

Use Electronic Resources by the Post-Graduate Students of JSS College, Dharwad: A study

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***Abstract** - The major objective of present study was to assess the usage of electronic resources by post-graduate (PG) students of JSS College, Dharwad and to verify how electronic resources are helpful to PG students. The study was carried out through a structured questionnaire by taking representative sample of PG students. The results revealed the electronic resources are quite useful to PG students and these are good alternatives compared conventional print resources or hard copies. Digitalization of libraries is quite useful for dissemination of knowledge among PG students.*

Keywords: Electronic resources, e-books, e-journals, Post-graduate students

1. Introduction

Advancement in the area Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and their usages in the libraries of universities have led to proper and speedy dissemination of knowledge. ICT utilization has brought about revolution in the proper collection, processing, storage, retrieval and communication of knowledge, literature and information by the libraries (Tripathi and Jeevan, 2013). Electronic resources such as electronic journals (e-journals), electronic books (e-books), and electronic databases (e-databases) are three major categories e-resources of major libraries in higher education and research institutes. Majority of the universities and institutes are now equipping with e-resources.

Review of Literature

Bhatia (2011) in her paper Use of electronic resources in degree college libraries in Chandigarh studied the 11 degree college in Chandigarh. And find out the impediments encountered by the users while accessing and using the e-resources.

Sonkar et.al. (2014) in their study the advancement of the information technology and web technology have brought changes to existing information storage and retrieval system such as Digital library, online database, digital repository, virtual library, etc. Majority of users are utilising for the various purpose like teaching, research and updating their knowledge etc. To investigate and explore the use of electronic resource this study has been conducted.

Thangam & Padma (2016) study was examined the usage of web resources by the research scholars in Madras university. The study found that maximum of respondent uses the web resources for Academic purpose, Google is the most used search engine, majority of the respondents uses the Gmail account, scholars are access the web resources from library, the study further found that majority of the respondent prefer the advanced search option, and

Key word/Subject search is most prefer search method. The study also revealed that most of the scholars face virus and frequent loss of signal problems.

Need for the study

Any post graduate studies needs good library facility for learning process. These days many leading colleges are offering PG courses and JSS College, Dharwad is offering PG courses such Master of Arts (MA) in English, Master of commerce (M.Com) and Master of Computer Applications (MCA). The current study evaluates use of electronic resources by the PG students of JSS College, Dharwad.

Objectives of the study

- To examine the awareness of e-resources among PG students
- To analyze how e-resources are utilized by PG students
- To assess the problems faced by PG students while accessing e-resources
- To find out the ways and means for improving the collection of e-resources at PG centers

Methodology

The survey has been conducted by using questionnaire to collect the data in order to achieve the above mentioned objectives.

Data analysis and interpretation

Gender wise distribution

Data on frequency of male and female respondents is presented in Table 1. Among the respondents 86 (67.18%) were female, and 42 were male. The data suggests that majority of female students are perusing PG courses at this PG center.

Table 1 Gender wise distribution of respondents

Gender	Respondents	Percentage
Male	42	32.81
Female	86	67.18
Total	128	100

Age wise distribution of respondents

Table 2 describes the data on age wise distribution respondents, out of 128 respondents, 103 respondents belongs to the age group of 21-23 years, followed by 24 respondents belongs 24-26 years of age. The data reveals that majority of the learners were youngsters irrespective of course sought by them. These results are in contrast to western countries where the PG admission seekers are of different age groups.

Table 2 Age wise distribution of respondents

Age	Respondents		
P G course chosen by respondents	M. A. in English	M. Com.	M.C.A.
Age group 21-23	21 (65.62%)	18 (81.81%)	64 (86.48%)
Age group 24 and above	11 (34.37%)	4 (18.18%)	1 (1.35%)

Awareness of e-resources among PG students

The data on awareness of e-resources among PG students is presented in Table 3. Majority of PG students irrespective of their discipline i.e., 84.50% of MA students, 90.90% of M. Com. students and 90.50% of MCA students are aware of e-resources.

Table 3 Awareness of e-resources among PG students

Awareness of e-resources	Respondents		
	M. A.	M. Com.	M.C.A
Aware	27 (84.50%)	18 (90.90%)	67 (90.50%)
Unaware	5 (15.50%)	2 (9.10%)	7 (9.50%)
Total	32 (100%)	22 (100%)	74 (100%)

Frequency of use of e-resources

Table 4 presents the data on frequency of use of e-resources by PG students and 18 (56.25%) respondents of M.A., 12 (54.50%) respondents of M. Com. and 15 (20.25%) of M.C.A. are using e-resources 2-3 times a week. 8 (25.00%) students of M.A., 4 (18.25%) students of M.Com. and 45 (60.25%) students of M.C.A. opined that they use e-resources whenever information is necessary. Less frequency of PG students are using e-resources occasionally.

Table 4 Frequency of using e-resources by PG students

Frequency	Respondents		
	M. A.	M. Com.	M.C.A
Two – three times in a week	18 (56.25%)	12 (54.50%)	15 (20.25%)
Whenever necessary	8 (25.00%)	4 (18.25%)	45 (60.25%)
Occasionally	6 (18.75%)	6 (27.25%)	14 (19.50%)
Total	32 (100%)	22 (100%)	74 (100%)

Types of e-resources chosen by respondents to locate information

In Table 5 data on types of e-resources used by PG students is presented and 19 out of 32 M. A. students, 17 out of 22 M. Com. students and 55 out of 74 M.C.A. students utilize e-journals for their studies. Similarly, 30 (93.75%) of M. A. students, 14 (63.50%) of M. Com. students and 38 (51.25%) of M.C.A. students employed e-books for retrieving information. Some students also utilize other e-resources such as databases, e-thesis and dissertations and online reports.

Table 5 Types of e-resources used by respondents to locate information

Types of e-resources used to locate information	Respondents		
	M. A. (n=32)	M. Com. (n=22)	M.C.A.(n=74)
E-journals	19 (59.50%)	17 (77.25%)	55 (74.25%)
E-books	30 (93.75%)	14 (63.50%)	38 (51.25%)

Databases	12 (37.50%)	11 (50.00%)	43 (58.25%)
E-thesis and dissertations	15 (46.75%)	5 (22.75%)	21 (28.50%)
Online reports	16 (50.00%)	7 (31.75%)	13 (17.50%)

Purpose of using e-resources

Table 6 represents the data on purpose of utilization e-resources by PG students. Twenty nine (90.50) M. A. students, 17 (77.25%) M. Com. students and 51 (68.75%) M.C.A. students utilize e-resources in their studies. Similarly, 52.75% of M. A. students, 63.50% of M. Com. students and 29.75% of M. C. A. students utilize the e-resources for seminar or workshop presentations. Good number of students belonging to all disciplines employs the e-resources based information for updating their knowledge in the subject, project work, paper writing.

Table 6 Purpose of using e-resources

Purpose of using e-resources	Respondents		
	M. A. (n=32)	M. Com. (n=22)	M.C.A.(n=74)
For study purpose	29 (90.50%)	17 (77.25%)	51 (68.75%)
Seminar/workshop presentations	18 (52.75%)	14 (63.50%)	22 (29.75%)
For finding relevant information in their area of research or specialization	6 (18.75%)	8 (36.25%)	13 (13.50%)
Project work	11 (34.25%)	11 (50.00%)	29 (39.25%)
Paper writing	9 (28.25%)	15 (68.25%)	33 (44.50%)

Place chosen to access e-resources

Table 7 presents the data on places chosen by respondents to access e-resources. Majority of PG students prefer to utilize e-resources in the library i.e., 50.00% of M.A. students, 73.25% of M. Com. students and 77.00% of M.C.A. used e-resources in the library. 28.00% of M.A. students, 15.75% of M. Com. students and 15.25% of M.C.A. use computer laboratories of their college. Few percentages of students all the three discipline also collect information in cyber café.

Table 7 Place of access of e-resources

Place of access of e-resources	Respondents		
	M. A. (n=32)	M. Com. (n=22)	M.C.A.(n=74)
Library	16 (50.00%)	15 (73.25%)	57 (77.00%)
Computer Laboratory of the Department	9 (28.00%)	4 (15.75%)	13 (15.25%)
Cyber-cafe	6 (22.00%)	3 (11.00%)	4 (8.75%)

Problems faced by the respondents while accessing e-resources

Respondents were interrogated to give their opinion on problems faced by them while accessing e-resources and the data is presented Table 8. 87.50% of M.A. and 77.25% of M.Com. and 91.75% of M.C.A. students are of the opinion that major problem in accessing e-resources was slow server speed. Similarly, 59.25%, 68.25%, 74.50% of M.A., M. Com and M.C.A students felt that power failure is the another main cause in accessing e-resources. Some of the PG students are also experiencing break down of system and inadequate training in accessing e-resources.

Table 8 Problems faced by the respondents while accessing e-resources

Problems faced by respondents	Respondents		
	M. A. (n=32)	M. Com. (n=22)	M.C.A.(n=74)
Slow server speed	28 (87.50%)	17 (77.25%)	68 (91.75%)
Power supply problems	19 (59.50%)	15 (68.25%)	55 (74.50%)
Breakdown of systems	15 (46.75%)	21 (95.50%)	32 (43.25%)
Lack of proper guidance	14 (43.75%)	9 (40.75%)	24 (32.50%)

3.9 Opinion about usefulness of e-resources

Data on level of satisfaction by the e-resources users is presented in Table 9. 75.00% of M. A. students, 72.75% of M. Com. students and 82.50 % of M. C. A. students were satisfied with e-resource facility provided to them in the college. However, 25.00% of M.A., 27.25% of M. Com. and 17.50% of M. Com. students were not satisfied with e-resource facility provided to them.

Table 9 Opinion about usefulness of e-resources

Opinion about usefulness of e-resources	Respondents		
	M. A. (n=32)	M. Com. (n=22)	M.C.A.(n=74)
Satisfied	24 (75.00%)	16 (72.75%)	61 (82.50%)
Not satisfied	8 (25.00%)	6 (27.25%)	13 (17.50%)

Findings of the study

Major finding of the present survey is e-resources are essential part of the post-graduate studies and 84.50%, 90.75%, 90.50% of M. A., M. Com., and M.C.A. students of JSS College, Dharwad are aware e-resources for the collection of information. 56.25%, 54.50%, 20.25% of M. A., M. Com., and M.C.A. students of JSS college are referring the e-resources to gather information and knowledge. Majority of PG students of JSS College are utilizing e-journals and e-books for collecting information. 90.50%, 77.25% and 18.75% of M. A., M. Com., and M.C.A. students are using e-resources for the purpose of their studies. Most of the students were using library facility for collection of information based on e-resources.

Major problems faced by the respondents were low speed of internet and frequent power breakdown issues. Irrespective of these problems PG students of JSS College are satisfied with the e-resources in collection of information. The current survey opinion of PG students also corroborates with the opinion of medical (Farahi and Gandhi, 2011) students. Similar to the present findings Hadagali and Kumbhar (2011), Husaain and Ansari (2010) conducted survey and their results also support the usefulness of e-resources in college and university libraries.

Recommendations and conclusion

It is evident from the current study that e-resources should be integral part of University and college libraries and are useful in accessing information. It is recommended the authorities of JSS College, Dharwad to facilitate high-speed computer terminals at college library and departments, uninterrupted power supply and good systems should be provided to the students. The library web page should be designed in such a way that it should provide information and guidelines for utilization of e-resources. Library personnel should conduct short term training course on ways, means and procedures to access e-resources.

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