Utilization of E-Resources by the Post Graduate Students and Research Scholars of Pondicherry Engineering College, Pondicherry: A Case Study

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Abstract - **Electronic Resources are becoming more and more important for the academic community. E-resources are considered as important resources for teaching, research and training. Thus e-resources in a library play significant role in academic libraries. E-resources have the features of easy access by many users of academic library and very important for library users. The present study identifies various e-resources, databases available in Pondicherry Engineering College Library, Pondicherry. The Post Graduate Students and researcher investigated the preferences and importance of e-resources along with identifying the purpose and problems faced while accessing online e-resources. A well structured questionnaire was designed and distributed among Post Graduate students and Research Scholars of Pondicherry Engineering College, Pondicherry. The study revealed that 85% of the respondent is aware of the availability of e-resources. The study says that 46.25% explored e-books/e-journals. This survey reveals 81.25% satisfied with e-resources available in the library.**
Keywords: **E-resources, College Library, Electronic Search, P.G. Students, Research Scholars, Pondicherry Engineering College**

I. INTRODUCTION

Technologies are developing in a breath taking speed. It is incredibly difficult to acquire the entire required documents independently. To overcome the above situations almost all the online resources are purchased by the university academic libraries for their academic community. Due to the information explosion it is very difficult to get relevant materials to the users. They newly developed technologies deeply facilitate the academic community to pickup appropriate materials that they required from the e-resources. The internet based electronic resources (e-resources) are growing dramatically. However there have not been empirical studies evaluating the impact of e-resources, as a whole, on formal scholarly communication at Pondicherry Engineering College, Puducherry.The present study aims to investigate the usage of e-resources by the Post Graduate students and Research Scholars in Pondicherry Engineering College, Puducherry.

A. Electronic Resources

The electronic resources are systems in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and computer networks. Electronic resources are e-Books, e-journals, e-newspapers, databases, bibliographic database, etc. Due to growth of information communication technology most of the document are available in Electronic format also.

B. Electronic Resource Management (ERM)

ERM is the practices and software systems used by libraries to keep track of important information about electronic information resources, especially internet based resources such as electronic journals, databases, and electronic books. The development of ERM became necessary in the early 2000s as it became clear that traditional library catalogs and integrated library systems were not designed to handle metadata for resources as mutable as many online products.

C. Pondicherry Engineering College

The Pondicherry Engineering College (PEC) was established in the year 1984 under the Seventh Five Year Plan with liberal seed grant from MHRD, Government of India. The Institution fully funded by the Government of Puducherry and is administrated by a Board of Governors under the aegis of Engineering College (Pondicherry) Society.

The College offers eight undergraduate and thirteen post-graduate courses, apart from M.Phil. and Ph.D. Programmes. The College is granted autonomous status by UGC from 2014-15 for six years and is affiliated to Pondicherry University. The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) of AICTE had accredited all the eight undergraduate Courses.

The annual intake of students for various academic programs is: 450 for UG programme 228 for PG programme, 30 for MCA degree and 10 for M.Sc. degree in Material Science and Technology and M.Phil in Physics. The Campus sprawling over 186 acres is decorated with lawns and gardens besides spacious play grounds.

Pondicherry Engineering College is located about 150 kms south of Chennai and 12 km north of Puducherry town on the east coast of road connecting Puducherry to Chennai. A Central Library with over 55000 books, 72 National

Journals, 98 International Journals, DELNET, MALIBNET and INDEST facility are available for the students.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire based survey was used for the collection of data. A total of 175questionnaires were distributed among the Post Graduate Students and Research Scholarsof Pondicherry Engineering College but 160 questionnaires duly filled in were received back.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the awareness of e-resources usage skills.
2. To find out the place where e-resources are accessed.
3. To find out the frequency of using e-resources
4. To find out type of e-resources used.
5. To find out purpose of using e-resources.
6. To find out advantages of using e-resources.
7. To find out satisfaction level of using e-resources.
8. To find out problems encountered while accessing e-resources.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE I GENDER WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	92	57.50
Female	68	42.50
Total	160	100

Here in Table I, gender wise distribution of respondents is given. Out of 160 respondents 92(57.50%) were male and 68(42.50%) were female.

TABLE II PLACE OF ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

Place	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Home	58	36.25
Library	54	33.75
Anywhere in the campus	48	30.00
Total	160	100.00

From the Table II, it is seen that58 (36.25%) respondents access e-resources at home, 54(33.75%) at library and 48(30.00%) anywhere in campus.

TABLE III FREQUENCY OF USING E-RESOURCES

Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Daily	58	36.25
Twice a week	42	26.25
Once in a week	36	22.50
As and when required	24	15.00
Total	160	100.00

From the Table III, 58(36.25%) respondents access e-resources daily, 42(26.25%) respondents access e-resources twice a week, 36(22.50%) respondents access e-resources once in a week and another 24(15.00%) respondents access e-resources as and when required.

TABLE IV TYPE OF E-RESOURCES USED

E-Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
e-books/e-journals	28	17.50
Online database	46	28.75
e-newspapers	42	26.25
Electronic reference sources	44	27.50
Total	160	100.00

From the Table IV, it is observed that 28(17.5 0%) respondents use E-books/e-journals, 46(28.75%) respondents use online database, 42(26.25%) respondents use E-newspapers, 44(27.50%) respondents use electronic reference sources.

TABLE V PURPOSE OF USING E- RESOURCES

Purposes	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
To gain current information	22	13.75
To support research works/ projects	36	22.50
For Academic Study	60	37.50
To upgrade knowledge	42	26.25
Total	160	100,00

From the Table V it is seen that 22(13.75%) respondents use e-resources to gain current information, 36(22.50%) respondents use e-resources to support research works/projects, 60(37.50%) use e-resources for academic study, 42(26.25%) use e-resource to upgrade knowledge.

TABLE VI STRENGTHS OF USING E-RESOURCES

Advantages	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Articles can be accessed online free of charge	40	25.00
Time saving	26	16.25
More informative	14	8.75
Open access provide larger potential evidence	44	27.50
Ease of access	36	22.50
Total	160	100

From the Table VI, it is seen that 40(22.50%) respondents think that articles can be accessed online free of charge, 26(16.25%) respondents think it is time saving, 14(8.75%) respondents think e-resources articles are more informative, 44(27.50%) respondents think e-resources provide larger

potential evidence and 36(22.50%) respondents think that there is ease of access in accessing e-resources articles.

TABLE VII SATISFACTION LEVEL ON THE USE OF E-RESOURCES

Satisfaction level	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Fully satisfied	42	26.25
satisfied	56	35.00
Partially satisfied	28	17.50
Satisfied with little extent	20	12.50
Not satisfied	14	8.75
Total	160	100

From Table VII, satisfaction level of respondents in using e-resources are measured and found that 42 (26.25%) are fully satisfied, 56(35%) are satisfied, 28(17.50%) are partially satisfied, 20(12.50%) are satisfied with little extent and 14(8.75%) are not satisfied.

TABLE VIII PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WHILE ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Low internet access speed	48	30.00
Few computer with internet facilities	36	22.50
Lack of computer skills	36	22.50
Difficult in finding relevant information	24	15.00
Frequent power cut	16	10.00
Total	160	100

From the Table VIII, problems encountered while accessing e-resources and it is found that 48(30.00%) find low internet access speed as their problem, 36(22.75%) find availability of few computers with internet access facilities as their problem, 36(22.75%) find having lack of computer skills as their problem, 24(15.00%) find difficult finding relevant information while accessing e-resources and 16(10.00%) find frequent power cut as their problem in accessing e-resources.

V. SUGGESTIONS

Following are some of the suggestions which willbe very much helpful and useful to the library for betterment:

1. The Internet connectivity and its speed should be increased
2. Complete Science Direct Journals should be subscribed

3. Each college library should develop their ownwebsites and also take part in the Networking programmes for resource sharing.
4. Colleges may be provided with CCTV, RFID andother ICT devices for better and improved services.
5. Information Literacy programme as an information empowerment should be imparted periodically.
6. Financial assistance from the concernedauthorities to develop more infrastructure andwell trained staff in a phase manner is highlysuggested.
7. The authority must support the librarians to conduct training programmers for users regarding how to use online journals and online databases.
8. More computer terminals should be installed in the library for the benefit of users.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this advanced technological world, the availability of e-resources for free and open has transformed the academic industry in many ways. Use of e-resources hadinfluenced the role of librarians in dissemination of information with electronic and digital media. Educational system has been changed technologically and these e-resources support e-learning which is an important aspect in all levels of education. With help of these e-resources, information can be easily transferable and accessible by the students.

Nowadays, most of the students are interested in using these e-resources which help them in their academics. These are used various for purposes like research work, study purpose and to get general information. Libraries and university are also using these e-resources in order to store the valuable information in the form of e-books, e-journals, etc. Use of advanced and updated e-resources and e-gadgets is more beneficiary to the students. Innovative e-resources can make the world easier in sharing and accessing information through internet.

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