
Usage of Electronic Resources by the Faculty Members in Arts & Science Colleges Library affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

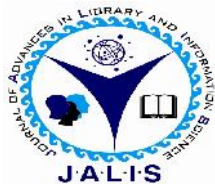
This paper aims to assess and evaluate the usage of e-resources by the faculty members of Affiliated Arts and Science Colleges of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, with a view to examine the exposure of faculty members to e-resources. The authors investigate the use of e-resources by the faculty members of Affiliated Arts and Science Colleges of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, through a survey based on a structured questionnaire. This study confirmed that the faculty members are aware of the e-resources and various types of e-resources like e-databases and e-journals. It is found that there are 142 (95.94%) faculty members use IEEE (ASPP) e-journal, followed by 138 (93.24%) faculties use Science Direct, 122 (82.43%) faculties use McGraw Hill's Access Engineering, 117(79.05%) faculty members use Springer e-journals, 100 (67.56%) faculties use J-Gate, 82 (55.40%) faculty members use ASME online packages,

Keywords

Internet; Electronic resources; Faculty members;
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INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancement of information and communication technology (ICT) has brought a revolutionary change in the information scenario which is giving rise to a number of options to handle varied information sources conveniently and effortlessly and as a result of which e-resources have become the most sought after for satisfying varied needs of students, teachers, and researchers with minimum risk and time. To know the effectiveness of various resources, services and facilities provided to the faculties by the Libraries of Affiliated Arts and Science Colleges of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, a well structured questionnaire is designed by keeping in mind, the objectives of the study. Out of 154 questionnaires distributed to the staff members of Affiliated colleges, 148 filled questionnaires were received back with the response rate of 99.97%. The filled in questionnaires were analyzed, tabulated and interpreted so as to derive accurate findings.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Several studies on usage of e-resources have been carried out of students, research scholars, and teachers of various institutions all over the world. Babu, Sarada and Ramaiah investigated the use of Internet resources by the academic community of the Sri Venkateswara University (SVN), Tirupati and highlighted various problems and issues involved in handling digital library and gave few suggestions for improvement of library services. Sinha and Sinha² evaluate the usage pattern of electronic resources made available in the Assam University Library under the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium and provide few suggestions and recommendations for improving the access to Internet, e-journals and e-resources. Appleton³ in his study, perceptions on electronic library resources in further education, has expressed personal experiences on the use of e-resources and their impact on teaching and learning activity. Swain and Panda⁴ in their study, 'Use of e-services by faculty members of business schools in a state of India: A study', have discussed on quantitative and qualitative use of e-resources by the faculty members of business schools of Orissa.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The Objectives of the study are

- To assess the contemporary use of electronic resources by the Affiliated Colleges faculty members of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University
- To study the use of different types of electronic resources by the faculty members.
- To study the purpose of use of electronic resources by the faculty members.
- To identify and analyze the specific factors that promotes the use of electronic resources.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is an attempt to ascertain the use of the online resources by the faculty members of the Arts and Science colleges under Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. The data was personally collected from the faculty members of Affiliated Arts and Science Colleges of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on survey (questionnaire) method. A structured questionnaire was designed to collect data from the faculty members of Arts and Science colleges under Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu, keeping in mind the basic objective of the study. The data was personally collected among the faculty members, 154 questionnaires were disseminated to the users from three college libraries under the study. Therefore, a total of 148 questionnaires were returned. Then the collected data tabulated and analyzed accordingly. The results of the findings were accessible in tables using percentage.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: Distribution of Questionnaire

Name of the colleges	Number of questionnaire distributed	Number of respondents		Total Percentage
		Male	Female	
MDT Hindu College	58	24(16.21%)	31(20.94%)	37.15%
Xaviers college	50	20(13.51%)	28(18.91%)	32.42%
Sadak Abdulla College	46	28(18.92%)	17(11.48%)	30.40%
Total	154	72(48.64%)	76(51.33%)	99.97%

Table 1 indicates that the total of 148 questionnaires responded out of 154 and consisted of 58 faculty members from MDT Hindu College, 50 from Xaviers College, 46 from Sadak Abdulla college of Arts and Science. Majority of respondents 76(51.33%) are female and remaining 72(48.64%) of

them are male represented. Whereas gender and college wise , it is found that female are more represented from MDT Hindu college and Xavier's college and male are more represented from Sadak Abdulla Arts and Science College.

Table 2: Frequency of Internet use

Frequency of Internet use	Department							Total
	Computer Science	Computer Application	Information Technology	BBA	B.Com	MCA	M.Sc IT	
Daily	6(20%)	5(26%)	3(12.50%)	0	1(6.66%)	2(9.52%)	6(17.14%)	19(12.83%)
Twice a Week	11(36.66%)	11(57.89%)	10(41.66%)	8(53.33%)	8(53.33%)	12(63.15%)	18(51.42%)	72(48.64%)
Once in a Week	12(40%)	5(26.31%)	11(45.83%)	6(40.00%)	6(40.00%)	7(33.33%)	9(25.71%)	52(35.13%)
Fortnightly	1(3.33%)	1(3.33%)	0	0	0	0	2(5.71%)	5(3.37%)
Once in a Month	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occasionally	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	30(100%)	19(100%)	24(100%)	4(100%)	15(100%)	21(100%)	35(100%)	148(100%)

Table 2 shows that the frequency of internet used by the respondents for accessing e-resources, it clearly reveals that most of the faculty members 72 out of 148 (48.64%) used the internet twice a week, 52

(35.13%) used the internet once in a week, 19 (12.83%) respondents used daily and 5 (3.37%) used fortnightly.

Table 3. User opinion about Convenience of Working Hours

Convenience of Working Hours	Department							Total
	Computer Science	Computer Application	Information Technology	BBA	B.Com	MCA	M.Sc IT	
Convenient	29(96.66%)	17(89.47%)	23(95.83%)	4(100%)	13(86.66%)	20(95.23%)	32(91.42%)	138(93.24%)
Not Convenient	1(3.33%)	2(10.52%)	1(4.16%)	0(0.0%)	2(13.33%)	1(4.76%)	3(8.57%)	10(6.76%)
Total	30(100%)	19(100%)	24(100%)	4(100%)	15(100%)	21(100%)	35(100%)	148(100%)

The table 3 shows that the data relating to user opinion about convenience of working hours, Majority of the respondents 138(93.24%) opined that the working hours of their respective libraries are convenient and only 10(6.76%) faculty members

opined that it is not convenient. Where it is found that the positive response about convenience of working hours are more represented in CS, IT, MCA, M.Sc IT.

Table 4: User opinion about Effectiveness of Accessing Information resources

Effectiveness in Accessing E-Information Resources Library	Very effective	Effective	Somewhat Effective	Ineffective	Total
E-books	54(36.48%)	68(45.94%)	10(6.75%)	0(0.00%)	132(89.17%)
E-journals	107(72.29%)	34(22.97%)	5(3.37%)	0(0.00%)	146(98.63%)
Abstracts & Indexing resources	36(24.32%)	50(33.78%)	10(6.75%)	4(2.70%)	100(67.55%)
Projects	45(30.40%)	48(32.43%)	12(8.10%)	0(0.00%)	105(70.93%)
CD ROM databases	36(24.32%)	40(27.02%)	18(12.16%)	5(3.37%)	99(66.87%)
Conference/workshops/seminars proceedings	33(22.29%)	44(29.72%)	12(8.10%)	2(1.35%)	91(61.46%)

Table 4 shows that the data relating to faculty members opinion about effectiveness of accessing information resources, Majority of 107(72.29%) respondents opined that access to E-Journals are

‘very effective’ and 34 (22.97%) opined that the access to E-Journals are ‘Effective’ and 5(3.37%) respondents opined that ‘Somewhat effective’

Table 5: Type of E-resources frequently used

Name of the E-resources	Department-wise Respondents							Total
	Computer Science	Computer Application	Information Technology	BBA	B.Com	MCA	M.Sc IT	
IEEE(ASPP)	29(96.66%)	19(100.00%)	23(95.83%)	4(100.00%)	15(100.00%)	20(95.23%)	32(91.42%)	142(95.94%)
ASME	15(50.00%)	12(63.15%)	14(58.33%)	2(50.00%)	6(40.00%)	21(100.00%)	12(34.28%)	82(55.40%)
Science Direct	29(96.66%)	19(100.00%)	24(100.00%)	3(75.00%)	14(93.33%)	19(90.47%)	30(85.71%)	138(93.24%)
Springer	25(83.33%)	12(63.15%)	20(83.33%)	2(50.00%)	10(66.66%)	17(80.95%)	31(88.57%)	117(79.05%)
McGraw Hill's Access Eng.	22(73.33%)	14(73.68%)	19(79.16%)	3(75.00%)	12(80.00%)	19(90.47%)	33(94.28%)	122(82.43%)
J-Gate(JET)	20(66.66%)	10(52.63%)	15(62.50%)	2(50.00%)	9(60.00%)	20(95.23%)	24(68.57%)	100(67.56%)

The analysis of the data in the table 5 shows that the most used e-resources by the respondents as seen from their resources which are 142(95.94%) faculty members who use IEEE (ASPP) e-journals, followed by 138(93.24%) faculty members use Science Direct, 122(82.43%) faculties use McGraw Hill's Access

Engineering, 117(79.05%) faculty members use Springer e-journals, 100(67.56%) faculties use J-Gate, 82(55.40%) faculty members use ASME e-journals.

Table 6: Purpose of Using Electronic Resources

Purpose of Using Electronic Resources	Departments-wise No. of respondents							Total
	Computer Science	Computer Application	Information Technology	BBA	B.Com	MCA	M.Sc IT	
Browsing journals	28(93.33%)	18(94.74%)	22(91.66%)	4(100%)	15(100%)	20(95.23%)	33(94.28%)	140(94.59%)
For writing articles	24(80.00%)	15(78.94%)	19(79.16%)	2(50.00%)	11(73.33%)	16(70.19%)	26(74.28%)	113(76.35%)
Technical reports/ research reports	27(90.00%)	17(89.47%)	23(95.83%)	3(75.00%)	14(93.33%)	21(100%)	32(91.42%)	137(92.56%)
For updating subject	26(86.66%)	18(94.74%)	24(100%)	3(75.00%)	13(86.66%)	16(70.19%)	30(85.71%)	130(87.83%)

Table 6 reveals that majority 140(94.59%) of the respondents use electronic resources for browsing journals followed by 137(92.56%) who use the e-resources for finding technical reports and research reports. Whereas 130(87.83%) respondents use electronic information resources for updating the subject knowledge,113(76.355) of the respondents use electronic resources for writing research papers or articles.

(82.43%) faculties use Mc Grew Hill's Access Engineering, 117 (79.05%) faculty members use Springer e-journals, 100 (67.56%) facilities use J-Gate, 82 (55.40%) faculty members use ASME e-journals,

5. It is found that majority (94.59%) of the respondents use electronic resources for browsing journals followed by 92.56% who use the e-resources for finding technical reports and research reports.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. It is found that the accessing of internet by the faculty members, 72 out of 148 (48.64%) use the internet twice a week. 52(35.13%) use the internet in a week, 19(12.83%) respondents use daily and 5(3.37%) use fortnightly for the purpose of accessing e-resources.
2. It is found that the positive response about convenience of working hours were more represented in CS, IT, and MCA departments.
3. It is found that the e-journals `very effective`, Followed by 107 (72.29%) `effective`, Followed by 34(22.97%) `somewhat effective`, followed by 5 (3.37%) respondents. Opined that access to conference/ workshop/seminars proceedings.
4. It is found that 142(95.94%) faculty members use IEEE (ASPP) e-journals, followed by the 138 (93.24%) faculties use Science Direct, 122

CONCLUSION

Faculty members are heavily dependent on e-resources for their required information and to keep themselves up-to-date in their subject area. Though some respects that the role of libraries as a gateway to the e-resources which may have less importance in future as faculty members access more and more e-resources in their respective departments or personal desktop/laptop, it seems to be more hypothetical. Rather the role of libraries in the age of e-resources, which will increase tremendously, particularly in providing training and guidance to use authentic and relevant information. The study reveals that the faculty members of Affiliated colleges of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu are using the available e-resources with satisfaction. At the same time the Central Library of Manonmaniam Sundaranar

University are playing an important role in promotion, assistance and guidance in accessing the e-resources to their users.

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