

Use of Electronic Information Resources among the Faculty Members of K. Ramakrishnan College of Engineering, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu: A Study

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Abstract - E-Resources or “electronic resources” can be defined as the resources available on the internet which are a godown of data and information on different subjects and topics. The e-Resources are available in universities/colleges. The study aimed at finding the use of e-Resources among the faculties of K. Ramakrishnan College of Engineering at Trichy with distribution to their gender. Majority of the respondents use e-Resources for teaching purpose and for research work. But they do not get any training from College library; they learn to use e- Resources either by self instructions or with guidance from colleagues and friends. The e-Resources can be accessed by the respondents at different places such as College and at home. The study therefore, recommends that efforts to improve the use of e-resources in the Library should include ways of creating user awareness, training/workshops for users and staff, and responding to the challenges confronting utilization.

Keywords: E-Resources, User Awareness, Internet Service, E-Database, Use Patterns

I. INTRODUCTION

Electronic Resources are stored and displayed digitally and accessed through computers and other electronic devices. These resources are mostly referred to as online or offline or database or digital content or media. The main aim to procure/store electronic resources is to extend access to library resources regardless physical location. There are variety of electronic resources like e-journals, e-conference proceedings, e-books, CDs, DVDs, VCDs, Video Cassettes, Audio Cassettes, and Database etc. Some electronic resources are accessible within campus and some are off-campus through remote login facility.

The users may get information in various sources such as printed document sources and electronics document sources. Electronic sources have come to play a central role in education. Electronic information sources are becoming more and more important and useful for the academic user community. Electronic resources are now more dominating often than print resources. The College library currently uses two databases at free of cost and paid one. The databases like DELNET, IEEE, IIT-NPTEL are available in the study area and it also a member in National Digital Library. This article mainly focuses on the use of e-information resources by the faculties of K. Ramakrishnan College of Engineering with respect to their gender.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Jagboro (2003) had also emphasized the emerging reliance and attitude of users to electronic resources. In a study she conducted in some Nigerian Universities, it was found that 45.2% of respondents accessed electronic resources from cybercafés. Though this attitude, according to her is due to the proximity of cybercafés to user facilities.

Varadharajan (2007) stated in his study “Digital Libraries and Library Professional in the Changing Scenario” that a series of training courses on digital libraries could provide a good balance of topics covering the technological, technical, management and social issues.

Dhanavandan.S and Tamilchelvan.M (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.

Thanuskodi.S (2012) aimed at finding the use of e-resources by the post graduate students and research scholars of Faculty of Arts in the Annamalai University. The majority of users are aware about the availability of e-resources. The result reveals that 47.78 % of respondents want to access only electronic version whereas only 32.78% users want to read the printed journals but 19.44% respondents want to use both electronic and printed version. Majority of the respondents 76.66% use e-resources for writing papers. The analysis reveals that many of the respondents search e-resources through linking facility available on the library websites.

III. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study is limited to the faculty members of K. Ramakrishnan Engineering College at Trichy. The study mainly focus on the awareness, availability, and use of e-resources by the faculty members, problems of using e-resources , relevance of e-resource satisfaction of the users

and suggestion to improve the library e-resources facilities and services.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has been designed with a view to achieve the following objectives:

1. To study the purpose and frequency of using electronic resources with comparison to gender.
2. To know the faculties level of satisfaction in using e-resources.
3. To identify the problems faced by respondents in using electronic resources.
4. To provide suitable suggestions to improve the e-resource services for the benefit of users.

V. METHODOLOGY

The study is based on descriptive design. The study covers both primary and secondary data. The primary data has been collected by survey method using the questionnaire and secondary data has been collected from various sources like books, journals and so on. For the purpose of the study, the data has been collected from faculties of K. Ramakrishnan Engineering College in Trichy.

The study area covers with 160 faculties working in various departments. A total of 160 questionnaire have been distributed to the faculty members and 120 have responded. Hence, the total response for the study is 75%. The sample size is 120. Among that 60 male respondents and 60 female respondents were equally selected randomly.

A methodology used for collecting data was questionnaire based. All the questions were specifically prepared and closely related with the use of electronic resources and its impact. These questionnaires were distributed in the study area and were successfully retrieved from faculties. Stratified random sampling method has been adopted to collect the data.

VI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The Collected data from the respondents have been tabulated and analyzed using simple percentage. The findings of this study are applicable to the faculty members of K. Ramkrishnan College of Engineering at Trichy and it does not represent faculty of other institutions. Studying of all institutions is not possible at the level of an individual researcher due to constraints imposed by money, time, energy and efforts.

TABLE- I DEPARTMENT WISE ANALYSIS OF THE FACULTIES

Department	Male		Female		Total	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Mechanical (MECH)	19	31.66	13	21.66	32	26.67
Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)	18	30	17	28.34	35	29.16
Electrical and Electronics Engineering(EEE)	15	25	12	20	27	22.5
Computer Science (CS)	8	13.34	18	30	26	21.67
Total	60	100	60	100	120	100

Table I shows the department wise analysis of the faculties working in K.Ramakrishnan College of Engineering at Trichy. It is inferred that 26.67 percent of them are from mechanical department, 29.16 percent are from ECE department, 22.5 percent of them are from EEE

department and 21.67 percent are from Computer science department. It is also observed that majority of male faculties are from Mechanical department and most of the female faculties are from computer science department.

TABLE II AWARENESS ABOUT E-RESOURCES

Awareness	Male		Female	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Aware	46	76.67	43	71.67
Not aware	14	23.33	17	28.33
Total	60	100	60	100

Table II shows the respondents awareness about e-resources. It is observed that 76.67 percent of male and 71.67 percent of the female faculties are ware of e-

resources in their college. 23.33 percent of male faculties and 28.33 percent of female faculties are not aware of e-resources availability.

TABLE III FREQUENCY OF USING E-RESOURCES

Frequency of usage	Male		Female	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Daily	6	10	13	21.67
Weekly twice	12	20	20	33.33
Weekly once	23	38.33	14	23.33
Monthly	16	26.67	11	18.34
Rarely	3	5	2	3.33
Total	60	100	60	100

Table III shows the respondents frequency of using s-resources. It is observed that 21.67 percent of female faculties are using e-resources daily, 33.33 percent of the female faculties are using weekly once, 38.33 percent of

male faculties are using e-resources weekly once, 26.67 percent of male faculties using it monthly once and 5 percent of male faculties use s-resources rarely.

TABLE IV PURPOSE OF USING E-RESOURCES

Purpose	Male		Female	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
For professional development	16	26.67	6	10
For teaching	8	13.33	21	35
For research work	20	33.33	16	26.67
For publishing book/articles	16	26.67	17	28.33
Total	60	100	60	100

Table IV shows the respondents purpose of using s-resources. It is observed that majority of the male respondents (26.67%) use it for their professional development, majority of the female faculties (35%) use

e-resources for teaching purpose, majority of the male faculties (33.33%) use it for research work, majority of the female faculties (28.33%) use e-resources for publishing books/articles.

TABLE V LOCATION OF ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

Purpose	Male		Female	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Central library	14	23.33	21	35
Department library	11	18.33	19	31.67
Computer lab	19	31.67	12	20
Outside the campus	16	26.67	8	13.33
Total	60	100	60	100

Table V shows the respondents location of accessing e-resources. It is revealed from the study that most of the female faculties (35%) access through central library,

31.67% access through department library, 31.67% of male faculties access through computer lab and 26.67 of male faculties access e-resources outside the campus.

TABLE VI USE PATTERN OF E-RESOURCES

Use pattern	Male		Female	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
On computer screen	6	10	9	15
Download in storage device	41	68.33	22	36.67
Use in printed form	13	21.67	29	48.33
Total	60	100	60	100

Table VI shows the respondents use pattern of e-resources. It is observed from the study that 15 % of the female faculties use it on computer screen, 68.33% male

faculties download in storage device 48.33% of female faculties use e-resources in printed form.

TABLE VII AVAILABILITY OF E-RESOURCE IN COLLEGE

Availability of e-resources	Male		Female	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
E-Journals	16	26.67	20	33.33
E-Books	9	15	11	18.33
E-Database	14	23.33	15	25
E-Thesis And E-Dissertation	21	35	14	23.34
Total	60	100	60	100

Table VII shows the availability of e-resources in college. Majority (33.33%) of the female faculties accepted e-journals are available, 18.33% of female faculties opined that e-books are always available in the college library,

25% of the female respondents accepted e-database are highly available and 35% of male faculties said that e-thesis and e-dissertation are available in the college library.

TABLE VIII USEFULNESS OF E-RESOURCES

Usefulness	Male		Female	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Very useful	26	43.33	22	36.67
Useful	21	35	25	41.66
No opinion	8	13.33	3	5
Not useful	5	8.33	10	16.67
Total	60	100	60	100

Table VIII shows the respondents opinion about usefulness of e-resources in their college library. 43.33% of male faculties said it is very useful, 41.66% of female

faculties said it is useful, 13.33 % of male faculties have no opinion and 16.67 % of female faculties said it is not useful.

TABLE IX DIFFICULTIES IN ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

Difficulties	Male		Female	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Unavailability of subject related sources	23	38.33	29	48.33
Lack of training in accessing	18	30	11	18.34
Time consuming	15	25	14	23.33
No assistance provided	4	6.67	6	10
Total	60	100	60	100

Table IX shows the respondents difficulties in accessing e-resources. Most (48.33%) of the female faculties said there is unavailability of subject related resources, 30 % of male faculties said lack of training in accessing as their

problem, 25% of male faculties opined that it is time consuming process and 10 % of female faculties said no assistance are provided for using e-resources in their college.

TABLE X LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH E-RESOURCES

Level of satisfaction	Male		Female	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Highly satisfied	11	18.33	21	35
Satisfied	18	30	19	31.67
Neutral opinion	9	15	5	8.33
Dissatisfied	12	20	8	13.33
Highly dissatisfied	10	16.67	7	11.66
Total	60	100	60	100

Table X shows the respondents level of satisfaction with e-resources. 35% of female faculties are highly satisfied, 31.67 % of female faculties are satisfied, 15 % of male faculties have neutral opinion and 20% of male faculties dissatisfied and 16.67 of male faculties are highly dissatisfied with availability if e-resources in college.

VII. SUGGESTIONS

The fast growth of information and communication technologies particularly internet and electronic re-sources has changed the traditional methods of research, storage, retrieval and communication of scholarly information. The study showed that the use of the electronic resources has created a great impact upon faculties of K. Ramakrishnan Engineering College in Trichy in their research and development works. In order to improve the services the following suggestions have been made:

1. The library should also identify the non-users of electronic resources and proper steps should be taken to convert them into potential users of the resources.
2. User training is essential for the better use of electronic resources in the library since a good number of users are searching electronic literature on their own.
3. Electronic resources users should be taught about advanced search strategies and the use of controlled vocabulary to make electronic search process much easier.
4. The management should provide funds for subscription to more electronic primary and secondary sources.

5. Furthermore, since users are experiencing problems in gathering information, the most suitable measures should be taken to overcome this, such as increasing the number of terminals and printers.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The rapid developments in information communication technology have facilitated the convergence of new electronic devices and formats.. It is clear from the study that the younger generation has accepted the electronic resources, but the volume of frequent usage of e-resources among the users has been found to be optimum level. Some of the respondents are unaware and have not used On-line thesis/dissertations, abstracts/indexes, OPAC, On-line databases, which are very relevant for their study and research. So the College library can take initiatives to organize orientation programmes and user awareness programme in this area.

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