Usage of E-Resources by the Faculty Members of Engineering College Libraries in Erode District, Tamil Nadu: An Analysis

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Abstract - **Nowadays E-resources plays a vital role in every intellectual movement of higher education. Due to the significance of these E-resources lot of the academic institutions in India copiously investing to offer access to these e-resources to support teaching learning, and research purpose. The present Study reveals that the existence of different E-resources, awareness of E-resources, preference of E-resources, problems faced while accessing the E-resources and purpose of E-resources usage in faculty members of Engineering College Libraries in Erode District, Tamil Nadu.**
Keywords: **E-resources, Academic institutions, Internet & Search engines, Problems.**

I. INTRODUCTION

The web technology offers access to unlimited sources of information and search engines are continuously being advanced to provide efficient and effective ways to support all the users to find out the needed information immediately. The internet increases easy access to a huge amount of information, it saves lot of time and money; it also provides a chance to consult several experts with a request and more independence from precise times and places for information searching. The system has shown an enormous impact on the services of the libraries and information centres.

Academic libraries use Information Technology for better services and satisfying different users' needs. Most of the libraries have changed into digital and virtual libraries where books, journals, and magazines have transformed into e-books, e-journals, e-magazines. These have enhanced the international dissemination of information. E-resources are easily accessible in all the part of the world interruptedly. The present study examines the usage of electronic resources by the faculty members of engineering college libraries.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the main objectives of the study.

1. To conclude the usage electronic resources by the faculty members of engineering college libraries.
2. To observe the frequency of using e-resources the faculty members of engineering college libraries.
3. To observe the purpose of accessing e-resources.
4. To examine the type of e-resources used by the respondents
5. Identify the problems faced by the respondents while using the e-resources.

III. REVIEW OF LITERTURE

Rajeev Kumar and Amritpal Kaur (2005)[1] the study analysed the use of the Internet among the teachers and students of engineering colleges of Punjab, India. A well planned questionnaire was distributed among the 960 teachers and students of all the engineering colleges of Punjab. The response rate of the study was 84.2 per cent. The present study reveals and elaborates the various aspects of Internet use such as, frequency of Internet use, most frequently used place for Internet use, reasons for which the Internet is used, use of Internet services, different ways to browse the information from the Internet, issues faced by the users and satisfactory level of users with the Internet facilities given in the colleges.

The output of the survey also offered information about the benefits of the Internet over conventional documents. It was identified that the Internet had become a vital tool for teaching, learning and research process of these respondents. Few suggestions have been describe to make the services more beneficial for the academic community of the engineering colleges under study.

Doraswamy (2005)[2] conducted the use and familiarity of electronic information resources by the students using questionnaire method. The findings shows that 61.25% students are familiar in electronic information resources, 27.50%t of the students use the computer daily for their study and 5.63% have never used e-resources.2.5% of students used CD-ROM, 33.13% students used internet, 38.13% used e-mail, 36.87% used search engines, and 21.25% used VRSECE website 'daily' respectively. The online databases are used by 25% students.18.75% of students used online journals rarely.42.50% of the students use electronic information resources for communication purposes.

The main problems met the students while using electronic information resources were lack of training and time.

Dhanavandan and Mohammed Esmail (2007)[3] took a survey of 190 samples of students of the department of computer science and engineering and the members of faculty belonging to engineering colleges in Thiruvannamalai district to scrutinize their information use pattern the questionnaire method was used as tool. The study reveals that computerized library services and the Internet service are mostly used by the users. Most of the respondents (43.7%) used the Internet facility and 32.1% of respondents used the E-mail services. Only 24.2% of the respondents used online service. The analysis indicates that no one library provides current awareness services to its users.

Hari Prasad Reddy (2013)[4] this study was carried out to find out usage of e-resources in selected engineering college libraries in Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh. In this analysis 490 samples were collected from the students of engineering college libraries, Prakasam District by using a questionnaire method explains that the students are using electronic information sources for their course work (21.8%), Communication (32.4%), career development (21%) and other activities (24.7%). The study also indicates that the most of the students are using different types of electronic sources namely Internet (98.8%), e-databases (41.4%), e-journals (50.8%), e-magazines (37.9%), e-books (54.5%), e-news (62%), CD-ROMs (61.4%), and OPAC (14.5%). Internet is most frequently used electronic resources as compared to other types of electronic resources. Hence user's awareness and training programmes are to be conducted to enhance the use of e-resources.

Mani and Thirumagal (2016)[5] this study was explained the use of E-Resources among the Libraries in Self-financing Engineering colleges of Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. In this study the well-structured questionnaire was distributed to the users and analysis was made from the filled questions through simple percentage method. The study suggested that large number of awareness programme will be conducted to the students of the responded colleges.

IV. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The engineering college libraries have different types of electronic resources. In order to know the use of electronic resources by the faculty members of these colleges, the present study has been undertaken. There are 16 engineering colleges in erode district of Tamil Nadu. The 16 engineering colleges' faculty members have been selected due to constraints of time and money. The study is limited to the use of e-resources by the colleges' faculty members only.

V. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

In this analysis 300 samples were collected from the faculty members of engineering college libraries and simple random sampling method was used to analyse the collected primary data. The data has been analyzed and interpreted in the following methods.

VI. ANALYSIS AND INERPRETATION

The distribution of selected engineering college faculty members according to their department of study is shown in the table 1 and the Fig. 1

TABLE 1 DISTRIBUTION OF SELECTED ENGINEERING COLLEGE FACULTY MEMBERS ACCORDING TO THEIR DEPARTMENT

S.No.	Department	No. of Faculties	Percentage
1	Mechanical Engineering	75	25
2	Civil Engineering	55	18.3
3	Computer Science Engineering	40	13.3
4	Electronic Communication Engineering	70	23.4
5	Electrical and Electronic Engineering	60	20
	Total	300	100

Table 1 explains that among the total number of 300 respondents 25% of the faculties belongs to Mechanical Engineering Department, 18.3% faculties belongs to Civil Engineering Department 13.3% faculties belongs to Computer Engineering Department, and 23.4% faculties belongs to Electronic Communication Engineering Department and 20% faculty members belongs to Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department.
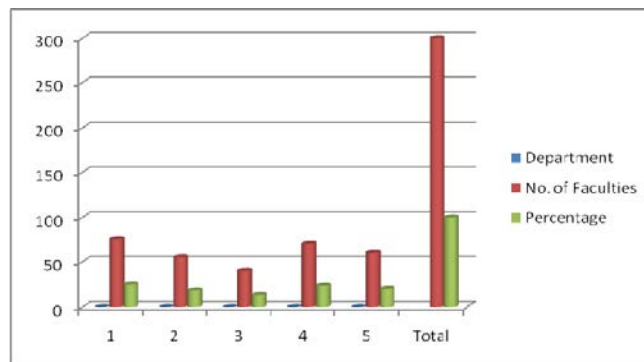

Fig. 1 Distribution of Selected Engineering College Faculty Members According to their Department

The frequency of using electronic resources by the faculties of engineering college libraries in Erode district and the respondent's responses are shown in Table 2 and Figure 2.

TABLE 2 DISTRIBUTIONS OF USERS ACCORDING TO THEIR FREQUENCY OF VISITING THE LIBRARY

S.No.	Frequency	No. of Faculties	Percentage
1	Twice in a day	90	30
2	Everyday	50	16.7
3	Every week	80	26.7
4	Occasionally	75	25
5	Never	5	1.6
	Total	300	100

According to their Frequency of Visiting the Library the table 2 shows that a majority of the faculty members (30%) are visiting the library twice in a day and 16.7% of the faculty members are visiting the library daily. 26.7% of faculty members are visiting the library every week, 25% of the faculty members are visiting the library occasionally and the remaining 1.6% faculty members are not visiting the library during their study period.
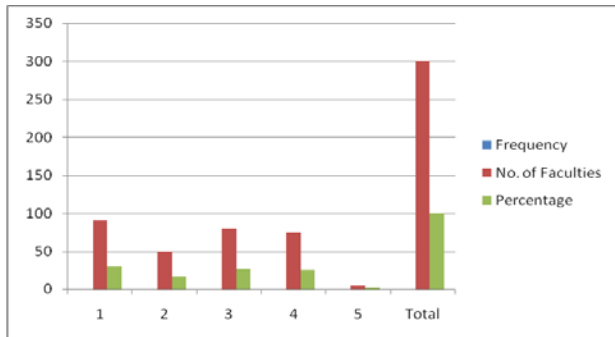

Fig. 2 Distributions of Users According to Their Frequency of Visiting the Library

The purpose of using electronic resources by the faculties of engineering college libraries in Erode district and the respondent's responses are shown in Table 3 and Figure 3.

TABLE 3 PURPOSE OF USING E-RESOURCES

S.No.	Purpose	No. of Faculties	Percentage
1	For class taking	120	40
2	For communication	65	21.7
3	For career development	70	23.3
4	Other activities if any	45	15
	Total	300	100

Table 3 indicates the purpose of using E-Resources, among the total number of respondents 40% of the faculty members are using the electronic resources for their class taking purpose, 23.3% of the faculty members are using the e-resources for their career development and 21.7% faculty members using e- resources for communication and also 11.6 faculty members are using the e-resources for other activities.
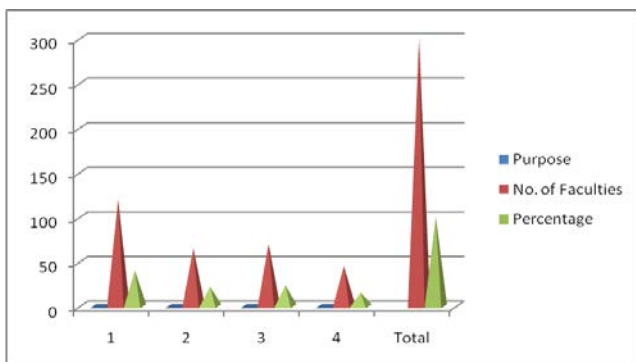

Fig. 3 Purpose of using E-Resources

The use of electronic resources by the faculties of engineering college libraries in Erode district and the respondent's responses are shown in Table 4 and Figure 4.

TABLE 4 REVEALS USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES

S.No.	Types of E-resources	No. of Faculties	Percentage
1	Internet	110	36.66
2	E-journals	50	16.67
3	E-databases	30	10
4	E-mail	65	21.67
5	OPAC	45	15
	Total	300	100

Table 4 shows the use of electronic information resources among the responded engineering college faculty members, 36.6% of the faculty members are using internet for accessing information for their study, 21.67% faculty members are using E-mail for information communication, 16.67% faculty members are using E-journals and 10 faculty members are using E-databases for accessing electronic resources.
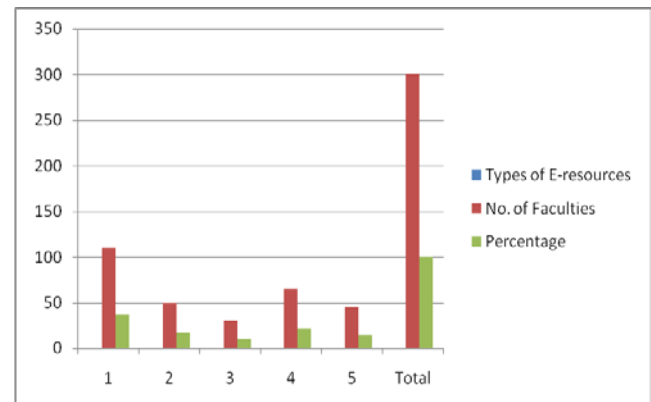

Fig. 4 Use of Electronic Information Resources

Use of Search engines by the faculties of engineering college libraries in Erode district. The respondent's responses are shown in Table 5 and Figure 5.

TABLE 5 USE OF SEARCH ENGINES

S.No.	Search Engines	No. of Faculties	Percentage
1	Google	180	60
2	Yahoo	55	18.33
3	Ask	30	10
4	Bing	20	6.67
5	Alta Vista	15	5
	Total	300	100

Table 5 observes the use of search engines of faculty members of engineering colleges among the respondents 60% of the faculty members are using Google search engines

for searching the needed information, 18.33% of the faculty members are using yahoo search engine, 6.67% of the faculty members are using Bing, and 5% of the faculty members are using Alta Vista search engine and 10% of the faculty members are using Ask search engine to access the information on the Internet. Hence, Google is the frequently used search engine among various search engines.
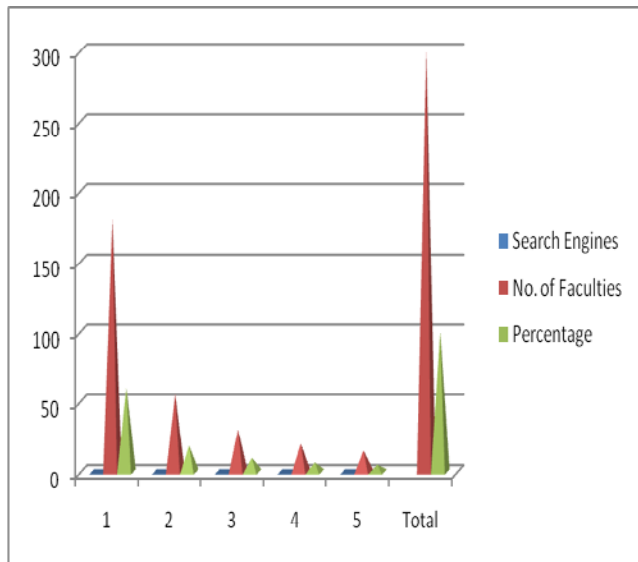

Fig. 5 Use of Search Engines

The problems faced by the faculties of engineering college libraries in Erode district and the respondent's responses are shown in Table 6 and figure 6.

TABLE 6 PROBLEMS FACED WHILE USING E-RESOURCES

S.No.	Problems	No. of Faculties	Percentage
1	Lack of Time	70	23.33
2	Lack of Training	80	26.67
3	Slow accessibility	50	16.67
4	Lack of IT knowledge	40	13.33
5	Lack of facilities	60	20
	Total	300	100

The above table shows the problems faced by the faculty members while using the electronic resources among the total number of respondents, majority (26.67%) of the faculty members are find it difficult for accessing needed e-resources due to the lack of training and 23.33% of the faculty members indicated that lack of time is the problem for proper use of the e-resources. 20 % of the faculty members quoted the facilities are inadequate for easy access of e-resources for their activities and 16.67% of the faculty members faced the slow accessibility is the main problem for access of e-resources.
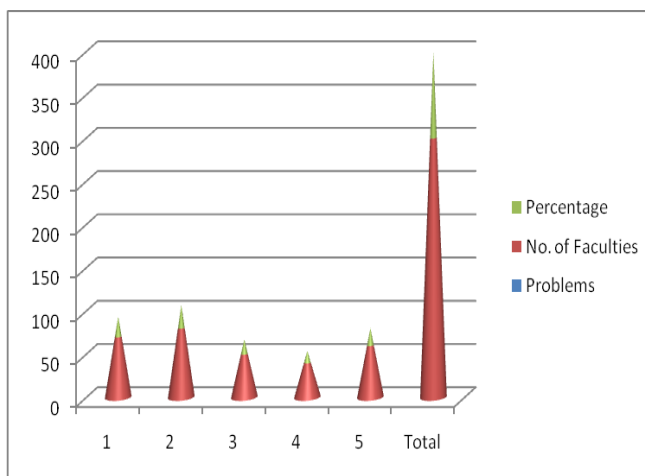

Fig. 6 Problems Faced While Using E-Resources

VII. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Majority of the respondents are (25%) Mechanical engineering department faculty members.
2. A most of the respondents (30%) are visiting the library twice in a day.
3. The E-resources are being used by the faculties for the purpose of preparation of notes for class taking (40%).
4. Large number (36.6%) of respondents used internet for accessing e-resources.
5. Majority (60%) of the respondents used Google search engines for accessing e-resources
6. Maximum number (26.67) of the respondents indicated that lack of training is the main problem while accessing e-resources.

VIII. SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions are made to develop the use of e-resources among the faculty members. Based on the findings of the analysis some of the faculty members are not using e-magazines, E-databases, E-reports and OPAC. This may be due to their unawareness of these resources and lack of skills in handling the e-resources. High speed Wi-Fi campus needs to develop the library, that's why the users can use the e-resources and internet within the library according to their expediency. The speed of internet needs to be enhanced the quick access of e-resources. Training in hardware and software such as MS Office, internet searching and use of e-resources should be incorporated in the core curriculum of all the departments.

IX. CONCLUSION

The faculty members of the engineering colleges are loaded with paper correction work, co-curricular activities, official work and admission work etc., effect the efficient teaching and learning of E-resources. The college library should play a vital role in facilitating the faculty members and the students alike in the use of the internet, e-resources and

other library and information services. It also creates awareness regarding the e-resources access methods and their benefits for teaching and learning. The college library should organize awareness programmes, training programmes, and to conduct seminars and conferences to instruct their users for maximize the e-resources usage.

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