

Usage of E-Resources by Faculty Members of RNSIT, Bangalore, Karnataka: A Study

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Abstract - This study has made an attempt to evaluate the use of the library at the Rama Nagappa Shetty Institute of Technology (RNSIT) in Bangalore (Karnataka). A survey of 130 faculty members was conducted through a questionnaire. The analysis of the collected data covers the purpose and frequency of use and place of accessing their favorite of e-resources by faculty members and the preferences of web browsers used in searching for information. Further, to explore the problems in accessing e-resources as well as satisfaction level by the faculty members.

Key Words: E-resources, Electronic Information Resources, Faculty Members, RNSIT, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Introduction

With the initiation of information and communication technology (ICT), has made the libraries to add new things to its collection. The most important of them is e-resources. Electronic resources (or e-resources) are materials in digital format accessible electronically i.e. e-resources are like e-books, e-journals, e-databases, e-reference sources, e-bulletins, e-reports in various digital formats, Adobe Acrobat documents (.pdf), WebPages (.htm, .html, .asp etc) and more, etc.

E-resources are easily accessible in remote areas and it solves the storage problems and controls the flood of information. Print sources are being digitized. Today, e-resources have become the essence of every intellectual activity in higher education. E-resources play an essential role in supporting higher education and fulfilling educational objectives. The academic library is a crucial part of a higher education system and it is vital for academic libraries to acquire relevant information resources and make them readily available for use by the prospective library user groups.

The Rama Nagappa Shetty Institute of Technology (RNSIT) is one of the prestigious colleges in Karnataka. Rama Nagappa Shetty Institute of Technology (RNSIT), established in the year 2001, is the brainchild of the Group Chairman, Dr. R.N. Shetty. Several educational institutions are run by the R. N. Shetty Trust, with RNSIT one amongst them. The institute has 07 UG, 07 PG Programs, and 07 R&D clients in engineering technology and management. This institute is having a Faculty strength of over 150. The RNSIT campus has an internet center in the central library and as well in all departments.

Review of Literature

The study of Srinivasulu, P., et al. (2019) conducted on Awareness and Usage of e-resources by faculty members at the Vardhaman College of Engineering (Autonomous), Hyderabad. They found that the majority of the respondents (92.19%) are using e-resources daily. 93.87% of respondents are aware of the available e-resources in their library. The majority of the respondents (73.96%) are getting a source of information on e-resources from library personnel/library circulars. Most of the faculty members (91.14%) responded that the purpose of using the e-resources for publishing articles/books. Most of the faculty members (95.31%) declared that they have acquainted with more information by using e-resources. (57.81%) of the faculty members expressed the view that the lack of time is a problem while using the e-resources. The majority of the faculty members (72.39%) opined that they are highly satisfied with the overall usage of e-resources. In a similar way, Madhan Mohan and Vijaya Kumar (2015) conducted a study on the utilization of e-resources among the faculty members in Engineering Colleges in the Karaikal region, Puducherry. The analysis was done with the help of a questionnaire. A questionnaire was distributed to a random sample of 200 faculty members from different Engineering and Technology institutions. They responded was 84%. Faculty members play a significant role in the fulfillment of using e-resources. The attitudes of the faculty members of engineering colleges in the Karaikal district towards e-journals and its different features are positive and encouraging. Faculty members depend more on e-resources for their current information needs. Familiarity with the latest tools for internet applications will change their browsing technique and save precious time for get-together relevant information for their area. Another study on the Use and search pattern of electronic resources in five autonomous engineering colleges (Bengaluru) conducted by Kumar, G. K., & Kumbar, M. (2013). They evaluated the faculty awareness and use of electronic resources in their academic and research needs. Further, Dhanavandan, S. et al. (2012) conducted a study on Use of electronic resources at the Krishnasamy College of Engineering & Technology library, Cuddalore. The authors observed that Most of the students and faculty members visit the library for accessing e-resources, i.e., e-journals and e-books and they use it for their study, teaching and research purpose. The study also found problems faced by the faculty and students while accessing electronic resources, i.e., Low-speed Internet connectivity. The faculty and students have demanded to increase e-resources in their specific subject. The majority (66%) of the respondents satisfied with the e-resources available in the library.

Objectives of the study

The main objectives of this study are as under:

- To find out the frequency of use of e-resources by the faculty members of RNSIT.
- To examine the purpose of using e-resources.
- To observe the preference of web browsers used.
- To know the benefits of using e-resources
- To find out the preferences in searching for information
- To find out the favorite e-resources preferred by the faculty members
- To locate the place of access to e-resources
- To explore the problems in accessing e-resources as well as satisfaction level.

Research Design and Methodology

The questionnaire and personal interview method have been used as a data collection device required for the present study. The questionnaires were distributed randomly by hand at all

departments in RNSIT. Thus the study is conducted on a sample of 130 faculty members at RNSIT. A total number of 145 questionnaires were distributed, out of which 130 filled in questionnaires were returned back by the respondents in time.

Results and Discussion

Analysis of Data and Findings of the study: Data collected through structured questionnaires were analyzed using the tabulated frequency count and percentage. The findings were presented with each table.

Table -1: Distribution of Gender wise

Gender	No of Faculty	%
Male	72	55.38
Female	68	52.30
Total	130	100.00

Table-1: clearly reveals that 55.38% of male faculties are working in RNSIT, whereas, only 52.30 % of female members are working as faculty.

Table -2: Frequency of Using E-resources

Frequency of Using E-resources	No of Faculty	%
Daily	65	50.00
Once in a Week	47	36.15
Once in a Month	18	13.85
Total	130	100.00

Table -2: clearly shows that 50% of the faculty members are using E-resources once in a Day, whereas 36.15% of the faculty members are using E-resources once in a Week.

Table -3: Purpose of Using E-resources

Purpose of Using E-resources	No. of Faculty	%
For Teaching and Learning	63	48.46
To update the subject	14	10.77
To update current information	45	34.62
Entertainment	08	6.15
Total	130	100.00

The Faculties are using E-resources for different purposes; hence, the responses received regarding this are analyzed in figure 1 and Table-3. 48.46% of Faculties indicate that they are using E-resources for Teaching and Learning”, 34.62% are using for “update current information,” 10.77% are using for “update in the subject,” the least amount of faculties that is 6.15% using the E-resources for “Entertainment.”

Table -4: Use of Web Browser

Use of Web Browser	No. of Faculty	%
Google chrome	78	60.00
Mozilla firefox	42	32.31
Internet explorer	08	6.15
Opera	02	1.54
Total	130	100.00

Table -4: clearly shows that 60% of faculty members are use google chrome for browsing. 32.31% offaculty members use Mozilla firefox. Only 6.15% of faculty use Internet explorer.

Table -5: Benefits of Using E-resources

Benefits of Using E-resources	No. of Faculty	%
Time saving	47	36.15
Easy to use	39	30.00
More informative	44	33.85
Total	130	100.00

It is found from the table-5: that 36.15% of faculty members are using e-resources to save their time.33.85%faculty members use it because of more informative.30% use it because easy to use.

Table -6: Nature of Searching Information

Nature of Searching Information	No. of Faculty	%
Only subject	29	22.31
Only general	06	4.62
Both	95	73.08
Total	130	100.00

Table -6: clearly shows that 73.08% of faculty members are searching for information on both subjects and general. 22.31% search information through subject only. 4.62% search through general terms.

Table -7: Preferred E-resources

E-resources	No. of Faculty	%
e-books	25	19.23
e-journals	45	34.62
Online databases	39	30.00
E-magazine and E-newspaper	21	16.15
Total	130	100.00

It is found from table-7: that e-journals are preferred by 34.62% of the faculty. 30% is preferred to using online databases. 19.23% and 16.15%are preferred to using e-books&E-magazine and E-newspaper respectively.

Table -8: Place of Accessing E-resources

Place of Access	No. of Faculty	%
Library	57	43.85
Department	68	52.31
Cybercafe	02	1.54
Home	03	2.31
Total	130	100.00

The table-8: revealed that 52.31% of the faculty use e-resources from the Department. 43.85% use it from the library. 2.31% are using it from home and only 1.54% use it from cyber café.

Table -9: Problems while Accessing E-resources

Problems	No. of Faculty	%
Low Network Speed	76	58.46
Hanging system	47	36.15
Lack of system	07	5.38
Total	130	100.00

Table -9: clearly shows that 58.46% of a faculty member are facing low network speed problem while accessing e-resources. 36.15% are facing system hanging problem and 5.38% is lack of system problem.

Table -10: Satisfaction of E-resources

Satisfaction of E-resources	No. of Faculty	%
Fully Satisfied	94	72.31
Partially Satisfied	34	26.15
Least Satisfied	01	0.77
Unsatisfied	01	0.77
Total	130	100.00

It is found from table-10: that 72.31 % of faculty members are fully satisfied with e-resources. 26.15% are partially satisfied.

Conclusion

There is an urgent need to increase the utility of e-resources as the institute is spending a huge amount of money on e-resources. Acquiring more electronic resources in the subject area is needed. The RNSIT has subscribed to a vast variety of e-resources for the benefit of its faculty, students and research scholars for their teaching, learning and research etc. The faculty members are the backbone of this institution and therefore, they are given more facilities in the use of e-resources which will finally benefit their students and research scholars. It increases the quality and standards of students and enhances the reputation of the institution. From the above discussion, it is very clear that the majority of faculty members are using E-resources for Teaching and Learning and update current information. Most of the faculty members are preferred to use google chrome and Mozilla Firefox for browsing information both subject and general, especially e-journal and Online databases from their respective departments and the Library. The faculty member getting more benefits by using E-resources i.e., it saves their time, it is more informative and it is easy to use. Most of the faculty members are facing low network speed problem while accessing e-resources and also system hanging and lack of system. The authorities should take immediate steps to increase network speed and fix the hanging problem of computers that are interrupted by the use of e-resources. The orientation program should be organized for all the users is need at least one or two times annually.

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