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**A Study on Electronic Information Resources  
Usage Pattern among Students and Faculty in  
Chennai Medical College Hospital and Research  
Centre, Trichy**

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**Abstract**

*The present study was carried out at Trichy Chennai Medical College Hospital and Research Centre. The studies aim to examine the factors like experience of use of e-resources, use of various types of e-resources, use of e-databases subscribed by the library, awareness factor, learnt to use e-resources, purpose of use, preferred e-resources file formats and rating of available e-resources in the library and information centre. For this purpose the researchers prepared a well structured questionnaire and interview schedule as a tool for data collection and same was analyzed and presented with useful percentage analysis and suitable table for presentation of data.*

**Keywords**

Electronic Information Resources , Usage patterns,  
Medical Students & Faculty

**Electronic access**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Today's users have their information needs met via a number of options. They need not come physically to the library to use print formats but can stay at home or the office and access online library resources and services via networks or authentication methods at any time. Medical information should be accessible, authoritative, reliable, accurate, and timely. Due to the needs of medical professionals for high quality information, medical libraries have been early adopters of electronic resources to provide information and services. Electronic resources have exploded in popularity and use. Medical faculty and students to use e-resources include relating to increasingly computer-literate students and keeping up to date in their fields. The latter is essential for those with clinical practice as more of their clients use e-resources to keep informed about health information. Access to e-resources has decreased the time spent searching for information. The ability to use e-resources efficiently depends on basic computer skills, knowledge of what is available and how to use it, and ability to define a research problem. Faculty due to the nature of their work teaching, research, and in some cases, clinical practice should have ready access to medical information. Computer literate faculty and students may feel more comfortable using electronic information sources and thus gain more from using them. How faculty attain the above skills and knowledge depends on many factors, such as their disciplines, academic status and ranks, access to electronic resources and training. The library plays a leading role in faculty – library relationships and in instructional services such as orientation and training in use of library resources. If efficient and effective use is to be made of library's e-resources, then user training will have to increase in both intensity and coverage. It is important to remember that the ability of library staff to keep up to date is necessary and therefore training for them is crucial as well.

**CHENNAI MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL  
AND RESEARCH CENTRE: AN OVERVIEW**

Chennai Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (CMCH&RC), Thiruchirappalli, (Group of SRM University). It is affiliated in Dr.MGR Medical University, Chennai. This centre was started in the year 2008 as a multi-speciality 1000 bedded teaching hospital. It's providing modern medical care and education in a rural area which was resulted in establishing this institution in Irungalur village of

Mannachanallur Taluk, Tiruchirappalli District, Tamilnadu State. This central library is unique in having a “Skill lab” to train faculty and students on electronic information technology and gain experience on the following. The skill lab is located in the second floor with an area of 60 Sq.m and a capacity to accommodate 25 persons. We have more number of Animation Cds.

- ❖ Tele medicine
- ❖ Tele conferencing
- ❖ Outsourcing of lectures Through web
- ❖ E-Books/ E-journals
- ❖ E-Consortium

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Chowdappa, *et al.* depicts the extent of dependency of “users of Educational and Research Institute of Mysore city on the electronic/digital media and tried to find out the impact of e-information resources on the academic community”. The main objectives was to know how information users rely upon books, journals, CDs and internet for their research and the opinion in the use of digital sources compared to the traditional sources. Kanniyappan, *et al.* found out the “use of different types of e-resources and services and their impact on the academic development of faculty members at Anna University library, Chennai”. Findings indicate that the overall respondents use computers and online services. Majority of them use e-mail, internet, OPAC system and online journals. Lal, *et al.* studied “uses of internet access by medical students and resident doctors of Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC)” and found that it has a lower cost as compared to paper-based dissemination of information and also has an added advantage of being available world wide instantly on demand. Therefore, there is a need not only to equip medical fraternity with adequate skills for use of internet but also to make internet facility available in institutions providing medical education and health-care. Manhas conducted a survey on “Use of the Internet and Electronic Resources for Dental Science Information: A Case study”. The results of the study reveal that the dental teachers and students (73.7%) under study have their own personal computers or laptops. 42.6% of the respondents use the Internet and electronic resources for finding health/dental sciences information, followed by patient care with 26.5% responses. A majority of the respondents (80.2%) feel that the Internet and electronic resources cannot replace the

physical resources (print resources) that it only supplements the print resources.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives behind conducting present study are :

1. To find out various types of electronic information resources used by the faculty and students.
2. To investigate the core medical sciences databases accessed by the faculty and students.
3. To find out the source of awareness and purpose of use of electronic information resources.
4. To find out the preferred file format of electronic information resources
5. To find out the overall rating of e-resource collection of the library.

### METHODOLOGY

The scope of the study is restricted only to faculty and students of Chennai Medical College Hospital and Research Centre Trichy. In this study questionnaire method was used to collect the necessary data, keeping in view the objectives of the study. A total 250 questionnaire were randomly distributed among the faculty and students and 230 filled up questionnaire were received back consisting of good responses.

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data collected by different methods were analyzed, interpreted and same has been presented in the following tables.

**Table 1:** Sex ratio of the Respondents

S.No.	Gender	No.of Respondents
1	Male	106 (46%)
2	Female	124 (54%)

This table shows data taken from male and female of students and faculties in Chennai Medical College Hospital and Research Centre. The male ratio of 106 (46%) and female ratio 124 (54%) of the respondents. Mostly Female medical students and faculties usage in the e-resources of the medical college library.

**Table 2:** Age wise classification

S.No.	Age	No.of Respondents
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1	19 - 20	59 (26%)
2	21 - 22	77 (33%)
3	23 - 24	32 (14%)
4	25-26 & above	62 (27%)

It appears from the above table that the majority of the medical students and faculty are in the age group between 21 – 22 (33%) mostly used for e-resources.

**Table 3:** Category wise of the respondents

S.No.	Category	No.of Respondents
1	UG Students	116 (50%)
2	PG Students	45 (20 %)
3	Research Scholar	23 (10%)
4	Faculty	46 (20%)

This table shows collected the questionnaire form different types of user namely Faculty 20%, Research scholars 10%, PG students 20%, UG students 50% respectively. Mostly using the e-resources by UG students.

**Table 4:** User awareness about E-resources subscribed by library

S.No.	User awareness about e-resources	No. of Respondents
1	Yes	207 (90%)
2	No	23 (10%)

User awareness level of respondent’s availability of e-resources. It shows about 90% positive response regarding the awareness of e-resources. Majority of the respondents are much aware about the availability of the e-resources at our institutions.

**Table 5:** Awareness about E-resources

S.No.	Opinion	No.of Respondents
1	Aware & Use	165 (71%)
2	Aware but not use	52 (23%)
3	Not Aware	13 (6%)

Indicates that 71% of them are aware and use e-resources for their study purpose, 23% of the students and faculty aware about e-resources but they are not using electronic resources. But only 6% students and faculty opinioned that they are not aware about e-resources. This analysis found that majority of the

students and faculty are aware about the use of electronic resources in the Medical purpose.

**Table 6:** Source of information about the e-resources

S.No.	Source of information	No.of Respondents
1	Office circular	37 (16%)
2	Library notice board / E-mail	91 (39%)
3	Colleague / Friends	64 (28%)
4	Institute website	32 (14%)
5	Institute Newsletter	6 (3%)

This table explains the source of information about the e-resources by the medical students and faculty. Majority of student and faculty 39% library notice board and E-mail and used in access the medical related information.

**Table 7:** Frequency of access e-resources

S.No.	Frequency	No. of Respondents
1	Daily	71 (31%)
2	Once in a weekly	71 (31%)
3	Twice in a weekly	30 (13%)
4	Once in a monthly	21 (9%)
5	Occasionally	37 (16%)

This table shows that 31% students and faculty using the e-resources daily and once in a weekly and 13% students and faculty use e-resources twice in a weekly. Only 9% students and faculty using e-resources once in a monthly for searching required information and 16% student and faculty are using occasionally searching the medical information on e-resources. It indicates that student and faculty frequently using e-resources they use daily and once in a weekly.

**Table 8:** Place of access of E-resources

S.No.	Place	No. of Respondents
1	College Library	121 (53%)
2	Home	32 (14%)
3	Internet Café	23 (10%)
4	Mobile phone	54 (23%)

The respondents were asked to indicate the place from where the students and faculty access e-resources for their medical purpose. Most of the

students and faculty 53% are accessing electronic resources from college library, 23% of accessing the electronic resource from mobile phone, 14% from home and 10% of them accessing e-resources through their internet café. This analysis indicates that most of the students and faculty depending college library for accessing electronic resources.

**Table 9:** Ability in using e-resources

S.No.	Stages	No. of Respondents
1	Beginner	93 (40%)
2	Average	98 (43%)
3	Above Average	26 (11%)
4	Expert	13 (6%)

In order to identify the ability in using e-resources, the respondents were requested to give their responses regarding the ability to use e- resources. The above analysis shows that about the students and faculty 40% opinioned that their ability to use electronic resources. Majority of students and faculty 43% of opinioned that their ability is average, 11% of respondent use of electronic resources ability is above average and only 6% of them opinioned their ability to use electronic resources is expert. It indicated that they need orientation programme and training programme for improving their ability to use of electronic resources.

**Table 10:** Purpose of using e-resources

S. No.	Purpose	No. of Respondents
1	Project work	72 (32%)
2	Research work	46 (20%)
3	Article writing	24 (10%)
4	Presentation of conference / Seminar	67 (29%)
5	Updating the current information	13 (6%)
6	Leisure / Other purpose	8 (3%)

It table shows that the purposes for which e-resources were used by the faculty and students. 32 % Project work, 20% Research work, 10% Article writing work, 29% Presentation of conference / seminar, 6% updating the current information, 3% leisure & other purpose. Majority of students and faculty mainly project work of using the e-resources.

**Table 11:** Types of e-resources accessed

S. No.	Types of e-resources	No. of Respondents
1	E-journals	131 (56%)
2	E-books	64 (28%)
3	Bibliographic databases	20 (9%)
4	CD-ROM Databases	15 (7%)

This table shows that types of e-resources access. 56% respondents access E-journals, 28% of respondents access E-books, 9% of respondents access Bibliographic databases, 7% of respondents access CD – ROM Databases. Majority of respondents access in Electronic journals for e-resources.

**Table 12:** Preferable format for getting information

S.No.	Types of format	No. of Respondents
1	Print	77 (33%)
2	Electronic	27 (12%)
3	Both	126 (55%)

This table indicates that out of 126 respondents 55% of them are preferable for getting information from both formats, 33% of them are from print format and 12% of them are preferable for getting information form electronic format.

**Table 13:** Frequently accessed of search engine tools

S.No.	Search engine tools	No. of Respondents
1	Google	204 (89%)
2	Opera	2 (1%)
3	Yahoo	23 (10%)
4	Altavista	1 (0%)

Now a days various search engines are available for searching information from internet. Hence the investigator tries to find out which is the most commonly used search engine by students and faculty. This table shows that various search engines used by the Chennai medical college hospital and research centre students and faculty. It indicate that majority of the student and faculty using Google 89% as search engines, 1% is using Opera, 10% using in Yahoo and 0% using in Altavista for searching required information from e-resources. It can be found that Google is most commonly used search engines by the students and faculty because it is fast in access and regularly updated. There are so many

other search engines are available which has several special characteristics, but students and faculty are not fully exploiting these facilities for their information requirements.

**Table 14:** Use of Medical databases

S.No.	Medical Databases	No. of Respondents
1	PUB MED	161(70%)
2	PROQUEST	18 (8%)
3	IND MED	19 (8%)
4	CHEMICAL ABSTRACT	12 (5%)
5	SCOPUS	20 (9%)

The use of e-medical databases made accessible via medical college library for the faculty and students has been summarized in the form of this table. It is clear from the table that 70% respondents use PUBMED, followed by 9% SCOPUS, 8% PROQUEST and INDMED 5% chemical abstract. This table also show that majority of 70% of students and faculty use in PUBMED database.

**Table 15:** Level of satisfaction

S.No.	Level of satisfaction	No. of Respondents
1	Satisfied	111 (48%)
2	Partially satisfied	104 (45%)
3	Not satisfied	15 (7%)

In order to find out level of satisfaction with e resources, respondents were asked to indicate their satisfaction level. This table shows that level of satisfaction, 48% per cent students and staff are satisfied with e-resources available in their field of study. Only 45% are partially satisfied and 7% students and staff are not satisfied with e-resources available in their field.

**FINDINGS**

- The major findings of the study and suggestions to improve the usage and accessing electronic information resources have been summarized below :
- The 92% of respondents used e-resources in CMCH&RC students and faculty are good response. About the findings CMCH&RC

majority respondents use of e-resources Female 54%, Male 46%.

- The medical students and faculty are in the age group between 21- 22 (33%) mostly use in e-resources.
- The respondents category wise used e-resources 20% faculty, 10% Research scholar, 20% PG, 50% UG. Mostly using the e-resources by UG students.
- 90% positive response regarding the awareness of e-resources. Majority of the respondents are much aware about the availability of the e-resources at our institution.
- 71% majority of the students and faculty are aware about the electronic resources in the subject area and they use electronic resources for their Medical purpose.
- Majority of student and faculty 39% library notice board and E-mail and used in access the medical related information.
- 31% students and faculty frequently using e-resources they use daily and once in a weekly.
- 53% most of the students and faculty depending college library for accessing electronic resources.
- Majority of students and faculty 43% of opinioned that their ability is average to use electronic resources.
- Majority of students and faculty mainly project work 32% of using the e-resources.
- Majority of respondents access in 56% Electronic journals for e-resources.
- 126 respondents 55% of them are preferable for getting information from both formats, 33% of them are from print format and 12% of them are preferable for getting information form electronic format.
- Majority of 70% of students and faculty use in pub med database.
- 89% Google is most commonly used search engines by the students and faculty because it is fast in access and regularly updated. 48% per

cent students and staff are satisfied with e-resources available in their field of study.

- Majority of 70% of students and faculty use in pub med database.

## SUGGESTIONS

- The faculty and students should be trained in using various search options available in search menu of electronic information resources for effective retrieval of relevant information.
- The web designers / publishers / distributors should provide online help menu in the search page for better utilization of their information resources.
- The library and information center should send alerts regarding newly available e-resources in print as well as in electronic format.
- The medical institutions should organize seminars, workshops and orientation programmes for faculty and students at regular interval of time to keep them pace with latest technologies.

## CONCLUSIONS

The proliferation of electronic resources has a significant impact in the Medical community uses, stores and preserves information. The analysis shows that electronic resources have become the vital part of information source and being widely used by CMCH&RC students and faculty. It has rapidly changed the way of seeking and disseminating information. It indicates that most of the students and faculty are aware about electronics resources and they use this e-resource for searching required information. Hence there is an urgent need for effective user education, orientation programme, workshops, seminars etc among the CMCH&RC students and faculty only they can exploit the maximum benefit from the e-resources.

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