Use of Electronic Resources among the Students in Engineering Colleges in Chennai: A Study

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Abstract - This study analyses the status of electronic resources facilities and services provided by the Engineering Colleges in Chennai. It also discusses the purpose of using e-resources, benefits, subject coverage, students satisfaction, problems that are faced by the Engineering College students while accessing e-resources .The study was limited to only four engineering colleges situated on the line to OMR road, Chennai. Majority of the students are accessing the e-resources from their Central Library followed by their home (17%), Internet centre (13%) and from their department libraries (10%). Since the student community has to depend on the e-resources for their academic endeavour, the libraries should subscribe the e-resources as per the required norms to fulfill the academic needs of the student community.
Keywords: Engineering Colleges, E-Resources, Usage of E-Resources

I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays digital resources provide access to information to its users at anytime anywhere (24X7). Information in this digital environment plays very important role in all walks of academic libraries and its users. Engineering college libraries are transforming the traditional printed resources to digital resources by using Information Communication Technology. Purpose of this study was to find out the purpose of using e-resources, benefits, subject coverage, students satisfaction, problems that are faced by the Engineering College students while accessing e-resources and suggestion to improve the access of resources. In digital library, services are fully automated and all resources are in digital form. It enables users to interact effectively with information distributed across a network. Digital libraries are electronic libraries in which large number of geographically distributed users can access the contents of large and diverse depositories of electronic objects.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Baljinder Kaur and Rama Verma (2006) studied that "The use of e-journals has increased manifold. The printed material is being quickly replaced by the electronic resources".

R. Arumugam (2013) analysed that "The term "user study" focuses on information use patterns, information needs, and information-seeking behavior".

Sampasivam K (2002), reveals that "each and every user activity information is emerging as a valuable resource at all levels, such as education research and development etc".

R. Arumugam (2016), discussed that "AICTE norms clearly describes requirement of books while starting a college/course, yearly addition of books, technical journals both printed and online journals (IEEE, ASME, ASCE, Springer, Science direct etc), internet facility, computer requirement, space for reading, working hours, qualification and salary details of librarian, budget allocation etc". Owen (1999) studied that "The speed of transactions in the dynamic economy requires the ability to interpret and respond to information about changes in the environment almost instantaneously".

R. Arumugam (2015), reveals that "information seeking behavior of Engineering colleges libraries, such as Frequency of visit to library, purpose of using library, purpose of using internet, search engines, information sources availability and usage details, Reason using/not using library resources and satisfaction level of the users of Self Financing engineering college libraries in IT Highway Chennai.

III. METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

The questionnaire was distributed among 1000 students of four engineering colleges i.e. 1.Panimalar Engineering College, DMI Engineering College, 3.Rajalakshmi Engineering College, and 4.Sri Sastha Engineering College in Chennai. There were 100 questionnaires distributed and 860 filled in questionnaires received from the respondents. Necessary tabulations were made and analysed.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table I show that there were 250 questionnaires distributed to each engineering college and Panimalar Engineering College with a response rate of 86%, DMI Engineering College offer a response rate of 88%, Rajalakshmi Engineering College responded a rate of 84% and Sri Sastha Engineering College has given 85% response. A total of 86% of the students have responded to this study.

TABLE I DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Name of the College	No. of Questionnaire Distributed	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Panimalar Engineering College	250	215	86%
2	DMI Engineering College	250	220	88%
3	Rajalakshmi Engineering College	250	211	84%
4	Sri Sastha Engineering College	250	214	86%
	Total	1000	860	86%

TABLE II LOCATION OF ACCESS OF E-RESOURCES

S. No.	Place of Access	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Central Library	515	60%
2	Department Libraries	89	10%
3	Internet Centres	110	13%
4	Home	146	17%
	Total	860	100%

TABLE III ELECTRONIC GADGETS USED FOR ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

S. No.	Gadgets	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Desktop computer	258	30%
2	Laptop	345	40%
3	Netbook	18	2%
4	Tablet Computer	24	3%
5	Mobile Phone	215	25%
	Total	860	100%

Table II show the place of access of e-resources by the students of four engineering colleges in Chennai. Majority of the students are accessing the e-resources from their Central Library followed by their home (17%), Internet centre (13%) and from their department libraries (10%). The engineering colleges are having department libraries and they are offering internet services to the department libraries.

Table III reveals that 40% of the students use laptop for accessing of e-resources followed by 30% of the students use desktop computers, 25% of the students use mobile phone, 3% of the students use table computer ad 2% of the students use netbook for accessing of e-resources.

TABLE IV SATISFACTORY LEVEL OF ACCESSING OF DIGITAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES

S. No.	E- Resources	Satisfactory Level				
		Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Less Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Highly Dissatisfied
1	E-Databases	334	289	210	15	12
2	E- Journals	328	298	208	12	14
3	E- Books	352	278	203	14	13
4	CDs/DVDs	359	277	214	1	9

Table IV shows the satisfactory level of accessing of digital resource and services. Out of 860 students, 334 students opined that they are highly satisfied while accessing of e-databases and 12 students opined that they are highly dissatisfied with e-database services. Considering e-journal service, 328 students said that they are highly satisfied and 14 students felt highly dissatisfied E-books are concerned 32 students have highly satisfied with the service ad 13 students have felt highly dissatisfied. Out of 860 students participated in the study, 359 students opined that they are highly satisfied with the CD/DVDs available in the Libraries for their academic growth.

Table V reveals the barriers of access of digital resource. Majority of the students said that limite acce to computers is the barrier of access of e-resources followed by 31% of the student felt that their libraries do not subscribe required titles. 28% of the students opined that they have been retrited to ace the e-resources inside the campu only

followed by 25% of the students said the they don't have much time to access e-rsources.

TABLE V BARRIERS OF ACCESS OF DIGITAL RESOURCES

S. No.	Barriers	Agreed	Percentage
1	Lack of time	212	25%
2	Slow due to poor bandwidth	136	16%
3	Access has been restricted to campus only	245	28%
4	Required password not known	156	18%
5	Library does not subscribe the required titles	263	31%
6	Limited Access to computers	286	33%
7	Difficult to find relevant information	158	18%
8	Don't know how to search	98	11%

V. CONCLUSION

From the above study we can conclude that very large number of users satisfied as well as maximum utilization of all the available resources by digital services only. It gives information within a fraction of seconds with occuracy. Majority of the students are accessing the e-resources from their Central Library followed by their home (17%), Internet centre (13%) and from their department libraries (10%). The engineering colleges are having department libraries and they are offering internet services to the department libraries. Majority of the students said that limite acce to computers is the barrier of access of e-resources followed by 31% of the student felt that their libraries do not subscribe required titles. Since the student community has to depend on the e-resources for their academic endeavour, the libraries should subscribe the e-resources as per the required norms to fulfill the academic needs of the student community.

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