

Gender Differences in E-Resources Usage among the Students of Engineering Institutions in Kanchipuram District: A Study

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Abstract – E-resources which are important resources in a digital library are being widely used by the people now-a-days. Earlier, only few academic libraries including the special libraries had access to electronic resources. But now-a-days, each academic library has some form of e-resource. The present study demonstrates and elaborates the various aspects of E-resources use such as, frequency, frequently used place, various online services and satisfaction level of users with the E-resources facilities provided in the Engineering colleges.

Keywords: E-resource, Engineering Colleges

I. INTRODUCTION

E-resources or the electronic resources are the resources where the information is available in the electronic format. The electronic resource may be available as offline resource or online resource. Due to the initiative of the government, many consortium have come up like csir consortium, indet aicte consortium, ugc infonet, ermed-india, forsa, etc. Which provide online access to valuable nascent information from different publishers are learned societies across the globe at an affordable cost.

II.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The Following objectives are evolved for the purpose of the present study:

1. To analyze the awareness of E-resources based resources and services among students of selected engineering colleges in kanchipuram district;
2. To find out the time spend by the students in accessing E-resources based resources and services;
3. To find out the frequency of accessing e-resources based resources and services among students of engineering colleges;

4. To find out the most preferred place for accessing E-resources based resources and services among students of engineering colleges;
5. To study the use of various online services by the students of engineering colleges selected for the study;
6. To determine the level of satisfaction of E-resources based resources and services among students of selected engineering colleges.

III. METHODOLOGY

Keeping in view the above objectives in mind, a structured questionnaire was prepared to collect data from the students of engineering colleges in kanchipuram district. Questionnaire contains various questions pertaining to the use of e-resources. For this purpose a total of 1500 questionnaires were distributed among students of engineering colleges in kanchipuram district. Out of 1500 questionnaires distributed, 1250 valid questionnaires were collected and then data was analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in form of this paper.

Table i shows that the gender-wise distribution of respondent's awareness of e- resources. The majority of E-resources of which male respondents were aware, were E-journals (86.61%), E-books (67.39%) and CD-rom databases. The majority of e-based resources of which female respondents were aware: 1. E-reference sources (85.80%), 2. E-books (68.52%) And 3. E-journals (64.81%).

As a result, it is clear that predominant sources like e-journals, E-reference books and E-books, etc. Are very familiar among male and female respondents.

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TABLE I DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT'S AWARENESS OF ICT BASED RESOURCES AND SERVICES

S. No.	E- Resources	No. of Respondents				Total	%
		Male N=926	%	Female N=324	%		
1	E- books	624	67.39	222	68.52	846	67.68
2	E-Journals	808	86.61	210	64.81	1012	80.96
3	E-Reference Sources	598	64.58	278	85.80	876	70.08
4	CD-ROM Database	602	65.01	104	32.10	706	56.48
5	On-line Database	494	53.35	179	55.25	673	53.84
6	E-Mail Discussion Groups	454	49.03	204	62.96	658	52.64
7	OPAC	468	50.54	146	45.06	614	49.12
8	Library Websites	471	5.89	134	41.36	605	48.40
9	E-News papers	415	44.82	252	77.78	677	54.16

TABLE II DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT'S TIME SPEND IN ACCESSING E- RESOURCES QND SERVICES

S. No.	Time Spend	No. of Respondents				Total	%
		Male	%	Female	%		
1	Less than one hour	42	4.54	56	17.28	98	7.84
2	One hour	242	26.35	163	50.31	407	32.56
3	More than one hour	316	34.13	52	16.05	368	29.44
4	Two hours	196	21.17	31	9.54	227	18.16
5	More than two hours	128	13.82	22	6.79	150	12.00
Total		926	100.00	324	100.00	1250	100.00

The tables II illustrate the gender-wise distribution of respondent's time spent for accessing e- resources and services. It is clear that 926 male and 324 female respondents from engineering colleges, 4.54 % Male and 17.28 % Female respondents spend less than one hour per day, 26.35 % Male and 50.31 % Female respondent spent one hour, 34.13 % Male and 16.05 % Female respondents spend more than one hour, 21.17 % Male and 9.57 %

Respondents spend two hours and 13.82 % Male and 6.79 % For female respondents spend more than two hours per day for accessing E- resources and services.

It is observed from the above discussion that 316(34.13%) Male respondents spend more than one hour per day and 163(50.31%) Female respondents spend one hour per day for using E- resources and services.

TABLE III DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT'S FREQUENCY OF ACCESSING E- RESOURCES AND SERVICES

S. No.	Gender	Daily	Twice in a week	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Total
1	Male	343 (37.04)	35 (37.26)	84 (9.07)	47 (5.08)	107 (11.56)	926
2	Female	87 (26.85)	9 (29.94)	57 (17.59)	21 (6.48)	62 (19.14)	324
Total		430 (34.96)	442 (35.36)	141 (11.28)	68 (5.44)	169 (13.52)	1250

Table III exhibits the gender-wise distribution of respondents frequency of accessing e-resources and services. Out of 926 male and 324 female respondents of engineering colleges, 343(37.04%) Male and 87 (26.85%) Female respondents access twice in a week, 84 (9.07%) Male and 57(17.59%) Female respondents access weekly,

47(5.08%) Male and 21(6.48%) Female respondents access monthly and 107(11.56%) Male and 62(19.14%) Female respondents access E- resources occasionally.

It is seen from the above discussion that, 345(37.26%) Male and 97 (29.94%) Female respondents access E-resources and services twice in a week.

TABLE IV DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT’S FREQUENTLY USED E- RESOURCES AND SERVICES

S.No.	E- Resources	No. of Respondent’s				Total	%
		Male	%	Female	%		
1	E-Book	67	7.24	28	8.64	95	7.60
2	E-Journals	232	25.05	120	51.28	352	28.16
3	E-Reference sources	77	8.32	25	7.72	102	8.16
4	CD-ROM Databases	82	8.86	34	10.49	116	9.28
5	On-line Databases	96	10.37	37	11.42	133	10.64
6	E-Mail, discussion groups	233	25.16	39	12.04	272	21.76
7	E-Newspapers	84	9.07	20	6.17	104	8.32
8	Any other	55	5.94	21	6.48	76	6.08
Total		926	100.00	324	100.00	1250	100.00

Table IV displays the gender-wise distribution of respondents frequently used e-resources and services. Among the total number of 926 male and 324 female respondents, 67 (7.24%) Male and 28 (8.64%) Female respondent’s use e-book, 232(25.05%) Male and 120(51.28%) Female respondent’s use e-journals, 77 (8.32%) Male and 25 (7.72%) Female respondents use e-reference sources, 82 (8.86%) Male and 34 (10.49%) Female respondents use cd-rom database, 96 (10.37%) Male and 37 (11.42%) Female

respondents use on-line database, 233 (25.16%) Male and 30 (12.04%) Female respondents use e-mail, 84 (9.07%) Male and 20 (6.17%) Female respondents use e-newspaper and 55 (5.94%) Male and 21 (6.48%) Female respondents use any other sources.

It is observed from the above discussion that 233 (25.16%) Male respondents use e-mail and 120 (51.28%) Female respondents use e-journal.

TABLE V DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT’S PLACE OF ACCESSING E- RESOURCES AND SERVICES

S. No.	Gender	Department	College Library	Home	Internet Cafe	Total
1	Male	26 (2.81)	122 (13.17)	564 (60.91)	214 (23.11)	926
2	Female	27 (8.33)	71 (21.91)	132 (40.74)	94 (29.01)	324
Total		53 (4.24)	193 (15.44)	696 (55.68)	308 (24.64)	1250

Data presented in table V shows the gender-wise distribution of respondents place of accessing e-resources and services. Out of 926 male and 324 female respondents, 26(2.81) Male and 27(8.33) Female respondents had access e-resources and services at department, 122(13.17) Male and 71(21.91) Female respondents had access at college library,

564(60.91) Male and 132(40.74) Female respondents had access at home and 214(23.11) Male and 94(29.01) Female respondents had access to e-resources at internet cafe.

It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that, 60.91 % Of male and 40.74 % Of female respondents had access e- resources at home.

TABLE VI DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT’S LEVEL OF SATISFACTION ON USING E- RESOURCES AND SERVICES

S. No.	Gender	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Some what Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Highly Dissatisfied	Total
1	Male	81 (8.75)	346 (37.37)	453 (48.92)	32 (3.46)	14 (1.51)	926
2	Female	42 (12.96)	138 (42.59)	127 (39.20)	11 (3.40)	6 (1.85)	324
Total		123 (9.84)	484 (38.72)	580 (46.40)	43 (3.44)	20 (1.60)	1250

REFERENCES

Table VI shows the gender-wise distribution of respondent's level of satisfaction on using e-resources and services. Out of 926 male and 324 female respondents from engineering colleges, 81(8.75%) Male and 42(12.96%) Female respondents are highly satisfied, 346(37.37%) Male and 138(42.59%) Female respondents are satisfied, 453(48.92%) Male and 127(39.20%) Female respondents are somewhat satisfied, 32(3.46%) Male and 11(3.40%) Female respondents are dissatisfied and 14(1.51%) Male and 6(1.83%) Female respondents are highly dissatisfied.

It is observed from the above discussion that 453(48.92%) Male respondents are somewhat satisfied and 138(42.59%) Female respondents are satisfied.

IV. CONCLUSION

The respondents utilize ICT based resources and services up to the maximum level. It is observed from this study that the majority of the respondents are satisfied in using the e-resources and services and the ICT based resources and services has become an indispensable as well as unavoidable commodity.

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