DIGITAL RESOURCES IN CENTRAL LIBRARY OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SRINAGAR: LITERACY AMONG STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

This research is an attempt to explore the awareness among students of National Institute of Technology Srinagar about the available digital resources of the library, their usage and the problems faced in using them. Using descriptive method students of National Institute of Technology Srinagar, affiliated with Library and Information Resources Centre (Central Library) have been surveyed in this research. A sample of 200 has been selected randomly for the purpose. Structured questionnaire aided in gathering data. The findings reveal that 87.23% of students were aware of digital resources in general. While 12.76% were quite unaware of such resources. Students from different streams used different digital sources for different purposes as studying (42.5%), project works (31.9%), Research and Development (21.3%) and publishing journal article (4.3%). Students faced lot of problems in using them because of low speed, limited working hours, lack of adequacy of computers, frequently power failures and problems over searching

Keywords: Database, Information retrieval, National Institute of Technology, Digital resources, Kashmir

INTRODUCTION

In recent years of development Information and Communication Technology have had an immense impact on library design, services, and resources and in bringing more and more users through the library doors. Nowadays electronic and paper-based information sources are used alongside each other that have lead to the concept of hybrid library. The hybrid library should be "designed to bring a range of technologies from different sources together in the context of a working library, and also to begin to explore integrated systems and services in both the electronic and print environments **(Schwartz, 2000).**The challenge associated with the management of the hybrid library is to encourage end-user resource discovery and information use, in a variety of formats and from a number of local and remote sources, in a seamlessly integrated way. The aim of this study is to identify the digital resources used by the students of NIT Srinagar, awareness about the digital resources and problems faced in using them.

PROFILE OF THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE NIT SRINAGAR:

The central library has been established in 1960 and is heart of the institute. It acts as a guide for the academic activities of the institution. The library is designated to collect resources (print as well as electronic), preserve them, disseminate information and manage several of its services. Besides the library plays an active role in promotion of reading habits among students. Its collection includes 68,000 books of Engineering, Science, Humanities and about 6,000 bound volumes of Journals, both foreign and Indian, 6,665 periodical collection, 10,051 pamphlets and 506 video cassettes. The library endeavors its best by way of adopting new to newer technological advancement in field of library and information management, i.e. moving over from manual one to computerized networking infrastructure to cope with the demands of the users. The library is also in possession of 10, 000 books exclusively meant for Schedule Caste and Schedule tribe students. Users can access e-resources Springer Link, Elsevier's Science direct, ASCE Journals Online, ASME Journals Online, JCCC, NATURE, ProQuest Science, INDIAN STANDARDS. It subscribes to J-Gate Custom Content for Consortia, Compendex and INSPEC on ENGINEERING VILLAGE2 bibliographic databases which can be used by members of library (students, scholars, faculty and staff) free of cost.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

An awareness and usage pattern of e-resources in libraries, information centers, museums etc is enormous.

Sinha, Singha and Sinha (2011) surveyed the usage of e-resources by the students of Assam University Library available under UGC-INFONET digital library consortium and found use of the Internet and electronic resources have created a great impact upon users of Assam University Central Library in their research and development works. Though many of the respondents are unaware and have not used On-line thesis/dissertations, abstracts/indexes, OPAC, On-line databases**. Asemi and Riyahiniya (2007)** investigated the relationships between awareness and use of digital resources among students in Isfahan University of Medical Sciences and it was observed that the majority of students were more aware of offline and online databases. While a reasonable number of students were aware of CLBJD (Central Library Books & Journals Database) less than one-fifth actually used the database frequently. Though the statistics were recognized as important, there is a direct relationship between the scales of awareness and use by the user. **Dhanavandan , Esmail & Nagarajan (2012**) reveal that majority of the students in Krishnasamy College of Engineering & Technology Library, Cuddalore are leading users of e-resources and most of them are satisfied with every kind of e-resources available in the library. Findings of **(Kaur & Verma 2009)** provide evidence that users of the Thapar University library are quite aware of the available e-resources that have encouraged them to exploit such resources to maximum. Such an immense impact of e-resources available in library is visible the way there is a decrease in the collection of print journals. **Rogers (2001)** studied faculty and graduate student use of electronic journals, printed journals and electronic databases at Ohio State University (OSU) during the years 1998-2000. The findings of the surveys revealed that since 1998 there has been a significant progress in the acceptance and usage of electronic journals at OSU. In 1998, only 200 e-journals were available, while in 2000, the number of available e-journals increased to more than 3,000. **Chirra and Madhusudhan (2009**) examined the use of e-journals and their impact on research scholars of Goa University. The survey arrives at the

conclusions that the e-journals have become vital part of information for research work. Most of the respondents are accessing e-journals from the Department Computer Labs for their research work and e-journals meet the instant desire of users to have an access to information. The most common problem faced by the respondents is that there is difficulty in accessing full text and many of the respondents are not satisfied with the Internet facilities available in Goa University. **Bhatt (2010)** also carried out a questionnaire based users survey to find the use and usage pattern of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium Resources by research scholars and faculty members of University of Delhi in History and Political Science. One of the major finding of the study was that the awareness of the sample population in the History department is 97 percent and in the Political Science department is 96 percent. The awareness level shows that the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium is accepted and used extensively by the researchers and faculty members of the University of Delhi. A study conducted by (**Mounissamy & Rani, 2005)** clearly represent that "the usage and usability of electronic journals by research scholars and faculty members of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli. The study reveals that 67 percent of researchers and 33 percent of faculty members regularly access and use the electronic journals for varied purposes.

OBJECTIVES

- To trace out the awareness of digital resources of Library among students of NIT Srinagar.
- To explore the usage (in terms of frequency) of digital resources by the students.
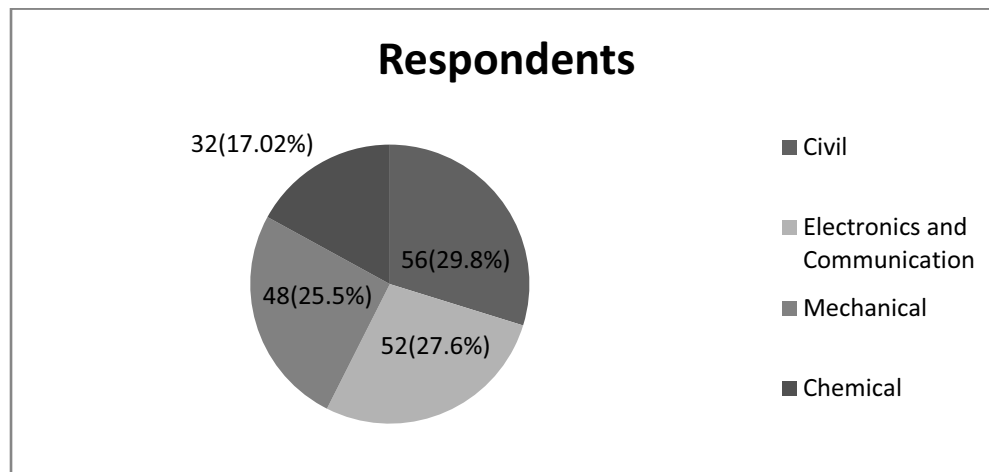- To find out the problems faced by the students in using them.

METHODOLOGY

The research was completed through a survey method. The researcher surveyed students of National Institute of Technology Srinagar which has 12 departments and …students, affiliated with Library and Information Resources centre. A random sample of 200 students was selected from such a large number. A structured questionnaire designed for collecting data was distributed among the selected sample in order to measure the awareness and usage of digital resources by them. The collected data were analyzed, classified and tabulated.

DATA ANALYSIS

Among 188 respondents, 156 (82.98%) were male and 32(17.02%) were female. From the figure-1, it can be inferred that 56(29.8%) belong to civil, 52(27.6%) belong to electronic and communication, followed by mechanical 48(25.5%) and 32(17.02%) respondents belong to chemical engineering.
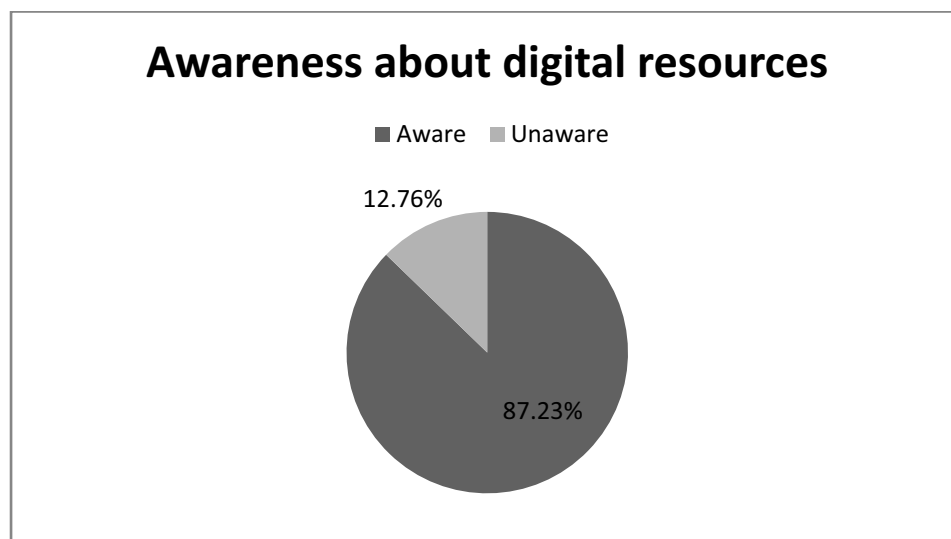
Figure 1- General profile

Respondents

Awareness regarding digital resources

A total of 188 Students were asked if they are aware of digital resources in general. Among them 164 (87.23%) users gave positive response and were aware of digital resources. While 24 (12.76%) gave negative response and were quite unaware of such resources.
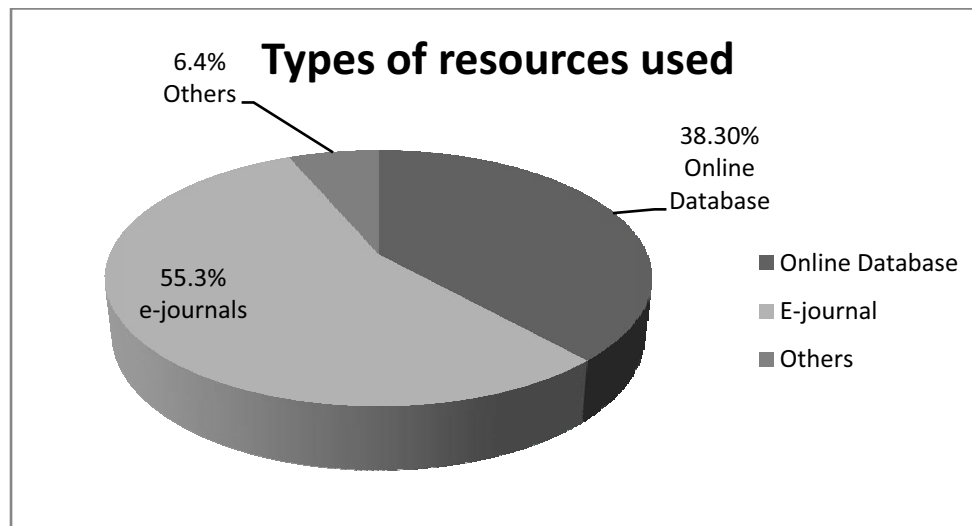
Figure 2-Awareness of digital resources

Awareness about digital resources

Types of resources used

The mostly used digital resources consulted by respondents are e-journals (104=55.3%), followed by respondents who consult online databases (72=38.3%). While (12= 6.4%) of respondents use other resources.

Figure 3-Types of resources used

Frequency of use

Table- 1 shows that out of 188 respondents most of the respondents (124= 65.9 %) are using digital resources on daily basis which is followed by 28 (14.9%) respondents who uses resources on monthly basis , 16 (8.5%) respondents access resources twice in a week and 12 (6.4%) access fortnightly. whereas only 8 (4.25%) respondents access such resources on weekly basis.
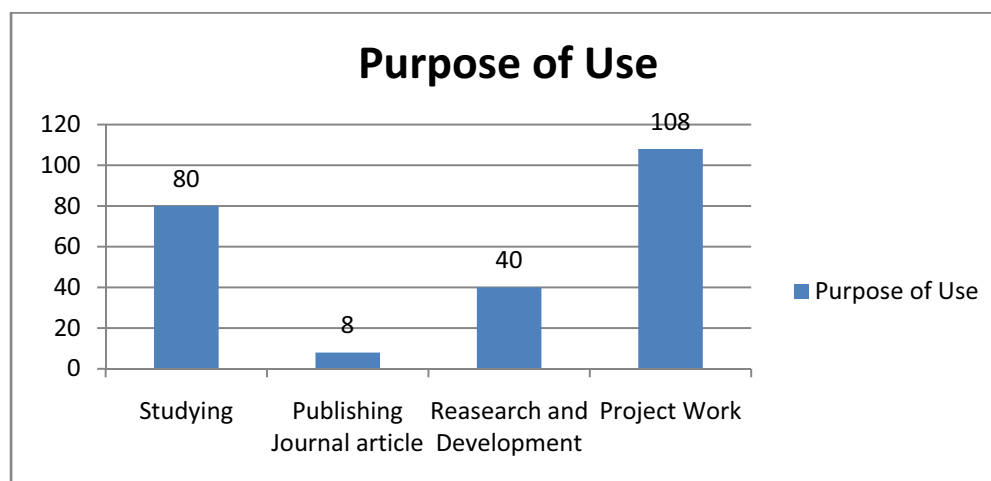
Table 1: Frequency of usage of digital resources

Frequency of use	Number of respondents	Percentage
Daily	124	65.9%
Twice in a week	16	8.5%
Weekly	8	4.25%
Fortnightly	12	6.4%
Monthly	28	14.9%

Purpose of using digital resources

Survey result as shown in Figure-4 reveal that a majority of the respondents (80 =42.5 %) are using digital resources for study purpose which is followed by the respondents who are using them for project works (60=31.9%) , Research and Development (40=21.3%). Where as only very few respondents (8=4.3 %) are using these resources for publishing journal article.
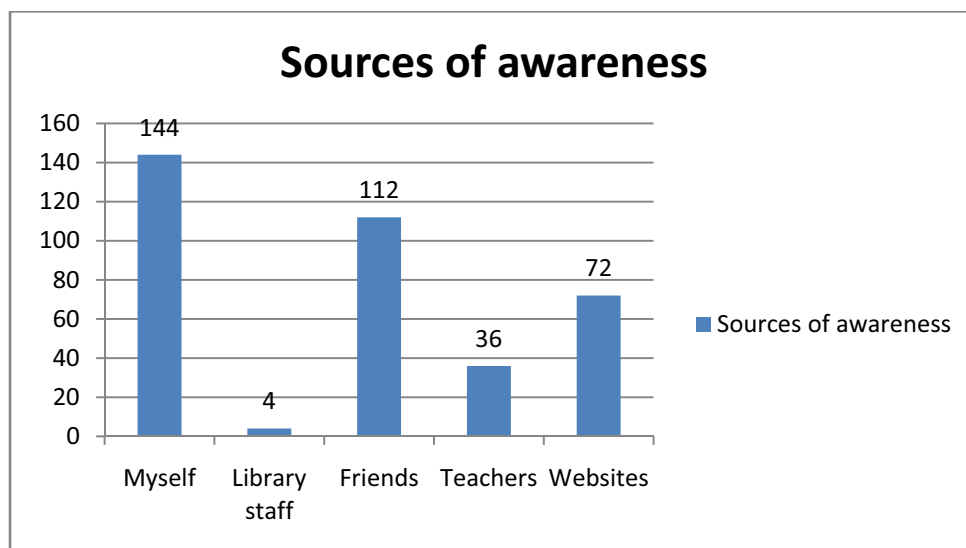
Figure 4-Purpose of use

Sources of awareness

When asked about the awareness of digital resources, respondents yielded multiple answers. As shown in Figure-5 most of the students 114 (76.6%) have learnt about digital resources from themselves. Besides, the most sources of awareness regarding these resources are friends with 112 (59.6%) followed by websites with 72 (38.3%), teachers with 36 (19.15%) and least source of awareness from library staff accounting for 4 (2.13%).

Figure 5- Sources of awareness

Use of e-resources

It appears from the table-2 that 104(55.32%) of respondents prefer INDIAN STANDARDS followed by Nature 88 (46.8%), ProQuest Science 80 (42.5%), ASCE journals online 52 (27.66%), IEL online and Elsevier Science Direct 48 (25.5%), Springer Link 36 (19.15%) and least respondents 32 (17.00%) prefer ASME Online Journals.

Table 2-Use of e-resources

Database	Number of respondents	
	Yes	**NO**
IEL Online	48(25.5)	140(74.5)
Springer Link	36(19.15)	152(80.85)
Elsevier Science Direct	48(25.5)	140(74.5)
ASCE journals Online	52(27.66)	136(72.34)
ASME journals Online	32(17.00)	156(82.99)
Nature	88(46.8)	100(53.2)
ProQuest Science	80(42.5)	108(57.5)
INDIAN STANDARDS	104(55.32)	84(44.68)

Figures in parenthesis represent percentage

Use of bibliographic databases

Tabe-3 shows the amount of use of the mentioned bibliographic database. It appears that out of 188 respondents only 44 (23.4%) access the contents of J-Gate Custom Content for Consortia and 144 (76.6%) do not access. Only 52 (27.66%) of respondents access the most important engineering content through one single interface i.e. Compendex and INSPEC on ENGINEERNG VILLAGE 2 while as 136 (72.34%) do not access it.
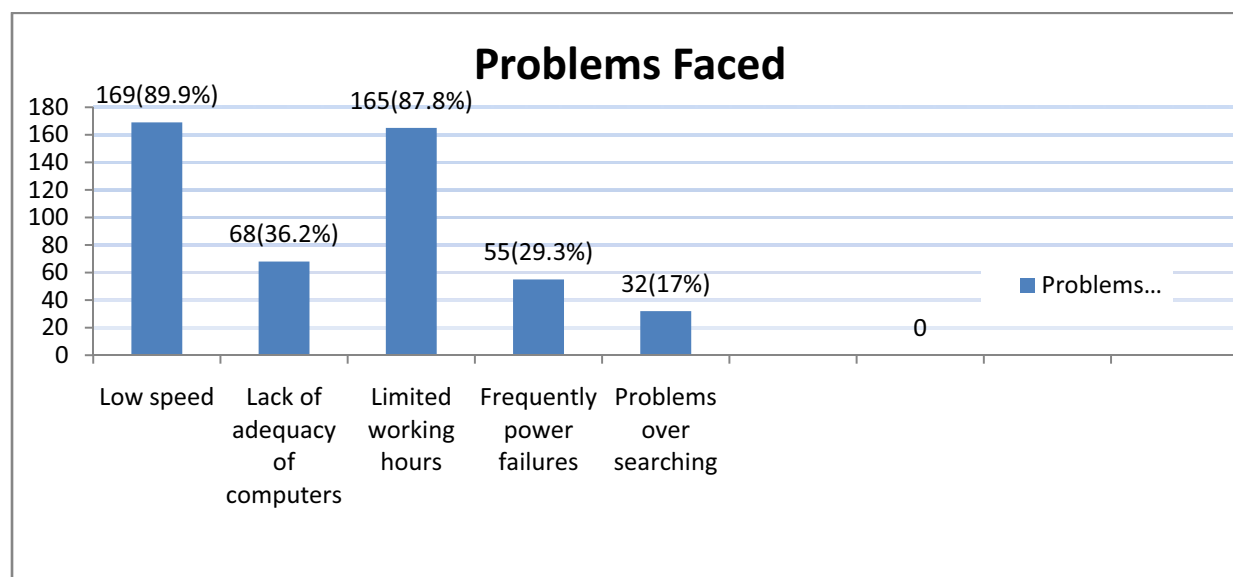
Table 3- Bibliographic Database

Bibliographic Database	Number of Respondents	
	Yes	**No**
J-Gate Custom Content for Consortia	44 (23.4%)	144 (76.6%)
Compendex and INSPEC on ENGINEERNG VILLAGE 2	52 (27.66%)	136 (72.34%)

Problems faced

Respondents faced a lot of problems in accessing the resources. Out of 188 respondents 169(89.9%) had difficulty with low system speed, 68(36.2%) reported the problems of lack of adequacy of computers, 165(87.8%) admitted that library provides limited working hours for accessing resources, 55(29.3%) noted frequent power failures and 32(17%) felt problems over searching.

Figure 6- Problems encountered

Problems Faced

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the survey show that majority of the respondents (87.23%) are aware of digital resources. The mostly used digital resources are e-journals followed by online databases. Most of the students have learnt about digital resources from themselves. Besides, the most sources of awareness regarding these resources are friends followed by websites, teachers and least source of awareness from library staff. Among the surveyed respondents, 42.5 % are using digital resources for study purpose which is followed by the respondents who are using them for project works (31.9%), Research and Development (21.3%). Where as only very few respondents (4.3 %) are using these resources for publishing journal article. Respondents faced a lot of problems in accessing the resources as (89.9%) of respondents had difficulty with low system speed, (36.2%) reported the problems of lack of adequacy of computers, (87.8%) admitted that library provides limited working hours for accessing resources, (29.3%) noted frequent power failures and (17%) felt problems over searching.

The proper utilization program of digital resources should be included by the library staff so as to make the students more aware in exploiting them. As the Central Library has the facilities to access digital resources, the library authority should take some initiative to increase the number of systems with higher configuration and speed of access to use the resources. Besides, the library service hours should be increased so that extended stay and study, in the library is possible.

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