii. There is a significant difference between occupation and gender status of respondents and their frequency and relevance of seeking electronic resources information for their academic purpose.

iii. The respondents differ significantly in their purpose of using electronic resource and in the importance of using electronic resources.

iv. There is a significant inter-institution difference with respect to respondents' extent of satisfaction towards utilization of electronic resources.

v. There is a significant inter institution difference with respect respondents' problems in access and utilization of electronic resources.

V. Methodology

Random sampling technique was used in this study. Accordingly the questionnaires were administered to the users of the library and responses of users were solicited. A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed to the faculty members and students. The researcher could collect questionnaires from only 188 out of 200 respondents. This constitutes 94 per cent (188/200) of the total response.

VI. Analysis and Interpretations

A sample of 188 faculty members and students out of 200, under different position has been considered in this study drawn from faculty members and students of 10 Engineering colleges in Thiruvallur district. Twenty questionnaires were distributed in each college and primary data were collected.

A simple percentage analysis was carried out for the major part of the data analysis.

In Table I the respondents personal details were tabulated according to the gender group, age group, occupation group, experience group and qualification group out of the total, the percentage of males (55.85%) was slightly more than females (44.15%). The majority of the respondents (29.26%) belonged to the age group of 18-27 years and 72 users are students. Fewer respondents from the age of above 58. Majority of the respondents (24.47%) belonged to experience group of 5-10 years and less respondents from the experience above 20 years. Majority of respondents (38.30%) belonged to qualification group of UG and less respondents from qualification group of Ph.D.

Table I Population Profile

Gender Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	105	55.85
Female	83	44.15
Total	188	100
Age Group		
18-27	55	29.26
28-37	43	22.87
38-47	41	21.81
48-57	32	17.02
58 + above	17	9.04
Total	188	100
Occupation Group		
Professors	36	19.15
Associate professors	27	14.36
Assistant professors	53	28.19
Students	72	38.30
Total	188	100
Experience Group		
Below 5 years	36	19.15
5-10 years	46	24.47
11-15 years	45	23.94
16-20 years	39	20.74
Above 20 years	22	11.70
Total	188	100
Qualification Group		
UG	72	38.30
PG	65	34.57
Ph.D	51	27.13
Total	188	100

Table II Respondents Frequency of Using E-Resources

S.No.	Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	77	40.96
2	Once in three days	53	28.19
3	Once in a week	32	17.02
4	Once in two weeks	26	13.83
Total		188	100

Table II indicates the frequency of using e-resources. It could noted that out of the 188 respondents, 77 (40.96%) daily using e-resources, 53 (28.19%) use e-resources once in three days to send and receive the information, 32 (17.02%) use e-resources once in a week to send and receive the information, 26 (13.83) use e-resources once in two weeks to send and receive the information.

It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that most of the respondents use e-resources daily the first form of reporting, once in three days e-resources use the second, once in a week e-resources use the third and once in two weeks e-resources use the last.

Table III Place of Accessing E-Resources

S.No.	Place	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	College library and Department library	56	29.79
2	College library and University library	41	21.81
3	Internet café	34	18.09
4	Personal computer	37	19.68
5	Personal computer and Mobile phone	20	10.63
	Total	188	100

Table III indicates the place of accessing e-resources. It could be noted that out of the total 188 respondents, 56 (29.79%) access e-resources in college library and department library, 41 (21.81%) access e-resources in college library along with university library. In this, study 34 (18.09%) of the respondents' access e-resources in internet café, 37 (19.68%) of the respondents access e-resources in their personal computer and the rest 20 (10.63%) access e-resources in their personal computer and mobile phone.

It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that the respondents' electronic resources access in college library and department library has been given the first preference. The e-resource access in college library along with university library is the second, followed by internet café the third, personal computer the fourth and e-resource access through personal computer and mobile phone the last.

Table IV indicates the respondents' priority purpose of using e-resources. It could be noted that out of the total 188 respondents, 62 (32.98%) use e-resources for

Table IV Purpose of Using E-Resources

S.No.	Purpose	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	For getting information for academic purpose	62	32.98
2	For collaboration for research projects	44	23.40
3	For e-mailing	35	18.62
4	For entertainment	30	15.96
5	For purchasing goods	17	9.04
	Total	188	100

getting academic information, 44 (23.40%) use e-resources for collaboration for research projects, 35 (18.62%) use e-resources for e-mailing, 30 (15.96%) use e-resources for entertainment and the rest 17(9.04%) use the e-resources for purchasing goods. It could be noted that majority of respondents use e-resources for academic information.

Table V Preference of Search Engine

S.No.	Search Engine	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Yahoo	59	31.38
2	Google	72	38.30
3	Altavista	24	12.77
4	Exite	21	11.17
5	Hotbot	12	6.38
	Total	188	100

Table V presents data on the preference of respondents in search engine. It could be noted that 59 (31.38%) of the respondents give preference to Yahoo search engine, 72 (38.30%) of the respondents give preference to using Google search engine, 24 (12.77%) of the respondents give preference to using Altavista search engine, 21 (11.17%) of the respondents give preference to using Exite search engine, and the rest 12 (6.38%) of the respondents give preference to using Hotbot search engine.

Table VI Equipment Used to Download Information

S.No.	Equipment	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Floppy Disk	12	6.38
2	CD ROM	24	12.77
3	Pen Drive	100	53.19
4	Print out	15	7.98
5	In all these	37	19.68
	Total	188	100

Table VI indicates the respondents' equipment used to download information. It could be noted that out of the total 188 respondents 12 (6.38%) get electronic information through floppy disk, 24 (12.77%) of respondents download information with help of CDROM, 100 (53.19%) of the respondents download information with help of pen drive. In this study 15 (7.98%) download information in the form of printout and the rest 37 (19.68%) get electronic information in various forms such as CD, CDROM, pen drive and printout.

Table VII Difficulties in Using E-Resource

S.No.	Difficulties	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Lack of facility in library	29	15.43
2	Non availability of free Searching	32	17.02
3	Non relevance of CDROMs	25	13.30
4	Lack of awareness about E-resources	48	25.53
5	Time consuming process of searching	54	28.72
	Total	188	100

Table VII indicates the respondent's difficulties in using e-resources. It could be noted that out of the total 188 respondents, 29 (15.43%) state that lack of facility in their library, 32 (17.02%) of the respondents state that non availability of free searching, 25 (13.30%) of the respondents state that non relevance of CDROMs, 48 (25.53%) of the respondents state that lack of awareness about e-resources and the rest 54 (28.72%) of the respondents state that time consuming process of searching in their library makes them difficult to use electronic resources.

Table VIII Respondents Satisfaction About Library E-Resource Service

S.No.	Level	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Satisfied	126	67.02
2	Not satisfied	62	32.98
	Total	188	100

Table VIII indicates the respondent satisfaction about library e-resource service. It can be seen that the satisfaction level of the respondents in the institution's library e-resources that 126 (67.02%) respondents are satisfied with e-resources while 62 (32.98%) are not satisfied. It is concluded that most of the respondents are satisfied with e-resources.

VII. Conclusion

From the above study it can be observed that electronic information resources have become the vital part of information for various needs and the most importance for teaching. This shows that there is significance in educational status of the respondents and its usage. Hence a large number of research outcomes have been published in international and national journals. So the utilization of electronics resources at this juncture is up to the mark. It is also observed from this study that the majority of the respondents are satisfied in using electronic resources. It is clear from the study that electronic information resources are useful for preparation of teaching and research work. This study helps the librarian in planning and developing electronic information resource, library services and providing modern service to their library users.

References

[1] Abdulla, Che Zainab, Ahmad, Hashim and Hashim, Rugayah , "Attitudes Toward ICT of Electronic Distance Education (ePJJ) Students at the Institute of Education Development" University Technology Mara Information Systems: Modeling, Development, and Integration, Vol. 20, 2009, pp.222-228.

[2] A. Asemi, "Information Searching habits of Internet users: A case study on the Medical Sciences University of Isfahan, Iran. *Webology*", Vol. 2, No.1, Retrieved August 9, 2011, from http://www.webology.ir/2005/v2n1/a10.html

[3] D. Chandran, "Use of Internet resources and services in S.V. University, Tirupathi environment. Conference on information services in a Networked Environment in India". Organized by INFLIBNET, 18-20 December 2000, Ahmdabad, pp.3.124-3.127.

[4] P.A. Manda, and F. Mukangara, "Gender Analysis of Resource Use: The Case of the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania", *University of Dar Es Salaam Library Journal* Vol.9, No.1, 2007, pp.31-52.

[5] K. Natarajan, B. Suresh, P. Sivaraman, and R. Sevukan,"Use and user perception of electronic resources in Annamalia University (India): A case study." *Annals of Library & Information Studies,* Vol. 57, No.1, 2010, pp.59-64.

[6] C. Ravanan, A. Lawrance, and Mary Lawyed Stephen, "User Attitude towards Digital Information Resources: A Case Study of Vellore District Engineering College Teachers," Journal of *Advances in Library and Information Science,* Vol.2, No.1, 2013, pp.15-18.

[7] S. Thanuskodi, "Usage of electronic resources at Dr T.P.M. Library, Madurai Kamaraj University: a case study." DESIDOC Journal of *Library & Information Technology,* Vol. 31, No.6, 2011, pp. 437-445.

[8]. N. Sivakumar, "User Expectations And Requirements In The Knowledge SocietyIn Digital Era", *International Journal of Computer Engineering and Technology* (IJCET),Vol. 3, No.1, January- June 2012.