
Use of electronic Information resources by the faculty members of nursing colleges in Bangalore

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Abstract

The study examines the use of e-resources by the faculty members of nursing colleges in Bangalore. It aims to assess the awareness, frequency of use, search skills, and purpose of utilizing digital academic content, including online journals, databases, e-books, and educational platforms. The researcher adopted a survey method and used a structured questionnaire for collecting data from the respondents.

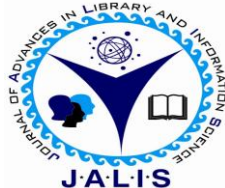
Keywords

e-resources; nursing faculty; faculty members;
awareness of e-resources; search skills

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1.0 Introduction

The electronic resources and services have emerged as indispensable tools for academic and professional development in nursing education. Nursing faculty members, in particular, are increasingly relying on digital platforms, online journals, databases, and educational technologies to enhance teaching, research, and clinical practice. The open truth is that Bangalore is recognized as a major hub for health and technological education in India. The integration of e-resources into nursing education reflects both technological advancement and a commitment to academic excellence.

Today, Nursing faculty members require up-to-date, empirically supported knowledge that is relevant to their evidence-based learning. For healthcare workers, efficient information searching and having access to the most recent, pertinent information are essential. The most recent technological advancements were attempted to be used in nursing library resources and services in an attempt to resolve these issues. One of the most important sources of scientific knowledge, electronic databases have made it possible to obtain qualitative and quantitative data more rapidly and precisely.

2.0 Nursing Education in Bangalore

Bangalore is recognized as the “Silicon Valley of India” and is also a prominent centre for nursing education and healthcare services. In Bangalore city, numerous nursing colleges are functioning to provide nursing education. All nursing colleges are affiliated with Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore. These institutions are focused on unifying theoretical knowledge with clinical practice to prepare competent nursing professionals.

In recent years, the advancement of digital technologies in nursing education in Bangalore has improved access to updated scientific knowledge and enhanced teaching methodologies. Many studies have demonstrated that nursing faculty members in Bangalore actively use e-resources, online journals, and databases to conduct research and academic activities. (Sridhar et al., 2022).

Moreover, Bangalore’s nursing education system is supported by governmental and private sector initiatives aimed at improving curriculum standards, faculty development, and infrastructure, thereby

contributing to the overall quality and employability of nursing graduates (Kumar & Shetty, 2021).

3.0 Review of Literature

Singh and Mahapatra (2017) conducted a study to “evaluate the students' and faculty's awareness about electronic sources of information”. The study identified that home is the most preferred place by 53.89%(n=104) of the respondents to access electronic resources, as compared to 15.59%(n=29) who prefer to use the library. (Singh & Mahapatra, 2017). Kumar (2015) examined the nursing professionals' range of health information for clinical requirements. The advancement of technology has made nursing college libraries' role much easier in supporting teaching, learning, and research activities of the nursing professionals. The study helps us to understand the nursing faculty and postgraduate students' preferences in selected nursing colleges in Mangalore. (Kumar, 2015)

4.0 Objectives of the study

This study aims to find out the information-seeking behavior of faculty members of Nursing colleges in Bangalore. The following objectives have been identified for the present study.

1. To find the level of awareness about e-resources among faculty members of nursing colleges in Bangalore.
2. To find out the purpose of using electronic information resources by the nursing faculty members
- 3.To find out the skills in searching electronic information resources among nursing faculty members.

5.0 Scope, Methodology, and Limitations of the study

5.1 Scope:

The scope of this study is confined to faculty members of Nursing colleges affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science, Bangalore. For the study purposes, 119 nursing college faculty members were selected.

5.2 Sample

A total of 1150 structured questionnaires were distributed among faculty members of 119 nursing colleges in Bangalore, out of which 947 filled questionnaires were received back with a response

rate of 82.35%. Among 947 questionnaires, 853 (90.07%) questionnaires were filled out by female respondents, and the remaining 94 (9.93%) questionnaires were filled out by males.

5.3 Methodology:

To study the usage pattern among faculty members of nursing colleges in Bangalore city towards e-resources, the researcher consulted experts in the field and developed questionnaires using a scale “highly”, “moderate”, “little”, and “not at all” scales. Further, to analyze the purpose of use and level of skill in searching e-resources among faculty members, the researcher included related questions in the questionnaires. The questionnaires were then distributed to collect the data.

5.4 Procedure

The researcher of this study obtained the data from respondents with prior permission. They were asked to read/understand the questions mentioned in the questionnaire and select the best option for each statement. The researcher has also explained the importance of the study to respondents. Further, the researcher scrutinized the data and fed responses to the datasheet for statistical analysis.

5.5 Limitations

The present study is limited to nursing colleges in Bangalore city.

6.0 Data analysis and interpretation

The following table presents the demographic data of the faculty members of nursing colleges in Bangalore

Table 1: Gender-wise distribution of respondents

Gender	Number of questionnaires received	Response rate in percentage
Male	94	9.93%
Female	853	90.07%
Total	947	100%

The above table, No. 1, shows that 853 (90.07%) are ‘Female’ respondents, and the remaining 94 (9.93%) are ‘Male’ respondents. This substantial gender imbalance indicates a predominantly female faculty workforce in the nursing field within these colleges, aligning with the general trend of higher female representation in nursing professions.

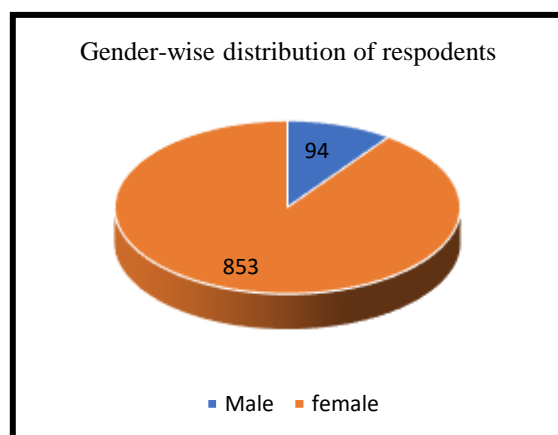


Figure-1

Table 2: Age-wise distribution of respondents

in Years)	pers	Percentage
5-35	7	27.14%
6-45	5	45.93%
6-55	2	18.16%
above	1	8.76%
Total	7	100%

The above table, No. 2, shows the age-wise distribution of respondents between 25 years and 56 years and above. Out of the 947 faculty members, 257 (27.14%) comes under the age group of 25 to 35 years, 435 (45.93%) belong to '36-45 years', 172 (18.16%) come under '46-55 years', the remaining 83 (8.76%) of the sample represent 'Above 55 years' of age group.

Table 3: Designation-Wise Distribution of Respondents

Designation	Male	Female	Total
Lecturers	39 (41.49%)	343 (40.21%)	382 (40.34%)
Assistant Professors	27 (28.72%)	325 (38.10%)	352 (37.17%)
Associate Professors	15 (15.96%)	124 (14.54%)	139 (14.68%)
Professors	13 (13.83%)	61 (7.15%)	74 (7.81%)
Total	94 (100%)	853 (100%)	947(100%)

The above table presents the designation-wise distribution of faculty members of nursing colleges in Bangalore. Among the respondents, 382 (40.34%) were Lecturers, 352 (37.17 %) were Assistant professors, 139 (14.68 %) were Associate professors, and 74 (7.81 %) were Professors, respectively.

Overall, the majority of the respondents are female, and the remaining are male. This indicates a substantial predominance of female faculty members across all designations. The highest proportion of female faculty is seen in the Lecturer and Assistant Professor categories.

Table 4: Awareness towards databases among nursing faculty members

Databases	Highly	Moderately	Little	Not at all
Biomed Central	174 (18.37%)	247(26.08%)	445 (46.99%)	81 (8.55%)
CINAHL Ultimate	453 (47.84%)	280 (29.57%)	114 (12.04%)	100 (10.56%)
Lippincott NursingProcedures and Skills	66 (6.97%)	532 (56.18%)	313 (33.05%)	36 (3.80%)
McGraw-Hill Database	71 (7.50%)	586 (61.88%)	205 (21.65%)	85 (8.98%)
ProQuest Database	620 (65.47%)	163 (17.21%)	131 (13.83%)	33 (3.48%)
PubMed	733 (77.40%)	123 (12.99%)	83 (8.76%)	8 (0.84%)

The above table, No. 4, represents the nursing faculty's awareness of different databases. It is observed from the table that among the databases, PubMed (77.40%) is the highly aware database, 586 (61.88%) faculty members are moderately aware

McGraw-Hill Database, 445 (33.05%) faculty members are little aware of Biomed Central, and 100 (10.56%) faculty members not at all aware CINAHAL Ultimate database.

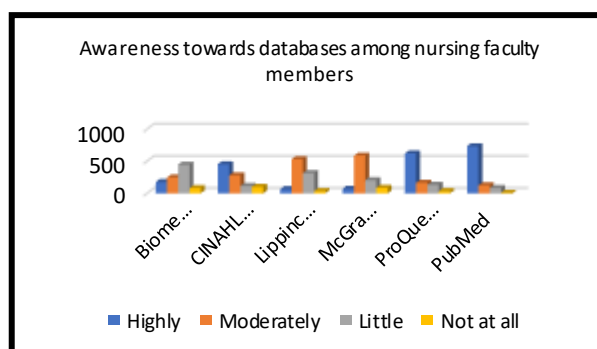


Figure-2

Table 5: Awareness towards e-journals among nursing faculty members

e-Journals	Highly	Moderately	Little	Not at all
Cambridge University Press Journals	145 (15.31%)	612 (64.63%)	137 (14.47%)	53 (5.60%)
Elsevier/ Science Direct Journals	615 (64.94%)	203 (21.44%)	103 (10.88%)	26 (2.75%)
Karger Journals	91 (9.61%)	248 (26.19%)	531 (56.07%)	77 (8.13%)
Ovid/Wolter Kluwer Journals	150 (15.84%)	165 (17.42%)	558 (58.92%)	74 (7.81%)
Oxford University Press Journals	73 (7.71%)	308 (32.52%)	500 (52.80%)	66 (6.97%)
Sage journals	125 (13.20%)	563 (59.45%)	217 (22.91%)	42 (4.44%)
Springer Nature Link	107 (11.30%)	255 (26.93%)	515 (54.38%)	70 (7.39%)
Taylor & Francis	111 (11.72%)	295 (31.15%)	481 (50.79%)	60 (6.34%)
Wiley journals	367 (38.75%)	457 (48.26%)	94 (9.93%)	29 (3.06%)

The above table, No. 5, depicts that the majority of respondents have “Little” awareness towards Oxford University Press Journals (500, 52.80%), Springer Nature Link (515, 54.38%), Taylor & Francis (481, 50.79%), and Ovid/Wolter Kluwer journals (558, 58.92%). The respondents have moderate awareness towards Cambridge University Press Journals (612, 64.63%), Wiley journals (457, 48.26%), and Sage

journals (563, 59.45%). Among the whole, the respondents have high awareness towards Elsevier/ Science Direct Journals (615, 64.94%).

Table 6: Purpose of using electronic information resources by the nursing faculty members

Purpose of using EIR	Male (N=94)	Female (N=853)	Total (N=947)
Reading /Writing research Papers	53 (56.38%)	592 (69.40%)	645 (68.11%)
Preparing/ accessing teaching materials/ general information	64 (68.09%)	706 (82.77%)	770 (81.31%)

For drawings, designs, graphs, and patents	25 (26.60%)	284 (33.29%)	309 (32.63%)
Curriculum design	12 (12.77%)	85 (9.96%)	97 (10.24%)
Preparation for Seminars, conferences and workshops	52 (55.32%)	423 (49.59%)	475 (50.16%)
For basic patient care and medical information	36 (38.30%)	387 (45.37%)	423 (44.67%)
To access audio/ visual materials	48 (51.06%)	349 (40.91%)	397 (41.92%)
Writing Thesis and Dissertation on (including guiding students)	54 (57.45%)	569 (66.71%)	631 (66.63%)

It is observed from the above table No.6 that 81.31% of nursing faculty members use electronic resources for preparing/accessing teaching materials/general information purposes, followed by 68.11% of respondents for reading/ writing research papers, 66.63% of respondents for Writing Thesis and Dissertation purpose, 50.16% of respondents for Seminars, conferences, and workshop preparation purpose, 44.67% of respondents for basic patient care and medical information purposes, 41.92% of

respondents To access audio/ visual materials purpose, 32.63% of respondents for drawings, designs, graphs, and patents purposes and 10.24% of respondents for Curriculum design purposes. The data revealed that the majority (81.31%) of the faculty members use electronic resources for preparing/ teaching purposes, and a very small (10.24%) percentage of nursing faculty use them for curriculum design purposes. Female respondents are highly use e-resources than male respondents.

Table 7: Level of search skills of Faculty members while accessing electronic information resources.

Skills used while searching	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Boolean Search	172 (18.16%)	192 (20.27%)	94 (9.93%)	357 (37.70%)	132 (13.94%)
Synonym search	96 (10.14%)	104 (10.98%)	119 (12.57%)	144 (15.21%)	484 (51.11%)
Federated search	34 (3.59%)	41 (4.33%)	91 (9.61%)	147 (15.52%)	634 (66.95%)
Keyword search	106 (11.19%)	405 (42.77%)	301 (31.78%)	124 (13.09%)	11 (1.16%)
Title Search	102 (10.77%)	597 (63.04%)	106 (11.19%)	94 (9.93%)	48 (5.07%)
Truncation search	65 (6.86%)	26 (2.75%)	87 (9.19%)	78 (8.24%)	691 (72.97%)
Format search (PDF, PPT)	67 (7.07%)	101 (10.67%)	114 (12.04%)	133 (14.04%)	532 (56.18%)
Save text and images	158 (16.68%)	225 (23.76%)	339 (35.80%)	167 (17.63%)	58 (6.12%)
Exporting and storing data	96 (10.14%)	191 (20.17%)	324 (34.21%)	195 (20.59%)	141 (14.89%)
Reference Manager	98 (10.35%)	94 (9.93%)	103 (10.88%)	105 (11.09%)	547 (57.76%)

Table No. 7 presents nursing faculty members' search skills in using electronic information resources. It states that 172 (18.16%) Faculty members have excellent Boolean search skills, 597 (63.04%) of

faculty members are very good in title search skills, 339 (35.80%) of faculty members are good in saving text and images skills, 357 (37.70%) of faculty members are fair in Boolean search skills and 634

(66.95%) faculty members are poor in Federated search skills.

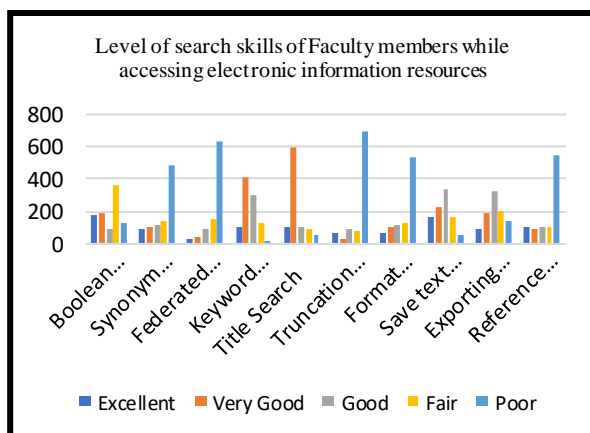


Figure-3

7.0 Findings of the study

The majority of 77.40% respondents are highly aware of the PubMed database, and 313 (33.05%) faculty members are a little aware of Lippincott Nursing procedures and skills. The majority of respondents have “Little” awareness towards Oxford University Press Journals (500, 52.80%), and Springer Nature Link (515, 54.38%), and the majority of respondents have high awareness towards Elsevier/ Science Direct Journals (615, 64.94%).

The majority of respondents use e-resources for the purpose of “Preparing/ accessing teaching materials/ general information (770, 81.31%), and a minimum of respondents use e-resources for the purpose of Curriculum design (97, 10.24%). 172 (18.16%) Faculty members have excellent Boolean search skills, and 634 (66.95%) faculty members are poor in Federated search skills.

Recommendations of the study:

- Based on the analysis and findings of the study, the researcher recommended the following recommendations for the study:
- User awareness and orientation programmes may be conducted to create awareness and increase usage of e-resources among the faculty of nursing colleges in Bangalore.
- Periodically conduct e-resources search skills training sessions for nursing faculty members for effective use of e-resources
- Encouragement to be made to increase the number of resources as part of the Open Access movement.

9.0 Conclusion

The use of electronic information resources by nursing faculty in Bangalore is extensive and beneficial, significantly contributing to teaching and research activities. Addressing the challenges related to technical support and training can further enhance the effective utilization of these resources. Future research could explore the impact of specific EIR tools on student outcomes and extend the study to other regions for comparative analysis.

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