

Information Access by Research Scholars in R.M.K. Engineering College Library: A Study

P. Krishnamoorthy¹ and C. Muthusamy²

¹Research Scholar, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

²Librarian, Mohamed Sathak College of Arts and Science, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

E-Mail: krishpkp@yahoo.co.in

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Abstract - This study is an investigation of Information access by Research Scholars in Engineering College Libraries with special reference to R.M.K. Engineering College Library, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu. 58 questionnaires were distributed among research scholars of R.M.K. Engineering College to collect relevant data. 94.83% (55) research scholars responded where 23 (41.82%) visit the library once in a week, 17 (30.91%) visit Twice a week, 10 (18.18%) respondents visit daily, 5 (9.09%) visit fortnightly. It is found that 85.44% opined that the working hours of their respective libraries is convenient and only 14.56% researchers opined not convenient and majority of the research scholars 96.36% visit the Library to use E- journals and 50.91% researchers visit the Library for audio visual resources. Library is playing vital role to meet multidimensional demands of staff, students and research scholar for information and knowledge.

Keywords: Information Access, Library resources and services, Research Scholars, Information Search

I. INTRODUCTION

To know the effectiveness of various resources, services and facilities provided to the staff researchers in R.M.K. Engineering college library a well structured questionnaire is designed keeping in mind the objectives of the study. Out of 58 questionnaires distributed to the staff researchers who are pursuing research in R.M.K. Engineering College under study, 55 filled questionnaires were received back with the response rate of 94.83%. The filled in questionnaires were analyzed, tabulated and interpreted in this chapter so as to derive reasonable findings.

TABLE I DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of the Colleges	Number of questionnaire distributed	Number of Respondents		Total %
		Male	Female	
R.M.K. Engineering College	58	24 (43.64%)	31 (56.36%)	94.83%
Total	58	24 (43.64%)	31 (56.36%)	94.83%

Table I indicates that a total 55 questionnaires responded out of 58 and consisted of 55 research scholars from R.M.K. Engineering College. Majority of respondents 31 (56.36%) are female and remaining 24 (43.64%) of them are male respondents. Whereas gender and college wise where it is found that female are more represented from R.M.K. Engineering College.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the researchers' perceived effectiveness of library resources and services in R.M.K. Engineering College Library.
2. To know the use of collections and services of the Engineering college library.
3. To trace out the purpose of the information search
4. To determine the way of documents location and search elements of the library.
5. To find out the overall user satisfaction with the resources and services facilities provided in the three engineering college library users under R.M.K. Engineering College.
6. To study the expectations of the users with respect to the quality of the books and journals collection.
7. To know the necessary information resources for researchers and learning process in the fields of interest to the Engineering Colleges.

III. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is an attempt to ascertain the Information access by Research Scholars in Engineering College Libraries with special reference to R.M.K. Engineering College, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu.. The scope of study is confined to R.M.K. Engineering College and the surveyed research scholars are only staff members were from R.M.K. Engineering College.

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A number of literatures can be mentioned regarding Information Access of the user studies. Padmamma¹ examined the information seeking behaviour of undergraduate students in the engineering college libraries. The purpose of the study was to know the general pattern of

information gathering system by the faculty and students. Questionnaire was used to collect data from one hundred respondents randomly selected from engineering college of PESITEM in Shimoga district. The study found that most of the users need academic information and the internet was dominant source for getting academic information.

Kumar and Kaur² analyzed the internet use by teachers and students in engineering colleges of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh in India, and found that they were satisfied with the services of the library and there is a good application of Information Communication and Technology.

Sohail *et al.*³ studied the use of library resources by the students of University of Kalyani. Authors found that guidance in the use of library resources and services was necessary to help students to meet their information needs. They also found that journals, text book and lecture notes were the most popular sources of information for the students.

Ezeala⁴ has carried out analysis of effectiveness of agricultural research institute libraries. 340 researchers from

all the 14 agricultural research institutes in Nigeria. The study revealed that library resources and services are inadequate, largely due to underfunding by parent institutions.

Badami⁵ studied the use of services and facilities of Mangalore University Library. The majority of the research scholars visited the library for borrowing books, consulting periodicals, and more than half complained about the non-availability of current issues.

V. METHODOLOGY

The study uses the survey method. A well structured questionnaire was designed and used for collecting data. Therefore, suitable sampling method has been used. 58 questionnaires were disseminated to the users, selected suitably from the R.M.K. Engineering College Library under study. Therefore, a total of 55 questionnaires were returned. Then the collected data tabulated and analyzed accordingly. The results of the findings were accessible in tables using percentage.

VI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE II FREQUENCY OF LIBRARY VISIT

Frequency of Library Visits	Department							Total
	CSE	EEE	ECE	E&I	IT	MECH.	S&H	
Daily	2(3.64%)	1 (1.82%)	3 (5.45%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.82%)	2 (3.64%)	1 (1.82%)	10 (18.18%)
Twice a Week	1 (1.82%)	2 (3.64%)	4 (7.27%)	2 (3.64%)	3 (5.45%)	3 (5.45%)	2 (3.64%)	17 (30.91%)
Once in a Week	2 (3.64%)	5 (9.09%)	6 (10.91%)	2 (3.64%)	3 (5.45%)	3 (5.45%)	2 (3.64%)	23 (41.82%)
Fortnightly	1 (1.82%)	2 (3.64%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (3.64%)	5 (9.09%)
Once in a Month	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Occasionally	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Total	6 (100%)	10 (100%)	13 (100%)	4 (100%)	7 (100%)	8 (100%)	7 (100%)	55 (100%)

Table II shows the frequency of visit to their respective R.M.K. Engineering College Library. Out of 55 respondents, 23 (41.82%) visit the library visit once in a

week, 17 (30.91%) visit twice a week, 10 (18.18%) respondents visit daily, 5 (9.09%) visit fortnightly.

TABLE III USER OPINION ABOUT CONVENIENCE OF WORKING HOURS

User Opinion about Convenience of Working Hours	Department							TOTAL
	CSE	EEE	ECE	E&I	IT	MECH.	S&H	
Convenient	8 (14.54%)	6 (10.91%)	10 (18.18%)	6 (10.91%)	4 (7.27%)	7 (12.72%)	6 (10.91%)	47 (85.44%)
Not Convenient	1 (1.82%)	2 (3.64%)	1 (1.82%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.82%)	1 (1.82%)	2 (3.64%)	8 (14.56%)
Total	9 (100%)	8 (100%)	11 (100%)	6 (100%)	5 (100%)	8 (100%)	8 (100%)	55 (100%)

The table III shows the data relating to user opinion about convenience of working hours. Majority of the researchers 47 (85.44%) opined that the working hours of their respective library is convenient and only 8 (14.56%)

researchers. opined not convenient. where it is found that the positive response about convenience of working hours were more represented in ECE, CSE, Mechanical, and S&H departments.

TABLE IV PLEASE STATE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT TO THE LIBRARY

User Opinion about Purpose of Visit to Library	Department-wise No. of Respondents							
	Purpose of Visit	CSE	EEE	ECE	E&I	IT	MECH.	S&H
To borrow books	10 (18.18%)	8 (14.54%)	12 (21.81%)	6 (10.91%)	6 (10.91%)	7 (12.72%)	3 (5.45%)	52 (94.54%)
To refer books	5 (9.09%)	7 (12.72%)	4 (7.27%)	5 (9.09%)	6 (10.91%)	3 (5.45%)	7 (12.72%)	37 (67.27%)
To use E-journals	8 (14.54%)	8 (14.54%)	10 (18.18%)	4 (7.27%)	11 (20.00%)	8 (14.54%)	4 (7.27%)	53 (96.36%)
To use E-books	7 (12.72%)	9 (13.36%)	6 (10.91%)	2 (3.64%)	7 (12.72%)	5 (9.09%)	6 (10.91%)	42 (76.36%)
To use back volumes of journals	5 (9.09%)	4 (7.27%)	6 (10.91%)	4 (7.27%)	3 (5.45%)	7 (12.72%)	7 (12.72%)	36 (65.45%)
To request for inter library loan	5 (9.09%)	8 (14.54%)	2 (3.64%)	4 (7.27%)	6 (10.91%)	7 (12.72%)	4 (7.27%)	36(65.45%)
To refer project report	8 (14.54%)	5 (9.09%)	3 (5.45%)	2 (3.64%)	3 (5.45%)	7 (12.72%)	5 (9.09%)	33 (60.00%)
To use print journals	8 (14.54%)	6 (10.91%)	9 (13.36%)	4 (7.27%)	8 (14.54%)	6 (10.91%)	6 (10.91%)	47 (85.45%)
To use internet facility	7 (12.72%)	8 (14.54%)	6 (10.91%)	4 (7.27%)	7 (12.72%)	6 (10.91%)	9 (13.36%)	47 (85.45%)
To read newspapers	4 (7.27%)	8 (14.54%)	4 (7.27%)	6 (10.91%)	5 (9.09%)	8 (14.54%)	3 (5.45%)	38 (69.09%)
To use audio-visual resources	6 (10.91%)	4 (7.27%)	7 (12.72%)	1 (1.82%)	2 (3.64%)	5 (9.09%)	3 (5.45%)	28 (50.91%)

Table IV shows that the purpose of visit to their respective research center library. Out of 55 respondents, there are 53 (96.36%) researchers visit the library to use e-journals and news papers, followed by 52 (94.54%) researchers visit the library to borrow books, 47 (85.45%) researchers visit the library to use print journals, 47 (85.47%) researchers visit the library to use internet facility, 38 (69.09%) researchers

visit library to read newspapers and 37 (67.27%) research scholars visit the Library for to refer books and 36 (65.45%) researchers visit library to use to request for inter library loan. It is observed that majority of the research scholars (96.36%) visit the Library to use E- journals and 50.91% researchers visit the Library for audio visual resources.

TABLE V USER OPINION ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS IN ACCESSING LIBRARY RESOURCES

Effectiveness in Accessing Library Resources	Very effective	Effective	Some what effective	Ineffective	Very ineffective	Total
Journals	25 (45.45%)	12 (21.82%)	8 (14.54%)	2 (3.64%)	1(0.00%)	48 (87.27%)
Books	27 (49.09%)	10 (18.18%)	9 (13.36%)	4 (7.27%)	2 (3.64%)	52 (94.54%)
E-books	17 (30.91%)	15 (27.27%)	9 (13.36%)	4 (7.27%)	4 (7.27%)	49 (89.09%)
E-Journals	27 (49.09%)	10 (18.18%)	8 (14.54%)	4 (7.27%)	2 (3.64%)	51 (92.72%)
Abstracts & Indexing resources	10 (18.18%)	12 (21.82%)	7 (12.72%)	6 (10.91%)	5 (9.09%)	40 (72.72%)
Projects	13 (23.63%)	14 (25.45%)	7 (12.72%)	2 (3.64%)	3 (5.45%)	39 (70.91%)
CD ROM databases	18 (32.73%)	13 (23.63%)	8 (14.54%)	5 (9.09%)	0 (0.00%)	44 (80.00%)
Conference/ workshop/seminars proceedings	11 (20.00%)	7 (12.72%)	7 (12.72%)	1 (1.82%)	2 (3.64%)	28 (50.91%)

Table V shows that the data relating to researchers’ opinion about effectiveness with regard to the accessibility of Effectiveness in Accessing Library Resources in their respective R.M.K. Engineering College Library in pursuing their research work. There are 27 (49.09%) respondents opined that access to books is ‘very effective’, followed by 10 (18.18%) ‘Effective’, followed by 9 (13.36%) ‘Somewhat effective’, followed by 4 (7.27%) opined ‘ineffective’ and a very few 2 (3.64%) respondents. opined that access to E-Journals is ‘very effective’, followed by 27 (49.09%) ‘Effective’, followed by 10 (18.18%) ‘Somewhat effective’, followed by 8 (14.54%) respondents. opined that access to Conference/ workshop/seminars proceedings is ‘effective’, followed by 11 (20.00%) ‘Very effective’,

followed by 7 (12.72%) ‘Somewhat effective’, followed by 7 (12.72%) ‘Ineffective followed by 1 (1.82%) respondents.

Table VI shows that the use of different methods by researchers in keeping abreast of latest developments in their research field. There are 52 (94.54%) researchers who indicated that they browse journals to keep abreast of current developments in their research field, followed by 47 (85.45%) researchers access browsing recent issues of abstracts, 42 (76.36%) researchers Conferences/seminars/workshop proceedings, 38 (69.09%) researchers Personal communication/ lectures, 36 (65.45%) researchers who Technical reports/research reports, and 36 (65.45%) researchers who use Current awareness services to

keep abreast of current developments in their research field. It is observed that in browsing journal of recent issues of

respondents from ECE, CSE engineering accessed more and respondents in S&H discipline accessed less.

TABLE VI USER OPINION ABOUT METHODS USED IN KEEPING ABREAST OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Methods used in Keeping Abreast of Current Developments	Departments-wise No. of Respondents							Total
	CSE	EEE	ECE	E&I	IT	MECH.	S&H	
Browsing journals	10 (18.18%)	8 (14.54%)	12 (21.81%)	6 (10.91%)	6 (10.91%)	7 (12.72%)	3 (5.45%)	52 (94.54%)
Browsing recent issues of abstracts	8 (14.54%)	6 (10.91%)	9 (13.36%)	4 (7.27%)	8 (14.54%)	6 (10.91%)	6 (10.91%)	47 (85.45%)
Conferences/seminars/workshop proceedings	7 (12.72%)	9 (13.36%)	6 (10.91%)	2 (3.64%)	7 (12.72%)	5 (9.09%)	6 (10.91%)	42 (76.36%)
Technical reports/ research reports	5 (9.09%)	4 (7.27%)	6 (10.91%)	4 (7.27%)	3 (5.45%)	7 (12.72%)	7 (12.72%)	36 (65.45%)
Current awareness services	5 (9.09%)	4 (7.27%)	6 (10.91%)	4 (7.27%)	3 (5.45%)	7 (12.72%)	7 (12.72%)	36 (65.45%)
Personal communication/ lectures	4 (7.27%)	8 (14.54%)	4 (7.27%)	6 (10.91%)	5 (9.09%)	8 (14.54%)	3 (5.45%)	38 (69.09%)

VII. FINDINGS

1. It is found that the visit 23 (41.82%) visit the library visit Once in a Week, 17 (30.91%) visit Twice a Week, 10 (18.18%) respondents visit daily, 5 (9.09%) visit fortnightly.
2. It is found that the positive response about convenience of working hours were more represented in ECE, CSE, Mechanical and S&H departments.
3. It is observed that majority of the research scholars 96.36% visit the Library to use E- journals and 50.91% researchers visit the Library for audio visual resources.
4. It is found that the Books is 'very effective' 27 (49.09%), followed by 'effective' 10 (18.18%) and 'somewhat effective' 5 (9.09%) respondents. opined that access to Conference/ workshop/seminars proceedings.
5. It is found that in browsing journal of recent issues of respondents from ECE, CSE, MECH., engineering accessed more and respondents in S&H discipline accessed less.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In the current education era, library is considered as one of the important resource centre. With the use of effective tools pertaining to information and technology, library is playing effective role and integral component for any high quality research institution, irrespective of any specialization. In the present scenario, many of the technical libraries are supportive to research, providing multidisciplinary, multi-mode, multi-media information to the researchers. The present study found the strength and weaknesses of performance of researcher scholars of R.M.K. Engineering College Library through rigorous analysis of the data, researchers under study. It is found that R.M.K Engineering College Library has adequate collection of books and Journals for their users. A continues feedback

from the users particularly research scholars need to be maintained for the improvement of libraries to upgrade.

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