Use and Impact of ICT among the Users of Pondicherry University Library

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Abstract - *Information is an indispensable for human development as air is essential for the survival of all living organisms on earth, including human beings. The pace of change brought about by new information technologies has a key effect on the way people live, work, and play worldwide. The increasing role played by information technology in the development of library services for an active reaction to the challenges of the information service providing. The study attempts to discuss the fast development of Information Technology and its used in the library services. Today libraries are equipped to accomplish the newly Information Technology based services. Information Technology enabled services fulfill the information needs of the users at the right time in the right place to the right person.*

Key words: Information Technology, Libraries, Electronic Library, Digital Library.

Introduction

Information is the key factor of any kind of research and development. Information is a fundamental resource which is essential for survival in today's competitive and wired world. The information itself and way it is accessed have undergone changes owing to the developments in information and communication technology. It is a vital ingredient for socioeconomic and cultural development of any nation or individual. According to Kemp" Information is considered as the fifth need of man ranking after air, water, food and shelter". The value of information in every human endeavor cannot be overstressed. Quick and easy access to every required information is a supreme importance especially for libraries. Information technology application and the techniques are being used by the libraries for information processing, storage, communication, dissemination of information, automation etc. Further, origin of internet and the development of World Wide Web revolutionized the information communication technology. Recognizing the advantages application of information technology the libraries are essential to provide the facilities to their user community.

Information is universal- it is known to all men in all languages, there may or may not be precise or apt word in a language to describe the term 'information' but surely it is there. We receive the information throughout the day. According to Shannon and Weaver 'Information is any stimulus that reduces uncertainty". Another definition by Ching- Chin Chen and Peter Hernon defines information as "all knowledge, ideas, facts, data and imaginative works of mind which are communicated formally and or informally in any format.

This information that is so vital to human life, where does it come from? An in-depth study of how information is generated would be a difficult task, but is it can be safely be concluded that research is one of the better known areas where information takes root. Most of what we know today is a result of research. The work of experts in the fields of science, technology, social science and the humanities continue to give birth to information that is beneficial to the whole society. The government, understanding the major role that R&D plays, also continues to pour funds into these fields as a result of which more and more information is generated- so much so that the world is being bombarded with information leading to the phenomenon termed 'information explosion

Role of ICT in Research Libraries

The development of technology (Internet) has brought enormous opportunity to bring the results of research primarily to all through digital communication – anyone, anywhere and anytime. Lawrence[3] says, "Scientists now have almost instant access to large and rapidly increasing amount of information that previously drips the library in inter-library loan delay or substantial effort in locating the source"

Electronic publications can be accessed only when the necessary Information and Communication Technology infrastructure are made available to the users. The creation of infrastructure for accessing e –resources requires one time heavy investment
According to Oketunji , ICT include:

- Cooperation and the formation of library networks
- Easy integration of various activities within a library and between libraries in a Network
- Increasing the range of service offered

According to Onyekwelu, the convergence of three technologies such as computer technology, telecommunication technology and broadcasting technology has yielded the internet as the greatest vendor of the country. It offers unlimited possibilities and capabilities in communication and dissemination of information in various forms (Voice, graphics, data, etc.)
Adeogun says that the benefits of ICT in research libraries include:

- Transfer to data between mechanics
- Enhancement to team work across geographical distance
- Provision for electronic search
- Facilities for electronic resources sharing
- Promotion of great platform for fun and entertainment
- Quick and convenient exchange of information

Sharing of electronic information is possible only through consortia. In the opinion of Jalloh, information explosion, escalating prices of print journals, financial constraints and above all demand for faster supply of information through electronic means have forced libraries worldwide to share their resources through networks.

Review of Literature

Natarajan et al. (2010) survey of 117 faculty members and research scholars on use and user perception of electronic resources in Annamalai University reveals that despite the availability of wide range of e-resources the frequency of their use was low. The reasons identified for this are lack of time, lack of awareness, lack of subject coverage; and slow downloading.

Mahawar (2011) in his paper explains the utilisation of the library services, frequency and purpose of the internet use, awareness and time spent on the search engines and web sites, overall rating of the library/ documentation/ information/internet services, opinion for improvement the library services/ functions of the users of research and academic institution libraries at lucknow.

Thanuskodi and Ravi (2011) in their study found that the sources of information available via the internet are increasing exponentially, leading to steady increase in the use of internet for education and research. Since past few years, free online information sources like e-journals, e-books, e-databases have increased considerably. Earlier, information and knowledge were passed by word of mouth or through manuscripts, and communication was a slow process. Today, it is passed from one individual to an infinite number of other users through a number of media and formats which makes rapid and widespread dissemination of information possible. This paper discusses utilisation of digital resources by faculty and research scholars of manonmaniam sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. Results show that 67.14 percent of the faculty is familiar with the use of digital resources, and majority of these members are using digital resources for research purpose. Study also reveals that majority of the faculty members are learning the required skills for the usage of digital resources through self-study.

Satish kumar etc., (2011) analyzes the information needs and information communication technology of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientists working in nine life science laboratories in India. Data collected from 443 scientists employing structured questionnaires were analyzed using the lattes version of S=PLOT. Results revealed that DRDO life science scientists depend greatly on their respective library/information centres. Scientific journals have been ranked at the top for obtaining specific information and keeping up-to-date. Concludes that the working culture of the individual requiring information, the importance placed on getting it, the facilities available for technology it, the knowledge about these facilities, the judgment of their value and the probability of getting what is wanted affects information communication technology.

Eguavoen (2011) examined the attitudes of library staff to the use of ICT in Kenneth Dike Library. The sample for this study includes 101respondents comprising 21 professional librarians, 32 Para-professionals and 48 non professional staff of the library. The study developed and utilized Attitudes of Library Staff to the Use of ICT Scale (ALSUICTS) to elicit information from the respondents. The Friedman test was carried out and Pearson correlation matrix where (df = 39, r.obs = 5, at P<0.05) was used in analyzing the data. The findings showed that generally library staffs in Kenneth Dike Library have a positive attitude toward the use and implementation of ICT and that knowledge of ICT and training influence positive attitudes

towards ICT. Based on the findings it is recommended that staff of libraries be trained to allay the fears and anxiety about the use and application of ICT in their respective libraries".

Objectives of the Study

- To study the existing information and communication technology such as information resources and Tools availability in the libraries of the research institutions libraries in Pondicherry.
- To study the existing information and communication technology such as Use of Information Resources and Tools among the students in the libraries of the research institutions libraries in Pondicherry.

Methodology

As a study is confined to Pondicherry University, a standard research tool has been proposed to find facts, figures and other much needed Based on the objectives of the study the questionnaire method is found suitable for collecting the data. The structured questionnaire has been designed that it could be answer within a short time by eliminating descriptive type of questions. This questionnaire was distributed with personal visit amongst 1000 (users belonging to various disciplines. Out of which, 808 filled in questionnaire were received with the response rate of 80.6%. The data was analyzed statistically.

Results

The data obtained through the questionnaires provided an in depth interpretation for fulfilling the research paper objectives.

Demographic Characteristics of the Study

Table-1: Type of respondents

Respondents	No of Respondents	%
PG Students	600	74.25
Research Scholars	208	25.74
Total	808	100.00

The table-1, is clearly indicates that, out of 808 respondents 600 (74.25%) are PG students and 208 (25.74%) are research scholars. So majority of the respondents are PG students.

Table- 2 indicates that, 23.8% of respondents are almost every day, 30.7% of respondents twice in a week, 21.8% of respondents once in a week, 12.5% once in a month, 6.4% of respondents rarely and 4.8% of respondents are never of use in internet, 20.9% of respondents are almost every day, 38.5% of respondents twice in a week, 21.9% of respondents once in a week, 8.2% once in a month, 5.8% of respondents rarely and 4.7% osf respondents are never of use in Infonet, 20.9% of respondents are almost every day, 28.1% of respondents twice in a week, 20.7% of respondents once in a week, 14.1% once in a month, 8.8% of respondents rarely and 7.4% of respondents are never of use in database, 24.6% of respondents are almost every day,

40.0% of respondents twice in a week, 23.0% of respondents once in a week, 8.2% once in a month, 2.2% of respondents rarely and 2.0% of respondents are never of use in OPAC.

Table 2: Frequency of Use of Information Resources and Tools

S.No.	Tools/ Resources	Almost Every Day	Twice in a Week	Once in a Week	Once in a Month	Rarely	Never	Total
1.	Internet	192 (23.8%)	248 (30.7%)	176 (21.8%)	101 (12.5%)	52 (6.4%)	39 (4.8%)	808 (100.0%)
2.	Infonet	169 (20.9%)	311 (38.5%)	177 (21.9%)	66 (8.2%)	47 (5.8%)	38 (4.7%)	808 (100.0%)
3.	Database	169 (20.9%)	227 (28.1%)	167 (20.7%)	114 (14.1%)	71 (8.8%)	60 (7.4%)	808 (100.0%)
4.	OPAC	199 (24.6%)	323 (40.0%)	186 (23.0%)	66 (8.2%)	18 (2.2%)	16 (2.0%)	808 (100.0%)

Table 3: Frequency of Use of Information Resources and Tools

S.No.		Tools/ Resources	Almost Every Day	Twice in a Week	Once in a Week	Once in a Month	Rarely	Never	Total
1.	Internet	PG students	194 (32.3%)	147 (24.5%)	131 (21.8%)	67 (11.2%)	34 (5.7%)	27 (4.5%)	600 (100.0%)
		Research Scholar	54 (26.0%)	45 (21.6%)	45 (21.6%)	34 (16.3%)	18 (8.7%)	12 (5.8%)	208 (100.0%)
		Total	192 (23.8%)	248 (30.7%)	176 (21.8%)	101 (12.5%)	52 (6.4%)	39 (4.8%)	808 (100.0%)
2.	Infonet	PG students	249 (41.5%)	129 (21.5%)	130 (21.7%)	41 (6.8%)	28 (4.7%)	23 (3.8%)	600 (100.0%)
		Research Scholar	62 (29.8%)	40 (19.2%)	47 (22.6%)	25 (12.0%)	19 (9.1%)	15 (7.2%)	208 (100.0%)
		Total	169 (20.9%)	311 (38.5%)	177 (21.9%)	66 (8.2%)	47 (5.8%)	38 (4.7%)	808 (100.0%)
3.	Database	PG students	166 (27.7%)	125 (20.8%)	125 (20.8%)	87 (14.5%)	52 (8.7%)	45 (7.5%)	600 (100.0%)
		Research Scholar	61 (29.3%)	44 (21.2%)	42 (20.2%)	27 (13.0%)	19 (9.1%)	15 (7.2%)	208 (100.0%)
		Total	169 (20.9%)	227 (28.1%)	167 (20.7%)	114 (14.1%)	71 (8.8%)	60 (7.4%)	808 (100.0%)
4.	OPAC	PG students	246 (41.0%)	147 (24.5%)	142 (23.7%)	48 (8.0%)	9 (1.5%)	8 (1.3%)	600 (100.0%)
		Research Scholar	77 (37.0%)	52 (25.0%)	44 (21.2%)	18 (8.7%)	9 (4.3%)	8 (3.8%)	208 (100.0%)
		Total	199 (24.6%)	323 (40.0%)	186 (23.0%)	66 (8.2%)	18 (2.2%)	16 (2.0%)	808 (100.0%)

Table- 3 indicates that, PG students 32.3% of respondents are almost every day, 24.5% of respondents twice in a week, 24.5% of respondents once in a week, 21.8% once in a month, 11.2% of respondents rarely and 5.7% of respondents are never of use in internet, Research Scholar 4.5% of respondents are almost every day, 26.0% of respondents twice in a week, 21.6% of respondents once in a week, 21.6% once in a month, 16.3% of respondents rarely and 8.7% of

respondents are never of use in Internet, PG students 41.5% of respondents are almost every day, 21.5% of respondents twice in a week, 21.7% of respondents once in a week, 6.8% once in a month, 4.7% of respondents rarely and 3.8% of respondents are never of use in internet, Research Scholar 29.8% of respondents are almost every day, 19.2% of respondents twice in a week, 22.6% of respondents once in a week12.0% once in a month, 9.1% of respondents rarely and 7.2% of respondents are never of use in Infonet. PG students 27.7% of respondents are almost every day, 20.8% of respondents twice in a week, 20.8% of respondents once in a week, 14.5% once in a month, 8.7% of respondents rarely and 7.5% of respondents are never of use in database, Research Scholar 29.3% of respondents are almost every day, 21.2% of respondents twice in a week, 20.2% of respondents once in a week13.0% once in a month, 9.1% of respondents rarely and 7.2% of respondents are never of use in database. PG students 41.0% of respondents are almost every day, 24.5% of respondents twice in a week, 23.7% of respondents once in a week, 8.0% once in a month, 1.5% of respondents rarely and 1.3% of respondents are never of use in OPAC, Research Scholar 37.0% of respondents are almost every day, 25.0% of respondents twice in a week, 21.2% of respondents once in a week 8.7% once in a month, 1.5% of respondents rarely and 3.8% of respondents are never of use in OPAC.

Findings

- Result shows that out of 808 respondents 600 (74.25%) are PG students and 208 (25.74%) are research scholars. So majority of the respondents are PG students.
- Result revels that the respondents Use of Information Resources and Tools Almost Every Day and Twice in a Week frequency using internet.
- Result inferred that the highest use of information resources and tools of respondents are PG students. Respondents expressed that, Frequency of Use of Information Resources and Tools among the different type using internet such as internet, infonet, database and OPAC.

Conclusion

In fact, it is now difficult to imagine a world without information technology. The provision and use of ICT is part and parcel of the entire system, to both the students, information professionals and the institutions. With the help of ICT to deliver the services of their user is very easy and fast and also it can save the time of user and staff both. Nowadays ICT has totally changed the concept of library and information center as it was in early days. Libraries are adopting ICT for performing both housekeeping operations as well as for providing services to the library patrons. Application of ICT has added value to the services and libraries are becoming popular among the patrons. With the aid of ICT libraries are actually marching towards achieving the goal of providing pinpointed exhaustive and expeditious information to those who are in need of that information. Information and communication technology is applied for providing information services which are more convenient, better accessible and cost effective.

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