

Utilization of Electronic Resources by Engineering College Students in Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract - Electronic sources like e-books, e-journals, online databases, multimedia information are becoming more popular day by day. The purpose of this study was to know the utilization of electronic resources by the users of engineering colleges. A total of 200 respondents were selected in the engineering colleges of Kanchipuram district including the teaching faculties and students and 182 filled responses were received. The data was collected through a well-structured questionnaire.

Keywords: E-Resources, User Expectations, Engineering Colleges

I. INTRODUCTION

Electronic resources are materials in digital format accessible electronically. It is also explained as any work determined and made available for access through the computer. Electronic data which are available through remote access which means accessing electronic resources using computers and direct access means accessing electronic resources through carriers like discs, cassettes which are designed to be insert into the computerized device. Electronic resources are available through websites, online databases, e-journals, e-books, there is no limitations, because it is a format, whether open access or paid resources and also may be audio, visual or text files. The recommending officer responsible for the suitable subject, language, geographic area or format is responsible for suggesting electronic resources. The large number of increase in production on scholarly publications leads to large access of electronic resources.

Some examples for electronic resources are 1. CD-ROMs, 2. DVDs 3. Electronic Journals 4. Electronic Databases, 5. Electronic Books, 6. Electronic Theses and Dissertations, 7. Online Resources, 9. OPAC, 10. Institutional Repository System. Now-a-days electronic resources are become an important source of information for the users. These e-resources are good alternate for printed books in the case of good internet connectivity and good numbers of computer terminals are available. These e-resources became more familiar and are being used to a boundless edge. They help in timely research, innovative teaching techniques and creating of new fields of knowledge.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the purpose of using e-resources in the engineering colleges of Kanchipuram district.

2. To know how long the users spent their time in accessing e-resources.
3. To know the frequency and benefits of using e-resources.
4. To know the problems and barriers faced by the users while accessing e-resources.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Khazer and Ganaie (2018) did a comparative study on search and use of electronic resources and found that the students preferred to access information to complete their course and research work and also likely used print format more than electronic format shows library staff must take steps to attract users towards both print as well as electronic sources. Singh and Mukherjee (2018) conducted a comparative study on electronic information resource optimisation in academic libraries. Here the author discussed about the copyright law for electronic contents. Further, they observed perpetual access, archiving, self-archiving, electronic reserves, copy of individual articles were shared for open access.

Singh and Lal (2017) conducted a study on the usage of electronic resources by library users between Desh Bhagat University and Chitkara University, revealed that major numbers of users are satisfied with library services, facilities. Some may find difficulty on searching their information need and also they need orientation programmes. Selvaraj and Gadagin (2017) want to know the awareness and use of electronic resources by engineering faculty members and found that the faculties are satisfied with their available electronic resources, some engineering colleges are playing a major role in promoting electronic resources in their libraries and these e-resources help the faculty and research scholars to attain success with their projects.

Shahi, S (2017) did a comparative study of use of the library and internet as sources of Information and revealed that there is a need to conduct orientation programmes on using electronic journals. Hossain and Rahman (2017) conducted a study of internet usage among university students at Dhaka and found that users of different disciplines used internet as a tool, very useful to students, teachers, researchers and also others, they accept the available information is relevant and they are increasing the usage of internet in order to find the information.

Aravind (2017) conducted a study on Use of Electronic resources in engineering college libraries and reveals that for the users satisfaction and access of e-resources may be provided by the web designers by giving them an online orientation and also conduction seminars and workshops make the users in order to get more information need.

Daramola (2016) did a comparative analysis of the Utilization of School/Faculty library facilities between and found that both institutions does not made effective use of all the services and facilities, attitude of the staffs in both the institutions on using library units was very low. Internet services and subject details were frequently used by EKSU than FUTA students. Kashyap (2016) did a comparative study on use of e-resources by University faculty members of Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh concludes that the e-resources was found to be used greater by the users of chattisgarh university than the members of Madhya Pradesh.

Kumah (2015) conducted a comparative study of use of the library and the Internet as sources of Information by Graduate Students in the University of Ghana and found that the students feel satisfied with their library information, internet is used as the most preferred source of information, users also using media, lecture notes and most of the library services are used very well. Bamgbade, *et al.*, (2015) conducted a comparative analysis and benefits of digital library over traditional library, he concludes his research as abruptly cleared that digital library is better than the traditional library.

Agboola and Bamigboye (2011) conducted a comparative study about the students' level of study and user of library resources in Nigerian Universities. They conclude that the library resources both print and e-resource are not used well; awareness regarding e-resources is must. Moghaddaszadeh and Nikam (2011) wants to know the use of e-resources by the University library users of Iran and India and find out that there is equal importance in both on-line and off-line databases. Kumar and Kumar (2008) did a study on use of electronic information sources by the academic community and found that the use of information in e-resources will increase in future, the respondents of the study having awareness of electronic information sources and they accessed as a teaching aid and for their study, still many preferred print sources reveals the strength of the print sources and reading habit.

Bhatia (2011) wants to know the use of electronic resources in the colleges of Chandigarh. The study helps him to found that the users are using e-resources because they know the importance and cause of accessing e-resources. Jaiswal(2011) explained that the electronic resources are playing a major role in the modern world by becoming a source of information for the users and it is because e-resources are the most using and favoured source of information among the users like researchers and project workers.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The study is qualitative inquiry covers selected engineering college library users as pilot study. Questionnaire methods were used to collect data from the engineering college students of Kanchipuram District. The sample size of 200 was used for this study and we have received 182 filled questionnaires from the respondents.

V. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE I DEMOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF RESPONDENTS

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage
Age		
18 – 22	102	56
23-25	50	27
26 and above	30	16
Total	182	100
Gender		
Male	105	58
Female	77	42
Total	182	100
Category		
Student	152	84
Staff	30	16
Total	182	100

The table I represents that the demographic details of the collected data. 56% of respondents are in the age group of 18-22, 27% of respondents are there in 23 – 25 age group and 16 are in the age group of 26 and above. In gender wise 58% of respondents are male respondents and 42% are female respondents. In our study 84% students and 16% of staffs were participated in our survey.

TABLE II PURPOSE OF USING E-RESOURCES

Purpose	Nos.	Percentage	Rank
Research work, Preparing notes and Assignments	67	37	2
Presentation and Project work	70	38	1
For collecting teaching materials	31	17	3
For career development	14	8	4
Total	182	100	

The above table II refers the purpose of using e-resources in Engineering Colleges. Compared to other variables, 38 percent of respondents who use electronic resources for their Presentation and Project work. 37 percent of respondents are preferred to use the electronic resources for their research work, preparing notes and assignments. 17 percent of teaching faculty members are using the electronic resources for taking teaching notes for their teaching purpose. All the teaching faculty members use electronic sources to get tips for teaching and 8 percent of respondents

using the resource for their career development. The study found that, the usage of electronic resources is in significant.

TABLE III FREQUENCY OF USING E-RESOURCES

S. No	E-Resource	Frequently	Occasionally	Total	Percentage
1	E- Journals	36	31	67	37
2	E- Books	12	11	23	13
3	Bibliographic Databases	38	39	77	42
4	DVDs/CDs	7	8	15	8

By specifying other parameters such as E-books and DVDs, users have the option of e-resources in bibliographic databases and the use of electronic Journals. Compared to the table above, the use of electronic sources is meaningful.

TABLE IV TIME SPENT IN LIBRARY

S. No	Duration in a week	Count	Percentage
1	Less than 5 hours	51	28
2	5 to 10 hours	69	38
3	10 to 15 hours	27	15
4	More than 15 hours	35	19
Total		182	100

In the above table IV refers to the average time spent in the library by the respondents in a week. Most of the respondents are using the library and nineteen percent of respondents use the library for more than fifteen hours in a week. This good sign and satisfaction level of library resources and services.

TABLE V PROBLEMS AND BARRIERS WHILE ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

S. No	Barriers	Count	Percentage
1	Low Internet Speed	30	16
2	Difficult in finding relevant information	44	24
3	Interrupted power supply	42	23
4	Inadequate e-resources	43	24
5	Limited Internet Access	23	13
Total		182	100

The table V above indicates the problem faced by respondents when accessing their electronic resources. Most of the respondents answered they could not retrieve the right information. It shows that libraries have a facility but the orientation for the user community is very bad regarding library e-resources. Therefore, the library professionals should provide routine training program to the users on how to use electronic resources effectively.

VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the collected data from the engineering students of Kanchipuram district the following results were got. Purpose of using e-resources shows the library e-resources are significant. Based on the frequency of using e-resources comparison was made. The use of library hours proves the availability of good facilities, services and e-resources. Analysing the problems and barriers on using library e-resources proves that the library professionals should provide frequent orientations to the users.

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