

USE PATTERN OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES AMONG PROFESSIONALS IN DENTAL COLLEGES: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to evaluate the use pattern of electronic information resources among professionals in dental colleges in and around Chennai. The post graduate students and faculty members were selected for this study. Questionnaire method was adopted to collect the data followed by post graduate students and faculties of the various dental colleges in Chennai. Out of 200 questionnaires only 178 (89%) were received from respondents. Out of 60 faculty members, 58 were received and Out of 140, the 120 questionnaires were received. Maximum professional are mentioned they used the e-resources for the purpose of to write and publish the papers as well as to broaden the area of attention and work done in related areas

Keywords: E-resources, Dental College professionals, Use pattern

INTRODUCTION:

Today users may have an access variety of textual information resources. There different kinds of web based resources and services for accessing information from libraries such as OPAC, Gateways, Portals, Subject Portals , Electronic Journals , Online databases, subject directories and search engine. These resources overlap considerably in the type of information they cover, and some times it is difficult to distinguish between some of them. A library should have good collection of these resources like selected web links. Subscription resources, and library materials in well organized pages of for serving better service to their users.

In the present scenario, the utilization of E-Resources is providing a platform for the Academic excellence in India. The information sources are tremendously available in the electronic media. Various consortia's are providing the e-resouces. The present study reveals that the availability of e-resources, purpose and frequency of accessing the e-resources, impact of e-resources and the problems that are encountered while accessing the e-resources by the dental science students and faculties.

In the global level the dental science education has got its significance equal to the medical education. In Tamil Nadu the growth of the dental colleges has high compared with other states in India. Dental Council of India (DCI) is regularizing the Dental education in India. Information

and communication technology growth helps to innovate the ideas in treatment to the diseases. In the fast moving world we gathered the information with the help of ICT and the lacking of time is avoided. The e-resources are the gift to support the academic community for teaching, learning and research activities.

REVIEW LITERATURE

Sharma (2009)¹ identifies e-resources to include journals, data archives, manuscripts, maps, books, magazines, theses, newspapers, e-mail, research reports, and bibliographic databases. Govinda raju (2010) found by his survey that the use of electronic resources is found to be significant among the users of the Andhra University. This is quite natural and expected in the present day implementation environment. Some of the resources such as e-book, e-encyclopedias, e-dictionaries are less used. He also felt that to further maximize use of the e-resources, wide publicity and imparting trainings were found to be necessary.

Kattimani and Kamble (2010) made a study on awareness of Internet and online information resources. His study is confined only to the Honey well library, Bangalore. Data collected from the administrative staff, supportive staff and software engineers. The response rate is 80%. The study revealed that about 80.2% of the library users have quality awareness on Internet information resources. Dhanavandan (2011) paper highlighted that a large portion of librarians are aware of the internet, but they do not know all of its techniques and applications. Further, the librarians still do not have knowledge about the internet and related applications. For this purpose, there is need for effective user education, to develop awareness and knowledge to the users. More efforts by librarian are needed to educate users to effectively use the internet and its techniques and applications. Dhanavandan (2012) describes the Use of Digital Library Resources by the engineering professionals in the engineering colleges at Cuddalore District, and investigates the current state-of-the art information through the digital library resources. The 33.7% of users feel that lack of information is the problems with access of digital library resources. The findings of this study would assist the internet browsers to improve their level

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Today's libraries are totally changed to provide better and innovative services to the users. Due to the development of information communication technology based resources the user's attitude were changed. Libraries are the soul of the education system which provides the information what we need. So, in this situation electronic information resources may take the vital role in higher education systems. This is the time for analysis the use pattern among the professionals then only it will be helpful in future.

OBJECTIVES

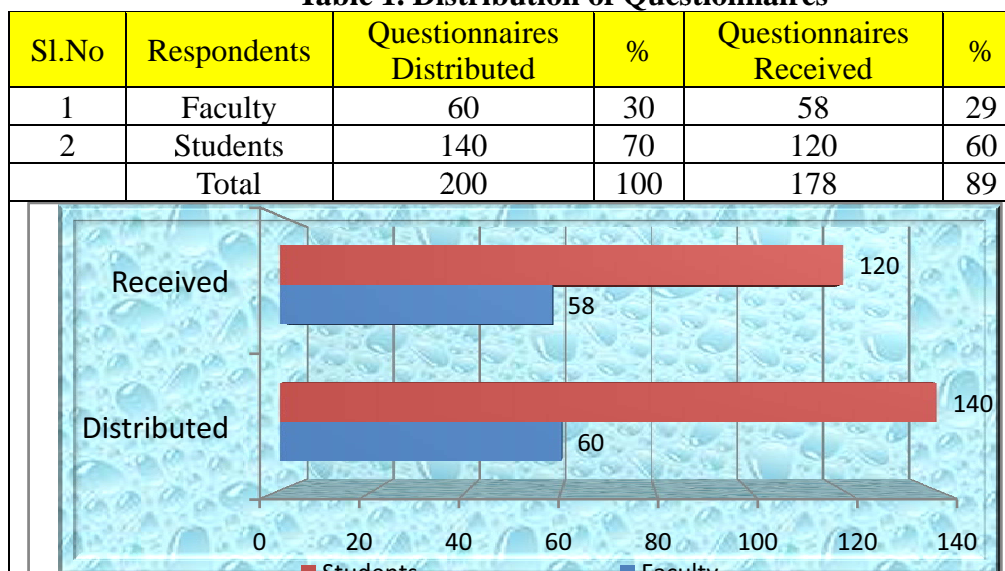
1. To know the purpose of on e-resources both faculties and students
2. To examine the frequency of using e-resources
3. To identify types of information need by the respondents
4. To analyses the stimulating factors to accessing e-resources
5. To study the factor that causes the hindrance in usage of information

METHODOLOGY

This study has been carried out the medical professionals in various dental colleges in and around Chennai to find out the use pattern of electronic information resources among professionals in dental colleges. Only 200 questionnaires were distributed among the professionals that include faculties and post graduate students. The data collected were analyzed and inferences made based on standard statistical methods. Out of 200 questionnaires only 178 (89%) were received from respondents. Out of 60 faculty members, 58 were received and Out of 140, the 120 questionnaires were received.

Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1. Distribution of Questionnaires



Above table 1. shows the questionnaires distributed to medical professionals among the various dental colleges in Chennai. The researcher was distributed 140 questionnaires to the students and 60 number of questionnaires to the faculty members in various dental colleges in and around Chennai. Out of 200 questionnaires only 178 (89%) were received from respondents. Out of 60 faculty members, 58 were received and Out of 140, the 120 questionnaires were received.

Table 2. Distribution of Respondents by Department Wise

| Sl.No | Department | Students | Faculties | Total | Rank |
|-------|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| 1 | Prosthodontics | 17 (9.55) | 5(2.8) | 22(12.36) | 4 |
| 2 | Periodontics | 19(10.67) | 7(3.93) | 26(14.6) | 2 |
| 3 | Oral and Maxillofacial surgery | 21(11.8) | 11(6.17) | 32(17.97) | 1 |
| 4 | Orthodontics | 13(7.3) | 8(4.49) | 21(11.79) | 5 |
| 5 | Oral pathology | 12(6.74) | 6(3.37) | 18(10.11) | 6 |
| 6 | Oral Medicine | 10(5.61) | 3(1.68) | 13(7.30) | 8 |
| 7 | Conservative Dentistry | 14(7.9) | 9(5.05) | 23(12.92) | 3 |
| 8 | Pedodontics | 9(5.05) | 7(3.93) | 16(9) | 7 |
| 9 | Preventive and Community Dentistry | 5(2.8) | 2(1.12) | 7(3.93) | 9 |
| | TOTAL | 120(67.42) | 58(32.58) | 178 | |

(Figures in parenthesis denote percentage)

Table 2 indicates the department wise distribution of the respondents replied to the researcher for the questionnaires in the dental colleges in Chennai. The respondents were classified by their specializational area or department wise. Out 120 students 17 respondents from Prosthodontics, 19 from Periodontics, 21 from Oral and Maxillofacial surgery and such as. Out 28 faculty members 5 respondents from Prosthodontics, 7 from Periodontics, 11 from Oral and Maxillofacial surgery and 9 from conservative Dentistry. In the case of total strength 32 respondents from Oral and Maxillofacial surgery department and second in the position 26 respondents from periodontics department and only 7 respondents from Preventive and Community Dentistry.

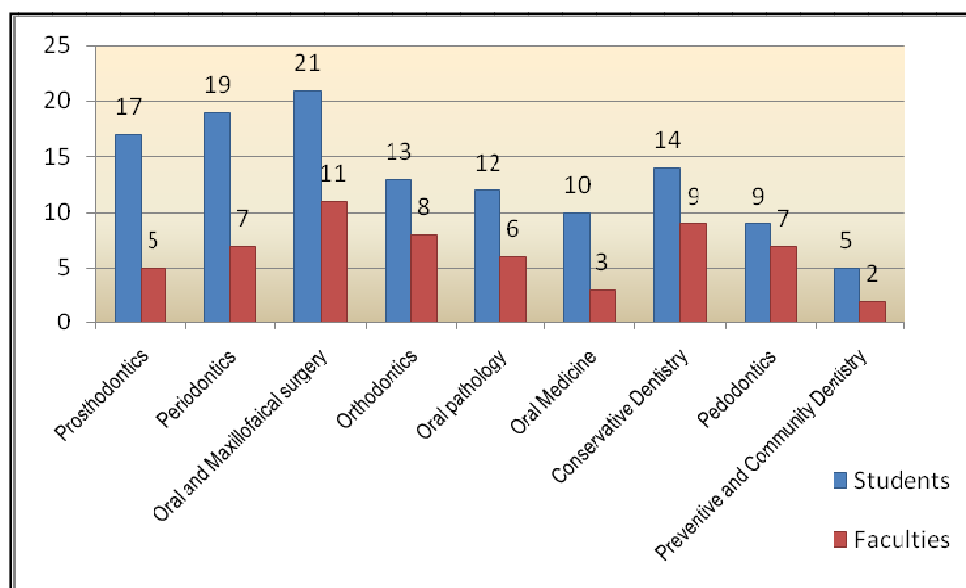


Table 3. Purpose of Accessing E-Resources

| Sl.No. | Purpose of accessing E-Resources | Students | Faculties | Total | Rank |
|--------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| 1 | General Awareness for new knowledge | 15(8.42) | 8(4.49) | 23(12.92) | 3 |
| 2 | For participation in seminars / conferences /workshops etc. | 12(6.74) | 7(3.9) | 19(10.67) | 5 |
| 3 | To increase promotional opportunities | -- | 9(5.05) | 9(5.05) | 9 |
| 4 | To write and publish papers | 22(12.35) | 8(4.49) | 30(16.85) | 1 |
| 5 | To set up and use of equipment | 6(3.37) | 5(2.8) | 11(6.17) | 8 |
| 6 | To check authenticity of available results / information | 13(7.3) | 3(1.68) | 20(11.23) | 4 |
| 7 | To check and evaluate one's own results | 9(5.05) | 2(1.12) | 11(6.17) | 8 |
| 8 | To broaden the area of attention and work done in related areas | 22(12.35) | 7(3.93) | 29(16.29) | 2 |
| 9 | To crystallize broad and vague assertions | 13(7.3) | 4(2.24) | 17(9.55) | 6 |
| 10 | To have visibility among peers and colleagues | 8(4.49) | 5(2.8) | 13(7.30) | 7 |
| | Total | 120(67.42) | 58(32.58) | 178 | |

(Figures in parenthesis denote percentage)

Table 3 shows the respondents are categorized by purpose of accessing e-resources in the medical professionals. Out of 120 students professional are mentioned they used the e-resources for the purpose of to write and publish the papers as well as To broaden the area of attention and work done in related areas. And the second position students are used for the purpose of General Awareness for new knowledge and to check authenticity of available results / information. But, out of 58 faculty members, 9 respondents are mentioned the e-resources used for to increase promotional opportunities and 8 members used for General Awareness for new knowledge as well as to write and publish papers. The purpose of e-resources accessing point were categorized under ten aspects. It clearly explained out of 178 respondent the 30members are used for to write and publish papers and 29 respondents are mentioned here To broaden the area of attention and work done in related areas.

Table 4. Time Frequency of Using E-Resources

| Sl.No. | Time frequency | Students | Faculties | Total | Rank |
|--------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| 1 | More than 20 hours per week | 39(21.9) | 9(5.05) | 48(26.92) | 1 |
| 2 | 11 to 15 hours per week | 19(10.67) | 17(9.55) | 36(20.22) | 3 |
| 3 | 7 to 10 hours per week | 27(15.16) | 6(3.37) | 33(18.53) | 4 |
| 4 | 4 to 6 hours per week | 28(15.73) | 14(7.9) | 42(23.59) | 2 |
| 5 | Less than 4 hours per week | 7(3.93) | 12(6.74) | 19(10.67) | 5 |
| | Total | 120(67.42) | 58(32.58) | 178 | |

(Figures in parenthesis denote percentage)

Above the table 4 mentioned the respondents are using e-resources as categorized by time frequency. Out of 178, 48 respondents I e 39 dental students and nine faculty members are using more than 20 hours per week and in the second position 36 members are using 11 to 15 hours per week and in the last 19 members are using Less than 4 hours per week.

Table 5. Types of Information for Usage of E-Resources

| Sl.No. | Types of Information | Students | Faculties | Total | Rank |
|--------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|
| 1 | Review of literature (Annual Review, Yearbooks, state of art reports, recent advances etc) | 32(17.97) | 11(6.17) | 43(24.15) | 1 |
| 2 | scientific and Technical Information | 9(5.05) | 7(3.93) | 16(8.98) | 3 |
| 3 | Methods, processes and procedures | 11(6.17) | 5(2.8) | 16(8.98) | 3 |
| 4 | Experimental designs, results and applications | 15(8.42) | 6(3.37) | 21(11.79) | 2 |
| 5 | Product, material equipment and apparatus know how information | 9(5.05) | 4(2.24) | 13(7.30) | 6 |
| 6 | Information about previous work done in your field | 4(2.24) | 2(1.12) | 6(3.37) | 8 |
| 7 | Information about current developments in your field | 10(5.61) | 5(2.8) | 15(8.42) | 4 |
| 8 | Computer programs and model building information | 5(2.8) | 2(1.12) | 7(3.93) | 7 |

| | | | | | |
|----|--|------------|-----------|----------|---|
| 9 | Standard and patent specifications and codes of practice | 3(1.68) | 3(1.68) | 6(3.37) | 8 |
| 10 | Statistical Information | 3(1.68) | 2(1.12) | 5(2.8) | 9 |
| 11 | Information about lab procedures | 12(6.74) | 4(2.24) | 16(8.98) | 3 |
| 12 | Scientific and Technical news | 7(3.9) | 7(3.93) | 14(7.86) | 5 |
| | Total | 120(67.42) | 58(32.58) | 178 | |

(Figures in parenthesis denote percentage)

In the table 5. Indicates the dental professionals are needed information from e-resources. Out 178 respondents, 43 members i.e. 32 users from student category and 11 members from faculty are mentioned to used collect review of literature (Annual Review, Yearbooks, state of art reports, recent advances etc) . 21 users are needed the e-resources for Experimental designs, results and applications and 16 users are expected scientific and Technical Information as well as for Methods, processes and procedures. It clearly explains very least users i.e. three students and two faculty members are mentioned to collect the statistical information.

Table 6. E-Resources Accessing points by Respondents

| Sl.No. | Accessing points | Students | Faculties | Total | Rank |
|--------|-------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| 1 | Department | 8(4.49) | 5(2.8) | 13(7.30) | 6 |
| 2 | Library | 37(20.78) | 22(12.35) | 59(33.14) | 1 |
| 3 | Home | 26(14.60) | 10(5.61) | 36(20.22) | 3 |
| 4 | Department & Home | 19(10.67) | 19(10.67) | 38(21.34) | 2 |
| 5 | Cybercafe | 13(7.30) | 2(1.12) | 15(8.42) | 5 |
| 6 | Hostel | 17(9.55) | -- | 17(9.55) | 4 |
| | Total | 120(67.42) | 58(32.58) | 178 | |

(Figures in parenthesis denote percentage)

Table 6 shows the e-resources accessing points or places are mentioned the respondents in the various dental colleges in Chennai. The maximum users (59 out 178) are using the e-resources from their department. The students are used maximum in the library. And another point, 38 users, i.e. 19 students and 19 faculty are mentioned they are using the e-resources in the department and home itself. But the 17 no. of students they are using the resources from hostel itself. Only two faculty member are mentioned they are used in the cybercafé only

Table 7. Stimulating Factors for using E-resources

| Sl.No. | Stimulating factors for Using E-resources | Students | Faculties | Total | Rank |
|--------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| 1 | Easy access | 25(14.04) | 15(8.42) | 40(22.47) | 2 |
| 2 | abundant sources of information | 40(22.47) | 11(6.17) | 51(28.65) | 1 |
| 3 | Open accessible journals | 29(16.30) | 7(3.93) | 36(20.22) | 3 |
| 4 | Available of various subject gate ways | 14(7.9) | 6(3.37) | 20(11.23) | 5 |
| 5 | Provide immediate updating of information | 12(6.74) | 9(5.05) | 21(11.79) | 4 |
| 6 | To improve professional competence | | 10(5.61) | 10(5.61) | 6 |
| | Total | 120(67.42) | 58(32.58) | 178 | |

(Figures in parenthesis denote percentage)

Table 7 indicates the stimulating factors to use the e-resources by the dental professionals in various dental colleges in Chennai. Out of 178 respondents 40 students and 11 faculty member are mentioned the abundant sources of information are first stimulating factors. And the secondly, 25 student members and 15 are stated very easy to access the e-resources. Ten faculty members were stated that they are using for improve the professional competence.

Table 8. Factors that hinder the use of E-Resources

| Sl. No. | Factors that Hinder the accessibility of e-resources | Students | Faculties | Total | Rank |
|---------|--|------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| 1 | Lack of training | 16(8.98) | 6(3.37) | 22(12.35) | 3 |
| 2 | Inadequate timing | 45(25.28) | 17(9.55) | 62(34.83) | 1 |
| 3 | Lack of awareness about information sources | 13(7.3) | 5(2.8) | 18(10.11) | 4 |
| 4 | Price escalation of E-Resources | 27(15.16) | 18(10.11) | 45(25.28) | 2 |
| 5 | Lack of fearness | 7(3.93) | 2(1.12) | 9(5.05) | 6 |
| 6 | Lack of user friendly staff | 5(2.8) | 4(2.24) | 9(5.05) | 6 |
| 7 | Lack of infrastructure | 7(3.93) | 6(3.37) | 13(7.30) | 5 |
| | Total | 120(67.42) | 58(32.58) | 178 | |

(Figures in parenthesis denote percentage)

The table 8 shows the dental professionals are while using the e-resources what are the hindrance they are facing. Maximum of the 62 user (34.83%) are mentioned inadequate timing is first hinder to access the e-resources. Some of the users has mentioned there is a need to training how to make quick access to the e-resources. Out of 178 professionals 13 student and 5 faculty members are stated lack of awareness about information sources is one of the hindering factors.

CONCLUSION

Now a days e-resource has a vital role in the higher educational systems. Libraries are undergone a change to provide the e-resources with the development information and communication technology tools. As the library professional we have to implement the training, workshop and seminar to the user community to enhance the e-resources through better services.

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