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**Utilization of Electronic Resources by the  
Students of Engineering Colleges in Kanchipuram  
District: A Study**

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**Abstract**

*E-resources which are an important resources in a digital library are being widely used by the people nowadays. Earlier, only few academic libraries including the special libraries had access to electronic resources. But nowadays, each academic library has some form of e-resource. The present study demonstrates and elaborates the various aspects of E-resources use such as, awareness approach, adequacy, purpose, confidence level and benefit of using E-resources.*

**Keywords**

Information and communication technology E-resource, Engineering colleges,

**Electronic access**

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## INTRODUCTION

E-resources are the resources when the information is available in the electronic format, on the web and CD-ROM format. This phenomenon is due to rapid advancement of information technologies including the internet and digitizing techniques. The qualities of E-resources are growing larger. In addition, a considerable amount of resources are now published electronically. This significantly enlarges the size of the electronic resources. Electronic resources have become one of the most important aspect of a digital library.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Haneefa K (2007) presented the results of an investigation in the study “Use of ICT Based Resources and Services in Special Libraries in Kerala, India. The email service was used by the largest percentage of the users. WWW was being used by 60 per cent of the library users. A good no. of users were not satisfied with the application of ICT in the libraries and indicated ‘inadequate ICT infrastructure’ as their reason for dissatisfaction. Users proposed a variety of measures of formal orientation and training in ICT based resources and services. Rajput et al (2007) surveyed the internet resources and services of the Institute of Engineering & Science, Indore (India) and the findings in the paper “Internet Resources and Services in Institute of Engineering & Science, IPS Academy Indore: An Exploratory Study”. A large number of users were dissatisfied with the infrastructure facilities available in IES, specifically in terms of hardware facilities. Dhanavandan (2012) describes the Use of Digital Library Resources by the engineering professionals in the engineering colleges at Cuddalore District, and investigates the current state-of-the art information through the digital library resources. The 33.7% of users feel that lack of information is the problems with access of digital library resources. The findings of this study would assist the internet browsers to improve their level.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

**The objectives of the study are:**

1. To identify the awareness approach to electronic resources and services.
2. To study the adequacy of using electronic resources and services.

3. To analysis the different purposes for which the electronic resources is used by the respondents.
4. To find out the confidence level in using electronic resources and services.
5. To identify the most commonly used browser and search engine used by the students of Engineering colleges.
6. To find out the most preferred format for downloading articles among the students of Engineering colleges.
7. To identify the benefit of using electronic resources and services.

### METHOLOGY

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 1: Distribution of Respondent's Awareness Approach to Electronic Resources and Services**

S. No	Awareness Approach Through	No. of Respondents				Total	%
		Male	%	Female	%		
1	Membership	97	10.48	47	14.51	144	11.52
2	Library Website	78	8.42	56	17.28	134	10.72
3	Information brochure	126	13.61	44	13.58	170	13.60
4	Colleagues/class fellows	429	46.33	121	37.55	550	44.00
5	Staff and other source	196	21.17	56	17.28	252	20.16
<b>Total</b>		926	100.00	324	100.00	1250	100.00

Table 1 shows that the distribution of respondents awareness approach to electronic resources. It is clear from table that 429(46.33%) male and 121(37.35%) female respondents were aware of electronic resources through their colleagues/class fellows where as 196(21.17%) male and 56(17.28%) female

respondents were made aware through the staff and other sources and 126(13.61%) male and 44(13.58%) female respondents were made aware through information brochure. The remaining sources namely membership and library website were not familiar among the male and female respondent

**Table 2: Distribution of Respondent's Adequacy of Using Electronic Resources and Services**

S. No	Adequacy	No. of Respondents				Total	%
		Male	%	Female	%		
1	Always	524	56.59	162	50.00	686	54.88
2	Some time	294	31.75	101	31.17	395	31.60
3	Occasionally	108	11.66	61	18.83	169	13.52
<b>Total</b>		926	100.00	324	100.00	1250	100.00

A study of data in table 2 indicators the gender wise distribution of respondents adequacy of using electronic resources and services. It could be noted that out of 926 male and 324 female respondent's, 56.59 percent of male and 50.00 percent of female respondents always used electronic resources, 31.75 percent of male and 31.17 female respondents used some time and 11.66 male and 18.83 female respondents used ICT based resources Occasionally.

Table 3 shows the gender wise distribution of respondents purpose of using electronic resources and services. It could be noted that out of 926 male and 324 female respondents, 38.23 percent of male and 33.33 percent of female respondents are using electronic resources for their study purpose, 2.59 percent of male and 5.56 percent of female respondents are using electronic resources for

publishing articles and books, 21.38 percent of male and 19.14 percent of female respondents are using electronic resources and services for keeping up-to-date information, 13.17 percent of male and 12.96 percent of female respondents are using electronic resources for finding relevant information, 6.59 percent of male and 5.86 percent of female respondents are using electronic resources for their professional development, 12.20 percent of male and

13.27 percent of female respondents are using electronic resources for their entertainment purpose and 5.83 percent of male and 9.88 percent of female respondents are using electronic resources for chatting purpose

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondent’s purpose of using ICT based resources and services**

S.No	Purpose	No. of Respondent’s				Total	%
		Male	%	Female	%		
1	Study	354	38.23	108	33.33	462	36.96
2	Publishing Articles/Books	24	2.59	18	5.56	42	3.36
3	Keeping up-to-date information	198	21.38	62	19.14	260	20.80
4	Finding relevant information	122	13.17	42	12.96	164	13.12
5	Professional Development	61	6.59	19	5.86	80	6.40
6	Entertainment	113	12.20	43	13.27	156	12.48
7	Chatting	54	5.83	32	9.88	86	6.88
	Total	926	100.00	324	100.00	1250	100.00

**Table 4: Distribution of Respondent’s confidence level in using electronic resources and services**

S. No	Gender	Very poor	poor	Somewhat good	good	Very good	Total
1	Male	47(5.08)	88(9.50)	453(48.92)	250(27.00)	88(9.50)	450
2	Female	27(8.33)	40(12.35)	128(39.51)	51(15.74)	78(24.07)	800
	<b>Total</b>	74(5.92)	128(10.24)	581(46.48)	301(24.08)	166(13.28)	1250

*(Figures in Parentheses denote Percentage)*

Table 4 shows the gender wise distribution of respondents confidence level in using electronic resources and services. Among the total number of 926 male and 324 female respondents, 47 (5.08%) male and 27(8.33%) female respondents were found to be very poor, 88 (8.33%) male and 40(12.35%) female respondents were found to be poor, 453 (48.92%) male and 128(39.51%) female respondents were found to be somewhat good, 250(27.00%) male and 51 (15.74%) female respondents were found to be good and 88 (9.50%) male and 78 (24.07%) female respondents were found to be very good.

Table 5 shows that the gender wise distribution of respondents frequently used search engine. Out of 926 male and 324 female respondents, 550(59.40%) male and 136(41.98%) female respondents have used Google search engine, 39(4.21%) male and 21(6.48%) female respondents have been Alta vista, 282(30.45%) male and 122(37.65%) female respondents have used yahoo, 25(2.70%) male and 27(8.33%) female respondents have used MSN and 30(3.24%) male and 18(5.56%) female respondents have used other search engine.

**Table 5: Distribution of Respondent’s frequently used Search Engine**

S. No	Gender	Google	AltaVista	Yahoo	MSN	Any other	Total
1	Male	550(59.40)	39(4.21)	282(30.45)	25(2.70)	30(3.24)	926
2	Female	136(41.98)	21(6.48)	122(37.65)	27(8.33)	18(5.56)	324
	<b>Total</b>	686(54.88)	60(4.80)	404(32.32)	52(4.16)	48(3.84)	1250

*(Figures in Parentheses denote Percentage)*

**Table 6: Distribution of Respondents Most Commonly used Browser**

S. No	Gender	Internet Explorer	Opera	Mozilla Fire fox	Any other	Total
1	Male	729(78.73)	147(15.87)	31(3.35)	19(2.05)	926
2	Female	205(63.27)	74(22.84)	28(8.64)	17(5.25)	324
<b>Total</b>		934(74.72)	221(17.68)	59(4.72)	36(2.88)	1250

(Figures in Parentheses denote Percentage)

**Table 7: Distribution of Respondent's preferred format to download articles**

S.No	Gender	PDF	HTML	Word	Any other	Total
1	Male	562(60.69)	46(4.97)	274(29.59)	44(4.75)	726
2	Female	79(24.38)	37(11.42)	187(57.72)	21(6.48)	324
<b>Total</b>		641(51.28)	83(6.64)	461(36.88)	65(5.20)	1250

(Figures in Parentheses denote Percentage)

**Table 8: Distribution of Respondent's benefit of using electronic resources and services**

S. No	Gender	Time saving	Easy to use	Easy to locate	More information	More preferred	Total
1	Male	375(40.50)	248(26.78)	157(16.95)	128(13.82)	18(1.94)	926
2	Female	63(19.44)	108(33.33)	73(22.53)	64(19.75)	16(4.94)	324
<b>Total</b>		438(35.04)	356(28.48)	230(18.40)	192(15.36)	34(2.72)	1250

(Figures in Parentheses denote Percentage)

Table 6 shows the gender wise distribution of respondent's most commonly used browser. Out of 926 male and 324 female respondents, 729(78.73%) male and 205(63.27%) female respondents are using internet explorer, 147(15.87%) male and 74(22.84%) female respondents are using opera, 31(3.35%) male and 28(8.64%) female respondents are using mozilla fire fox and 19(2.05%) male and 17(5.25%) female respondents are using other browser.

Data presented in table 7 shows the gender wise distribution of respondents format preferred to download articles. Out of 926 male and 324 female respondents from arts and science colleges, 562 (60.69%) male and 79(24.38%) female respondents preferred PDF format for downloading articles, 46(4.97%) male and 37(11.42%) female respondents preferred HTML format 279 (29.59%) male and 187 (57.72%) female respondents preferred word format and 44(4.75%) male and 21 (6.48%) female respondents preferred other format for downloading articles

Table 8 shows the gender wise distribution of respondent's benefit of using electronic resources and services. The result reveals that ,out of 926 male and

324 female respondents ,375(40.50%) male and 63(19.44%) female respondents were of the opinion that it is time saving,248(26.78%) male and

108(33.33%) female respondents were of the opinion that it is easy to use,157(16.95%) male and 73(22.53%) female respondents were of the opinion that it is easy to locate, 128(13.82%) male and 64(19.75%)female respondents were of the opinion that it is more informative and 18(1.94%)male and 16(4.94%)female respondents were of the opinion that it is more preferred.

## FINDINGS

### The findings of the study are:

1. The findings of the distribution of respondent's awareness approach to electronic resources and services reveal the fact that, 44.00 percent of respondents were aware of electronic resources and services through their colleagues/ class fellows.
2. The findings of the gender-wise distribution of respondent's adequacy of using electronic resources reveal the fact that, 56.59 percent of

male and 50.00 percent of female respondent's always using electronic resources.

3. The findings of the distribution of respondents confidence level in using electronic resources and services reveal the fact that, 48.92 percent of male and 39.51 percent of female respondents were found to be some what good.
4. The findings of the purpose of using electronic resources and services reveal the fact that 38.23 percent of male and 33.33 percent of female respondents have used electronic resources and services for their study purposes.
5. The findings of distribution of respondents' views on search engines used reveal the fact that, 550(59.40%) male and 136(41.98%) female respondents have used Google Search Engine.
6. The findings of the distribution of respondents most commonly used browser reveal the fact that, 729(78.73%) male and 205(63.27%) female respondents use Internet Explorer.
7. The findings of the distribution of respondent's format preferred to download articles reveal the fact that, 562(60.69%) male respondents and 187(57.72%) female respondent's preferred PDF format and word format for downloading articles.
8. The findings of the distribution of respondents benefit of using electronic resources and services reveal the fact that, 40.50 percent of male and 33.33 percent of female respondents were of the opinion that it is time saving and it is easy to use.

## CONCLUSION

The study carried out at the Engineering colleges in Kanchipuram district revealed that the majority of the students use electronic resources to a great extend. It is crystal clear from the result that the younger generation here accepted the information resources through electronic resources. Today almost all the activities of human beings would not be successful without the effective use of information. The librarian and information professional ha a vital role to play in supplying the right information to the right people at the right time. This slogan deserves that libraries in every corner of our country should be glued together with the Internet.

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