

Use of Electronic Information Resources and Services by the Faculty members of First Grade Colleges Affiliated to Davanagere University: A Literature Review

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***Abstract** – In the 21 century the higher education plays an significant role and is one of the key drivers for the growth, performance and competitiveness of an individual at national and international level, due to the rapid growth of the Information and communication technology the higher education system is going through significant changes. The E- resources are playing a major role in enhancing the knowledge of users across the globe. In this view an attempt has been made in this article to review the existing literature on the awareness about e- resources, use of internet, and e- services by the faculty members of various college libraries and further literature review also covers on the users search strategy and preferred search engines while searching information through online.*

Key words: E-Resources, Internet. College Libraries, Faculty members, Search engines, Literature review

Introduction

In this paper, significant studies has been carried out in various aspects of Electronic Information resources such as use of electronic information resources, Use of electronic resources, use of internet, use of CD-ROMs databases ,use of e- journals, and use of search engines and search strategy. The information searching habits of internet users is multifaced and the literature available is extremely broad ranging, an attempt has been made review the related literature in the above mentioned areas.

Review of literature

A review of literature reveals that there is a large amount of literature available on the use of electronic information resources & services, but no in depth study has been done on the use of electronic information resources by the faculty members of First grade colleges under study. The present study is an attempt to clearly establish and exhibits the use of electronic information resources by the faculty members of First grade colleges. This part of the study covers the studies on the use of Electronic Information Resources, Use of Electronic

Resources, Use of Internet, Use of Search Engines, Use of Search Strategy, Use of Problems and Satisfaction by Indian academics, these results has been discussed in detail.

Use of Electronic Information Resources

Murugan, M. A. (2016) conducted a Survey on Knowledge and Use of Electronic Information Resources by the Faculty of Banaras Hindu University and his results revealed that 97% of the respondents have knowledge of e-resources. 94% of faculty members are using e-resources for their teaching and research. Most of the respondents are satisfied with available E-resources in the library.

A case study carried out at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai by Priyadharshini, Janakiraman, Subramanian (2015) on awareness of usage of Electronic Information Resources by the Students, Research Scholars and Faculty Members. They revealed that almost all respondents have fully awareness about the available e-resources, such as freely available through the internet, e-journals, e-books, e-data archives, e-magazines, e-thesis and dissertations, e-newspapers, e-dictionaries, e-encyclopedia, CD-ROM databases and online databases. The study also found that all Faculty members were using mainly e-resources freely available through internet search engines like google, Yahoo etc., and e-journals.

Another study by Isabella, M., & Esmail, S. M. (2012), studied the usage of electronic information resources among the academic community of pharmacy colleges in Chennai City. The study found that most of the respondents frequently used and considered as the most importance e-resources, i.e. online database, e-journals, web resources, CD-ROM and e-newsletter and used for the purpose of updating their subject knowledge, General knowledge and career development. The study result also found that PDF and HTML are most preferred file format for downloading articles from e-resources of the academic community of pharmacy colleges in Chennai city. It is found that more than 80% of the respondents very much satisfied with full text database and CD-ROM.

A case Study by Tyagi, S. (2011) conducted on the Use and awareness of electronic information sources at IIT Roorkee, India. The study showed that the majority of respondents marked that library possessed useful online journals and databases. Awareness among the users about the availability of the EIS was found highly satisfactory. EIS were mostly used for research needs. The EIS is better for accessing current Comprehensive information. The user's perception of e-resources as a replacement for print in meeting their information needs is 100% to a very high extent e-resources have become a substitute for printed materials.

Kaur, B., & Verma, R. (2009) in their case study at Thapar University examined the Use of electronic information resources. A total number of 504 users from the undergraduate, postgraduate, research scholar and faculty members were selected and their response was obtained with the help of a questionnaire. The findings show that users from all these categories were using e-resources, the awareness about e-resources to encourage users to use such resources to the maximum and the users are using computer center and hostels more for accessing the information. The impact of e-resources were visible from the decrease in the number of printed journals in comparison to the increase in the number of electronic journals. The use of e-journals has increased manifold. The printed material is being quickly replaced by the electronic resources.

Another similar study conducted by Sivaprasad et al (2009) on Teachers approach to Electronic Information Resources. The study reveals that 67.50% and 38.75% of college teachers use electronic information resources for the purpose of their classroom teaching and research work respectively. 88.75% of teachers use Internet as an electronic information resource. The study reveals that majority (78.75%) of the teachers opined that access to current information is only through electronic resources. 71.25% of respondents stated that too much information retrieved is one of the major hindrance in using.

Similarly a study by Kumar and Sampath Kumar (2008) conducted a study on Use of Electronic Information Sources by the Academic Community: A comparative study. The investigation showed that that students and faculty use the electronic information in support of their study and teaching. Although the majority of students and faculty generally feel that the electronic information sources provide faster and reliable information still they prefer to use print as well as electronic information sources.

Another study conducted by Sujatha and Mudhol (2008) on the use of electronic information sources (EIS) by the teachers/scientists, research scholars and postgraduate students in the College of Fisheries, Mangalore. It is observed the majority of respondents have rich experience in the use of electronic information sources, where 75.5% have more than 3 years of experience. Respondent's use the computer in the computer laboratory (69.1%) followed by at their home or cybercafé (60.2%) and at their departments (54.1%). E-mail is the most frequently used electronic information sources followed by e- journal (65.4%) and CD-ROM bibliographic database (60.5%). The majority of respondents (88.9%) use of EIS for the purpose of their / project work, while 87.6% use it for ongoing research work. The most popular method of EIS learning among the respondents was found that the assistance of college / friends (76.5%) and self-study (74.1%).

Rajeswari, (2005) studied the use of electronic information sources and services by faculty, research scholars and students of Sri Padmavathi Mahila University, Tirupati. It was observed that internet access, e-mail and OPAC were used by almost all the teachers. It was also found that the teaching staff and research scholars very much benefited from access to e- journals.

Use of Electronic Resources

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 about the available e-resources in their library. The majority of the respondents (73.96%) are getting 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 overall usage of e-resources.

In the similar way Madhan Mohan and Vijaya Kumar (2015) conducted study on the utilization of e-resources among the faculty members in Engineering Colleges in Karaikal region, pudhucherry. The analysis was conducted 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 very important role for 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 are depending more on e-resources for their current information needs. Familiarity with latest tools for internet application 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 that the faculty awareness and use of electronic resources in their academic and research needs.

Further Dhanavandan, S., et al (2012) conducted 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.

In 2012 another similar study was conducted by Sivasubramaniyan, G., & Batcha, M. S., on Dependency of Electronic Resources and Information of the Faculty Members of Pondicherry University and its affiliated colleges. The study found that the usage of e-resources among the faculty members is considerably increased. The infrastructure facility requires to be improved in some of the self-financing colleges and aided colleges for effective use of e-resources provided by the University. Only very few of the faculty members are very satisfied with the service provided by their institution and others are not up to the level of expectation.

Similarly, Hadagali, G. S., et al (2012) conducted study on Use of electronic resources by post-graduate students in different universities of Karnataka. The study revealed that the information content in e-resources is better than the print versions, most of the user's access e-resources to search bibliographical information. Lack of availability of personal computers and internet bandwidth is the two main Problems faced by users. The study recommends to form a consortium at the state level to add substantial e-resources to the existing collections in the university libraries.

Another comprehensive study of Bhatia, J. K. (2011) conducted to know the usage of e-resources and services by the users of degree college libraries in Chandigarh to find out the impediments encountered by the users while accessing and using the e-resources and suggest measures to take full advantage of IT to make degree college libraries more digitally resourceful and for providing data information services from the users. Teacher and students to know the impact of e-resources.

Further Thanuskodi, S. (2011) conducted a case study on Usage of electronic resources at the Dr TPM Library, Madurai Kamaraj University. The study confirmed that respondents are aware of the e-resources and various types of e-resources, e-database, and e-journals. The

study recommended the improvement in the access facilities with high internet speed and subscriptions to more e-resources at the Dr T.P.M. Library, Madurai Kamaraj University.

A survey of faculty members at HKBK college of Engineering by Mulla, K., (2011). The author suggested that the library must conduct training programs for faculty members regarding how to use electronic resources frequently and also concluded that the majority of the respondents are using electronic resources for relevant information in their subject knowledge and teaching purposes.

In case of the study conducted by Natarajan, K., et al. (2010) on Use and user perception of electronic resources in Annamalai University. The study reveals that despite the availability of a wide range of e-resources the frequency of their use is low. For this the study also identified the reasons are lack of time, lack of awareness, lack of subject coverage and slow downloading.

Another comprehensive study of by Patil, D. B., & Parameshwar, S. (2009) on faculty members and research scholars Use of electronic resources in Gulbarga University. The study revealed that the availability of electronic resources in the Gulbarga University Library are much helpful in fulfilling their information needs. There is need to train the faculty and research scholars in using the electronic resources. Further, there is a need to include a number of journals in the UGC-Infonet Consortium.

Another an Empirical Study conducted by Alwarammal, R., et al (2009), on the Promotion and usage of Electronic Resources by the students and faculty member in Engineering Colleges in Tamil Nadu, India They found that the 50% of the faculty and students are aware, and also actively used the electronic resources. Maximum number of the users preferred e-journals and e-databases for quick searching and downloading for their project work, presentation of conference and seminar, research work and continuing professional development.

Another similar study conducted by Kumar, A. (2009) on the usage of electronic resources in Business Schools in India, FIIB. The study found that most of the respondents are aware of the e-resources and they considered the importance of the e-resources is very much required for study, teaching and research. The study found that problems i.e. sometime the host website speed is very slow while accessing e-resources by the respondents.

Conclusion

From the above studies it is observed that numbers of studies has been carried out on the use of electronic information resources by the faculty members of different colleges including first grade colleges, most of these studies were undertaken on various aspects like use of internet, awareness and use of electronic information resources and services, frequency and purpose of using internet and electronic resources, and search engines, search strategies used while searching the information through online.

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