
A Study on Use of E-Resources and UGC – INFONET Consortium by Faculties, Research Scholars and Post Graduate Students of Annamalai University, Tamilnadu

J. Bakkiaraj

Ph.D. Research Scholar Dept. of Library and Information Science, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Tamil Nadu
bakkiarajrulis@gmail.com,

M.G. Sathiyamurthy

Assistant professor, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Tamil Nadu, Email: sathyammg@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper evaluates the usability of e-resources by the teaching staff, Research scholar and students of the Annamalai University in the faculty of engineering, medicine, agriculture and marine biology. This study shows that the frequency of use of internet and e-resources what are the different ways from which the respondents learned about UGC – infonet consortium. This study helps to promote the use of e-resources available through the UGC infonet consortium from the respondents point of view. This study determines the level of sanitation of the respondents with the availability of e-resources in the consortium..

Keywords

e-resources, e- journals, e-books, e-references, e-magazine, UGC-infonet consortium

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INTRODUCTION

The demand for e-resources by the academic and research community has increased over the years. E-resources are resources in which information is stored electronically and which are accessible through electronic systems and networks. e-resources is a very broad term that includes a variety of different publishing models, including e-journals, e-books, internet resources, CD-ROMS etc. Electronic resources are becoming very important these days as they are more up to date, and can be accessed anywhere, crossing all geographical boundaries. In the information technology era, academic libraries and information center have radically changed the information environment. Higher education institution started subscribing to electronic resources to meet the user's requirement and expectations. In India, the university grants communication (UGC) has lunched UGC infonet consortium to facilitate access to e-resources to students, research scholars and teaching staff in institution of higher learning especially universities. The consortium enables the academic libraries to access a large number of scholarly journals from reputed publishers, aggregators and societies. The present study aim to assess the use of e-resources by the teaching staff, research scholars and students of Annamalai University and get their opinion about the UGC – infonet consortium.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The scope of the study is limited to the use of e-resources by the academic and research community of Annamalai University in order to fulfill their academic and research needs. This study focuses on the use of e-resources by teaching staff, research scholar and students belongs to faculty of engineering, medical science, agriculture and marine biology, Annamalai University.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:

1. To find out academic status wise respondent's frequency of use of internet and e-resources.
2. To know academic status wise respondents' opinion on need and importance of bibliographic databases and portals.

3. To find out academic status wise respondent's opinion on need of print journals in addition to e-journals.
4. To assess academic status wise respondent's knowledge on UGC – Infonet consortium.
5. To determine academic status wise respondent's opinion on mode of knowing about the consortium.
6. To know academic status wise respondent's opinion on need for more number of e-journals in the UGC - Infonet consortium.
7. To receive academic status wise respondent's suggestions to improve the usage of e-resources.

The study is mainly based on the primary data collected from the respondents of four faculty of Annamalai University through a well designed questionnaire. At first a pilot study was conducted to test the feeling of the respondents in answering the questions. Then the well tested questionnaire was distributed personally to the respondents and 1050 filled in questionnaire were collected from the teaching staff, research scholars and students of the four faculty namely, engineering, medical science, agriculture and marine biology.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The collected data has been checked and analyzed according to the objectives of the study. Simple percentage analysis has been followed to analyse the data in the present study.

METHODOLOGY

Table 1: Academic Status wise Respondent's Frequency of Using Internet and E-Resources

S. No	Academic Status	Frequency					Total
		Daily	Once in two days	Twice in a week	Once in a week	Occasionally	
1	Staff	205(53.94)	85(22.36)	54(14.21)	21(5.52)	15(3.94)	380(100)
2	Research scholar	90(41.86)	42(19.53)	29(13.49)	37(17.21)	17(7.91)	215(100)
3	Student	145(31.87)	139(30.55)	113(24.84)	56(12.31)	2(0.44)	455(100)
	Total	440(41.90)	266(25.33)	196(18.66)	114(10.85)	34(3.23)	1050(100)

It is evident from the above table 1 that more than 50 percent of staff members using internet and e-resources on daily basis whereas nearly 44 percent of research scholars and below 30 percent of student communities also using the same daily. It is observed

from the table that more number of students using internet and e-resources once in two days and twice in a week. It could be detected from the table that majority of the teaching staff using the internet and e-resources on daily basis than other users

Table 2: Academic Status wise Respondents' Opinion on Bibliographic Databases and Portals

S.No	Database/portal	Academic Status			
		Teaching staff n=380	Research scholar n=215	Student n=455	Total n=1050
1.	Bibliographic data base	309(81.32)	168(78.14)	206(45.27)	683(65.05)
2.	Portal service	264(69.47)	121(56.28)	184(40.44)	569(54.19)
	Total	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)

It is observed from the table 2 that the highest 81.32 percent of the teaching staff says that bibliographic databases are need and important for their academic

activities. It is also seen from the table that nearly 70 percent of the teaching staff felt that portal service are also important for their study and teaching

Table 3: Academic Status wise Respondent’s Opinion on Need of Print Journals in Addition to E-journals

S. No		Academic status			
		Teaching staff	Research scholar	Student	Total
1.	Print format journals are needed in addition to E-journals	228(60)	172(80.00)	383(84.18)	783(74.57)
2.	Print format journals not – needed	152(40)	43(20.00)	72(15.82)	267(25.43)
	Total	380(100)	215(100)	455(100)	1050(100)

It is evident from the table 3 that 84.18 percent of the students says that print format journal are needed in addition to e-journals. 60 percent of teaching staff

and 80 percent of research scholars also demanded print journals for their research.

Table 4: Academic Status wise Respondent’s Knowledge about the UGC – INFONET Consortium

S.No	Particulars	Academic status			
		Teaching staff	Research scholar	Student	Total
1.	Know about UGC – infonet consortium	380(100)	215(100)	455(100)	1050(100)
2.	Do not know about UGC infonet consortium	-	-	-	-
	Total	380(100)	215(100)	455 (100)	1050 (100)

It is seen from the above table 4 that all the teaching staff, research scholars and students of the study having knowledge about UGC – INFONET consortium.

Table 5: Academic Status wise Respondent’s Opinion on Mode of Knowing about Consortium

SI. No	Mode of Knowing	Academic Status			Total
		Teaching	Research Scholar	Student	
1	Lib. Professional	177(46.58)	70(32.56)	128(28.13)	375(35.71)
2	Teaching/ research Guide	-	42(19.53)	140(30.77)	182(17.33)
3	Advertisement	18(4.74)	05(2.33)	14(3.08)	37(3.52)
4	Co-research Scholar/Friends	164(43.16)	96(44.65)	167(36.70)	427(40.67)
5	Web	21(5.53)	2(0.93)	6(1.32)	29(2.76)
	Total	380(100)	215(100)	455(100)	1050(100)

It is evident from the above table 5 that majority 46.58 percent of the teaching staff knowing the consortium through library professional whereas 44.65 percent of research scholars and 36.70 percent of the students knowing through their Co-research scholar / friends.

Table 6 : Academic Status wise Respondent’s Opinion on need for more Number of E-journals

S.No	Opinion	Academic Status			
		Teaching staff	Research scholar	Student	Total
1.	More number of journals are needed	334(87.89)	202(93.95)	255(56.04)	791(7.52)
2.	More number of journals not needed	46(12.11)	13(6.05)	200(43.96)	259(24.66)
	Total	380(100)	215(100)	155(100)	1050(100)

The above table 6 shows that academic status wise respondent’s opinion on need of more number of e-journals in the UGC Infonet consortium. It is evident

from the table that the highest 93.95 percent of the research scholars and 87.89 percent teaching staff opinioned as there is a need of more number of e-

journals in the UGC Infonet consortium, but only 56.04 percent of students said the same

Table 7: Academic Status wise Respondent’s Evaluation on UGC – INFONET Consortium

Sl.No	Rate grade	Status			Total
		Teaching staff	Research scholar	Student	
1	Excellent	102 (26.84)	50(23.26)	61(13.41)	213(20.29)
2	Good	210(55.26)	116(53.95)	399(74.51)	665(63.33)
3	Satisfactory	60(15.79)	29(13.49)	53(11.65)	142(13.52)
4	Unsatisfactory (poor)	8(2.11)	20(9.30)	2(0.44)	30(2.86)
	Total	380(100)	215(100)	455(100)	1050(100)

Respondents were asked to grade the UGC infonet consortium. Table 7 shows that majority of the teaching staff, research scholars and students grading

the UGC – Infonet consortium as ‘Good’. It is also noted that 26.84 percent of the teaching staff also grade the consortium as ‘excellent’

Table 8: Academic Status wise Respondent’s Suggestions to Improve the usage of E-resources

S. No	Suggestion	Academic Status			
		Teaching staff	Research scholar	Student	Total
1.	Provide workshops and classes	292(76.84)	172(80.00)	380(83.52)	844(80.38)
2.	Provide web-based guided tour	161(42.37)	78(36.28)	204(44.84)	443(42.19)
3.	Introduce written instruction for subject specific resources	124(32.63)	48(22.33)	220(48.35)	392(37.33)
4.	Inform the users frequently of what is available	328(86.32)	191(88.84)	381(83.74)	900(85.71)

In order to improve the usage of e-resources, suggestions were obtained from the respondents. The highest 86.32 percent of the teaching staff, 88.84 percent of research scholars and 83.74 percent of students suggested that “Inform the users frequently

of what is available” whereas the 83.52 percent of students and 80.00 percent of research scholars suggested to “provide workshops and classes” for effective use of e-resources for their study and research.

Table 9: Academic Status wise Respondent’s Opinion on Satisfaction with E-resources

S.No	Status	Frequency				
		Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Some what Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Total
1	Staff	121(31.84)	202(53.16)	50(13.16)	7(1.84)	380(100)
2	Research scholar	92(42.91)	118(54.88)	52(24.19)	23(10.70)	215(100)
3	Student	134(29.45)	144(31.65)	58(12.75)	49(10.77)	455(100)
	Total	347(33.05)	464(44.19)	160(15.24)	79(7.52)	1050(100)

Table 9 shows that academic status wise respondent’s opinion on satisfaction with e-resources. It could be observed from the above table that majority of respondents in every category ‘Satisfied’ with e-resources. Nearly 43 percent of the research scholars ‘Highly satisfied’ with the e-resources.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- It is found that majority of the teaching staff using the internet and e-resources on daily basis than other users.
- The findings show that nearly 82 percent of teaching staff and 79 percent of research scholars

felt that bibliographic database are need and important for their teaching and research purpose. Whereas nearly 70 percent of teaching staff and 56 percent of research scholars also said that portal service important for their research.

- It is found that majority of students and research scholars demanded print journals in addition to e-journals for their academic work.
- The findings shows that all the respondents having the knowledge on UGC – infonet consortium.
- The findings shows that majority of the teaching staff knowing the UGC – infonet consortium through library professionals whereas majority of the research scholars and students through their friends.
- It is found that majority of teaching staff, research scholars and students opinioned as more number e-journals need through UGC – infonet consortium.
- It is also found that majority of the respondents graded the UGC – infonet consortium as ‘good’.
- The findings shows that 80% of the respondents have given the suggestion as to ‘inform the users frequently of what is available’ to improve the use of e-resources.
- It is found that majority of the respondents were satisfied with e-resources available in their library.

It could be concluded from the above findings that all the respondents are well known about e-resources

and the UGC-infonet consortium. Among the respondents teaching staff and research scholars more used the e-resources than the students. From the findings it is concluded that e-resources play the important role in the higher education and research especially in the university education.

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