

Pattern of e-Resources Usage at St. Ann's College for Women, Mehdiapatnam, Hyderabad: A study

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Abstract - *Libraries being important agencies in dissemination of information it is incumbent on them to become well informed of the needs of users and make sure of the use of their E-resources by them. The present study highlights the importance and pattern of usage of E-resources by the faculty and students of St. Ann's College for Women, Hyderabad*

Key words: Electronic Resources, Information Technology,

Introduction:

Electronic information is most essentially in this modern society because everyone can access everywhere. An electronic resource you can access through the internet. You can get the information when you need it. E-resources include electronic journals, electronic books, electronic thesis and online databases etc. There are many thousands of journals and books are available and the numbers of resources are added to our collections. Electronic resources are materials in digital format accessible electronically. Examples of e-resources are electronic journals, electronic books, and online databases in varied digital formats, Adobe Acrobat documents, WebPages and more. Use of e-resources permits the library to save space of library and time of the users. E-resources is a comprehensive term for all types of media for recording, communicating and preserving knowledge. These include books, journals, newspapers, maps, microforms, manuscripts in electronic forms. The libraries are acquiring resources or E-information making these available on internet for the benefit of their library users.

There is a great need of electronic resources these days. In view of this, importance is being given to user studies to know about their pattern of use, perception, level of satisfaction, motivation expectations etc. The present study is an attempt to report the use pattern of E-resources in St. Ann's College for Women, Mehdiapatnam.

Review of Literature:

Chauhan and Mahajan (2014) UGC is giving access to insightful electronic assets (e-assets) to Indian colleges through the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium. An exertion is being made to assess, how sociology personnel working in Indian colleges have been utilizing eresources,

what are the issues they are confronting in getting to them, and what are the endeavors made by INFLIBNET to spread mindfulness about such an ambitious activity of UGC among sociology employees. They highlight some imperative issues concerning use, acknowledgment and arranging of this consortium.

Garg and Tamrakar (2014) in their study on Utilization of Electronic Resources by Postgraduate Students, Research Scholars and Faculty members of Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur depicted that e-journals were preferred by the respondents as compared to other resources. The majority of users (63.10%) showed the awareness of e-journals and databases available in the library on the subjects of their study/ research. 45.15% of the respondents mentioned that they get the required information from the e-journals. 57.28% respondents mentioned that they get benefited from the e- alert service provided by the library on regular basis. The 52.66% respondents mentioned that the library asked them their information requirements before selecting the resources for the library. 40.53% of the respondents agreed that the e-services provided by the library helped in study and research.

Oak (2015) libraries of Management Institutions are using latest technology for rendering various IT based services to their esteem users. Now it has become necessary for these libraries to adopt the ICT tools and develop the collection of electronic resources by considering the sustainability issues and ultimately for retaining the interest of library users. Users are expecting access to more number of e-resources from the library along with the conventional library services. Accessibility to the required information at a fast rate as well as quick response to the query is the expectations of users.

Objectives of the study:

- To know the use of electronic resources and methods used in locating them
- To know the difficulties faced in the use of E-resources
- To identify the purpose of using the library
- To know the users level of satisfaction from library services and sources.

Methodology:

The structured questionnaires were personally distributed or mailed to the sample respondents in their respective e-mail addresses which ever possible, keeping the geographical convenience of the survey respondents in mind. For the present study, survey method has been adopted and a questionnaire has been designed to gather the relevant data. The designed questionnaires were distributed to 200 members of faculty, under-graduate students and post-graduate students a total of 140 members are responded.

Analysis and Discussion

Table-1 shows the number of respondents according to category, there are 35(25%) of faculty members, 35 (25%) under graduates and 70 (50%) per cent of post graduates from the study.

Table 1: Classification of Respondents according to status

Category	No. of respondents	%age
Faculty	35	25
Under Graduates	35	25
Post Graduate Students	70	50
Total	140	100

Age-wise respondents

Table-2 shows the groups it is found that 75% of the respondents belong to the 20-30 years age group. This is because all Graduate and Post Graduate students fall in the age group. Most of the faculty fall in the 31-40 years age group and only about 14% faculty are from 51-60 years age group.

Table 2: Classification of Respondents according to age

Category	20-30 Yrs	@age	31-40 Yrs	%age	41-50 Yrs	%age	51-60 Yrs	%age	Total	%age
Faculty	2	5.71	19	54.28	9	25.71	5	14.28	35	25
Under graduates	33	94.28							33	25
Post Graduates	70	100							70	50
Total	105	75	19	15	9	6.42	5	3.5	140	100

Use of e-resources

Table 3 shows that 83.57% of the respondents are familiar with E-journals. However there are still more than 16 percent who are not conversant with e-journals. Among faculty also 5.71 percent are not familiar with e-journals in their respective subjects.

table 3: Types of E-resources used : familiarity with E-journals

Category	Yes	%age	No	%age	Total	%age
Faculty	33	94.28	2	5.71	35	25
Under Graduates	32	91.42	3	8.57	35	25
Post Graduates	52	74.25	18	25.71	70	50
Total	117	83.57	23	16.42	140	100

Familiarity with online Databases

Table 4 shows that 85.71% of the respondents are familiar with online databases. This response is quite encouraging in the students though some faculty, undergraduates and postgraduate students are still not familiar with online databases.

Table 4 : Familiarity with online Databases

Category	Yes	%age	No	%age	Total	%age
Faculty	33	94.28	2	5.71	35	25
Under Graduates	31	88.57	4	11.42	35	25
Post Graduates	56	80	14	20	70	50
Total	120	85.71	20	14.28	140	100

Familiarity with CD-ROMS(Offline Database)

This table 5 shows that 60.71% respondents are familiar with CD-ROMS(Offline database) which is quite encouraging

Table 5 : Familiarity with CD-ROMS(Offline Database)

Category	Yes	%age	No	%age	Total	%age
Faculty	23	65.71	12	34.28	35	25
Under Graduates	20	57.14	15	42.85	35	25
Post Graduates	42	60	28	40	70	50
Total	85	60.71	55	55	140	100

Frequency of Use

In order to assess the frequency of using E-resources, the respondents were asked to indicate any one of six categories of frequency of visit. it has been found from Table6 10.71 percent of the respondents make use of E-resources daily, 48 percent 2-3 times a week. 14 Percent once a week. About 21 percent of them use the E-resources 2-3 times a month. However, 15.71 percent respondents use E-resources only occasionally.

Table 6: Frequency of Use

Frequency	Daily	%age	2-3times in month	%age	2-3 times in a week	%age	Once in a month	%age	Once In a week	%age	Occasionally	%age
Faculty	2	5.71	5	14.28	11	31.42	5	14.28	4	11.42	8	22.85
Under Graduates	4	11.42	4	11.42	12	34.28	6	17.14	3	8.57	6	17.14
Post Graduates	9	12.85	12	17.14	25	35.71	9	12.85	7	10	8	11.42
Total	15	10.71	21	1.5	48	34.28	20	14.28	14	10	22	15.71

Methods of Learning E-resource skills

Table 7 shows that the most popular methods of acquiring the necessary skills for using E-resources is the guidance from the friends/colleagues(51.42 percent) followed by self instruction (18.57 percent). About 10.71 percent of the respondents acquired the skills through trial and error methods. However library staff also helped about 7.14 users of E-resources.

Table 7: Methods of Learning E-resource skills

Category	Trial and error %		Guidance from the friends, Colleagues %		Guidance from the Library staff %		Self Instruction %		Guidance from the computer staff %		External sources %		Training offered by the Institution%		Total
Faculty	7	2.0	15	42.85	2	5.71	4	11.42	3	8.57	2	5.71	2	5.7	35
Under Graduates	2	5.71	23	65.71	1	2.85	7	20	-	-	2	5.71	-	-	35
Post Graduates	6	8.57	34	48.57	7	10	15	21.42	2	2.85	3	4.28	3	4.28	70
Total	15	10.71	72	51.42	10	7.14	26	18.57	5	3.57	7	5	5	3.57	140

Adequacy of Information in E-resources:

Table 8 indicates that majority of the respondents i.e.77.85% find the information in E-resources adequate, only sometimes; 20.71% find it adequate always and only about 1.42% of the respondents never find the information adequate enough for the purpose they are looking for.

Table 8: Adequacy of Information in E-resources:

Category	Always	%age	Sometimes	%age	Never	%age	Total	%age
Faculty	6	17.14	29	82.85	-	-	35	25
Under Graduates	14	40	21	60	-	-	35	25
Post Graduates	9	12.85	59	84.28	2	2.85	70	50
Total	29	20.71	109	77.85	2	2.85	140	100

Problems Faced while using E-resources

Table 9 shows some of the major problems faced to find the relevant information while using E-resources. The Most common problem faced by about 44.28% respondents is that it takes too long to get the relevant information. About 13.57 percent respondents stated that they could not find information due to lack of adequate IT Knowledge and skills

Table 9: Problems Faced while using E-resources

Category	A	%age	B	%age	C	%age	D	%age	E	%age	F	%age
Faculty	4	11.42	15	42.85	5	14.28	6	17.14	5	14.28	-	-
Under Graduates	5	14.28	13	37.14	6	17.14	4	11.42	7	20	-	-
Post Graduates	9	12.85	34	48.57	13	18.57	9	12.85	5	7.14	-	-
Total	18	12.85	62	44.28	24	17.14	19	13.57	17	12.14	-	-

Note: A - too much information is retrieved

B- it takes too long to get the relevant information

C- difficulty in finding the relevant information

D- Difficulty in using E-resources due to lack of IT knowledge

E- Limited access to computer

F- Any other

Success rate of Finding Required Information from E-resources

Table 10 indicates the success rate of finding required information from E-resources. About 50.71 percent of the respondents succeed in the range of 50-74 percent, 33.57 percent in the range of 25-49 percent, 8.57 percent in the range of 75-99 percent and only 3.57 percent respondents are in the range of less than 25% success

Table 11: Success rate of Finding Required Information from E-resources

Category	100%	%age	75-99% age	%age	50-74%	%age	25-49 %	%age	Less than 25%	%age	Total
Faculty	1	2.85	2	5.71	15	51.42	14	40	-	-	35
Under Graduates	2	5.71	3	8.57	16	45.71	13	37.14	1	2.85	35
Post Graduates	2	2.85	7	10	37	52.85	20	28.57	4	5.71	70
Total	5	3.57	12	8.57	71	50.71	47	33.57	5	3.57	140

Suggestions:

The Following suggestions based on the findings of the study are put forward to improve the use of E-resources among the faculty and students in the college.

- The problem of slow access speed can be overcome by increasing the bandwidth.
- Access to more E-journals how to use E-resources effectively should be organized at regular intervals.
- Awareness among the faculty and the students should be created through training ,orientation programmes to increase use E-resources to obtain current information
- There is need to create awareness among the user community of E-resources.
- There is also need to conduct the on-hand workshops/seminars/conferences to know the latest ICT Knowledge.

Conclusion:

This study shows the usage of E-resources is common among the user community in libraries of degree colleges. It is evident that the majority of respondents are dependent on E-resources to get desired and relevant information for their study as well as for their subject and for teaching. The E-resources are helping them very much in their work environment too. It is found that the practical use of E-resources is more important in the colleges to keep abreast of latest developments and to increase efficiency. The library would like to work on processes to streamline E-resources usage by faculty and students.

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