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## Usage of Electronic Information Resources among the Academic Community of Pharmacy Colleges in Chennai City

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### Abstract

*This paper is an investigation of the extent to which electronic resources are utilized by the academic community of pharmacy colleges in Chennai. It seeks to explore the pattern and trend of accessing electronic resources by the students and faculty members. The paper provides empirical data for understanding the perception and experience of the users on the use of electronic resources in a college environment.*

### Keywords

Electronic resources, Internet, Academic community, College environment

### Electronic access

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### Introduction

In the age of the information explosion, there is no doubt that the internet and e-resources have improved access to information. Internet as an ideal medium through which knowledge and information can be disseminated very effectively to every nook and corner of the world. The demand for e-resources by the academic and research community has increased day by day. The e-resources enable the academic user to access a large number of scholarly journals from reputed publisher, aggregators and societies. The present study is focused on frequently used e-resources and purpose of using these sources. The study evaluates the importance and satisfaction of the sources by getting opinion from the respondents of academic community of pharmacy colleges located in Chennai city. The studies also determine the difficulties experienced while using e-resources by the respondents.

### Objectives of the study

- To identify frequently used e-resources by the respondents
- To know the types of e-journals accessed by the respondents.
- To find out purpose of accessing the internet and e-resources by the respondents.
- To study the opinion of the respondents regarding the importance of the e-resources.
- To find out preferred format for downloading articles from the e-resources by the respondents.
- To assess level of satisfaction with e-resources by the respondents.

### Methodology

In order to accomplish objectives a survey was conducted through a questionnaire circulated among the faculty and students of pharmacy colleges located in Chennai city. There are five pharmacy colleges are selected for this study. 725 questionnaires distributed to the respondents of the sample colleges and 696 received back from the respondents. Random sampling method has been applied in this study to collect the data from the respondents.

In order to study the usage of e-resources of the faculty members and students in Pharmacy colleges located in Chennai city, the researcher has chosen five pharmacy colleges. They are;

1. Annai Veilankanni's Pharmacy College
2. C. L. Baid Metha College of Pharmacy
3. Sri. Ramachandra College of Pharmacy
4. Madras Medical College of Pharmacy
5. Vel's College of Pharmacy.

**Analysis and Discussion**

**Table .1 Institution-wise respondents' in different publishers of e-resources**

n = 696

Institution	Online data base	E-Journals	CD-ROM	E-newsletter	E-thesis and dissertation	E-books	Full text database	E-newspaper	Web resources	Open sources
Annai Veilankanni's Pharmacy College	122 (87.14)	110 (78.57)	94 (67.14)	86 (61.42)	61 (43.59)	75 (53.57)	56 (40.00)	89 (63.57)	102 (72.86)	12 (8.57)
C. L. Baid Metha College of Pharmacy	126 (88.73)	114 (80.28)	98 (69.01)	100 (70.42)	65 (45.77)	79 (55.63)	60 (42.25)	93 (65.49)	106 (74.65)	18 (12.67)
Sri. Ramachandra College of Pharmacy	99 (71.73)	88 (63.76)	80 (57.97)	79 (57.24)	60 (43.48)	59 (42.75)	41 (29.71)	73 (52.89)	66 (47.83)	22 (15.94)
Madras Medical College of Pharmacy	108 (82.44)	96 (73.28)	80 (61.06)	72 (54.96)	47 (35.87)	61 (46.56)	42 (32.06)	75 (57.29)	88 (67.18)	24 (18.32)
Vel's College of Pharmacy	118 (81.37)	106 (73.10)	90 (62.06)	82 (56.55)	57 (39.31)	71 (48.96)	52 (36.86)	85 (58.62)	98 (67.59)	15 (10.34)
Total	573 (82.33)	514 (73.85)	442 (63.51)	419 (60.20)	290 (41.67)	345 (49.57)	251 (36.07)	415 (59.63)	460 (66.09)	91 (13.07)

Source: Computed

(Note: Figures in parentheses denote percentage)

Table 1 shows that institution wise respondent's different publishers frequently used e-resources. Out of 696 respondents from 5 sample colleges. The highest number of respondents 573(82.33%) used on-line database and it is followed by e-journal, web resources, and CD-ROM with 73.85%, 66.09% and 63.51% respectively. It is also observed from the table that only 13.07% respondents used open sources.

**Table 2. Institution-wise respondents' types of e-journals accessed**

n = 514

Institution wise	Emerald	Science online	Elsevier science direct	Springer journal	Taylor and Francis	Black well synergy	Cambridge university press	Institute of physics	Project muse	Royal Society of chemistry	Others	Total
Annai Veilankanni's Pharmacy College	38 (34.54)	20 (18.18)	24 (21.81)	40 (36.36)	70 (63.63)	24 (21.81)	18 (16.36)	6 (5.45)	16 (14.54)	70 (63.63)	12 (10.90)	110 (21.40)
C. L. Baid Metha College of Pharmacy	24 (21.05)	38 (33.33)	20 (17.54)	18 (15.78)	22 (19.29)	17 (14.91)	9 (7.89)	5 (4.38)	12 (10.52)	65 (57.01)	5 (4.38)	114 (22.18)
Sri. Ramachandra College of Pharmacy	19 (21.59)	34 (38.64)	42 (47.72)	30 (34.09)	12 (13.64)	22 (25)	8 (9.09)	6 (6.82)	10 (11.37)	64 (72.73)	6 (6.82)	88 (17.12)
Madras Medical College of Pharmacy	14 (14.58)	42 (43.75)	38 (39.58)	25 (26.04)	10 (10.42)	12 (12.5)	16 (16.67)	18 (18.75)	9 (9.37)	57 (59.37)	5 (5.21)	96 (18.68)
Vel's College of Pharmacy	29 (27.35)	58 (54.71)	43 (40.57)	32 (30.18)	14 (13.20)	18 (16.98)	14 (13.20)	20 (18.87)	14 (13.20)	62 (58.49)	3 (2.83)	106 (20.62)
total	124 (24.12)	192 (37.35)	167 (26.65)	145 (28.21)	128 (24.90)	93 (18.09)	65 (12.64)	55 (10.70)	61 (11.87)	318 (61.87)	31 (6.03)	514 (100)

Source: Computed

(Note: Figures in parentheses denote percentage)

Table 2 shows that institution wise respondent's types of e-journals accessed. Out of 514 respondents 318 (61.87%) of them accessed Royal society of chemistry, 192 (37.35%) of them accessed science online, 167(26.65%) of them preferred Elsevier science direct. It is observed from the table that Royal society of Chemistry is the most preferred and accessed journal while institute of physics is the least accessed journal by the respondents of pharmacy colleges in Chennai city.

**Table 3. Institution-wise respondents' purpose of accessing internet and e-resources**

n = 696

Institution	Research work/Project	Teaching/Seminar	For communication	For subject specialization	Updating subject knowledge and GK	Career development	Others
Annai Veilankanni's Pharmacy College	76 (54.28)	36 (25.71)	96 (68.57)	86 (61.42)	120 (85.71)	118 (84.29)	8 (5.71)
C. L. Baid Metha College of Pharmacy	61 (42.95)	32 (22.51)	83 (58.45)	81 (57.04)	122 (85.92)	98 (69.01)	6 (4.25)
Sri. Ramachandra College of Pharmacy	45 (32.60)	26 (18.84)	67 (48.55)	65 (47.10)	108 (78.26)	84 (60.86)	4 (2.89)
Madras Medical College of Pharmacy	34 (25.95)	21 (16.03)	56 (42.74)	54 (41.22)	128 (97.71)	67 (51.14)	7 (5.34)
Vel's College of Pharmacy	29 (20.00)	17 (11.72)	61 (42.07)	59 (40.69)	126 (86.89)	72 (49.66)	3 (2.06)
Total	245 (35.20)	132 (18.97)	363 (52.16)	345 (49.57)	604 (86.78)	439 (63.07)	28 (4.02)

Source: Computed

(Note: Figures in parentheses denote percentage)

Table 3 shows that purpose of accessing internet and e-resources. Out of 696 respondents, the first highest number of respondents 604, (86.78%) accessing e-resources for the purpose of updating subject knowledge and GK. The second highest number of respondents 439 (63.07%) accessing for career development, more than 50% of the respondents used for communication purpose and nearly 50% of the respondents accessed the e-resources for subject specialization.

**Table 4. Respondents' level of importance of e-resources**

S. No	E-resource	Most Important	Important	Less Important	Not Important	Total
a	Online data base	478 (68.68)	136 (19.54)	78 (11.21)	4 (0.57)	696
b	E-Journals	450 (64.66)	144 (20.69)	100 (14.37)	2 (0.29)	696
c	CD-ROM	510 (73.28)	115 (16.52)	69 (9.91)	2 (0.29)	696
d	E-newsletter	381 (54.74)	155 (22.27)	134 (19.25)	26 (3.74)	696
e	E-thesis and dissertation	302 (43.39)	159 (22.84)	184 (26.44)	51 (7.33)	696
f	E-books	438 (62.93)	147 (21.12)	108 (15.52)	3 (0.43)	696
g	Full text database	460 (66.09)	11 (1.58)	89 (12.79)	6 (0.86)	696
h	E-newspaper	491 (70.55)	136 (19.54)	64 (9.20)	5 (0.72)	696
i	Web resources	406 (58.33)	146 (20.98)	122 (17.53)	22 (3.16)	696
j	Open sources	319 (45.83)	166 (23.85)	186 (26.72)	25 (3.59)	696

Source: Computed

(Note: Figures in parentheses denote percentage)

The data of table 4 indicate that more than 70% of the respondent's stated that CD-ROM and e-newspaper are the most important e-resources. More than 60 to 70% of the respondents opinioned that online data bases, full text database, e-journal and e-books are the most important e-resources, 50 to 60 of the respondents said web resources and e-newsletter are the most important e-resources and below 50% of the respondents specified that open sources and e-thesis and dissertation are the most important sources.

**Table 5. Institution-wise respondents' preferred file format for downloading articles**

Institution	Pdf	Html	Word format	Others
Annai Veilankanni's Pharmacy College	118 (84.28)	98 (70.00)	56 (40)	13 (9.2)
C. L. Baid Metha College of Pharmacy	122 (85.92)	82 (57.75)	49 (34.50)	9 (6.34)
Sri. Ramachandra College of Pharmacy	107 (77.54)	78 (56.52)	32 (23.19)	8 (3.79)
Madras Medical College of Pharmacy	102 (77.86)	72 (54.96)	47 (35.87)	11 (8.39)
Vel's College of Pharmacy	131 (90.34)	102 (70.34)	36 (24.82)	17 (11.72)
Total	580 (83.33)	432 (76.44)	220 (31.61)	58 (8.33)

Source: Computed (Figures in parentheses denote percentage)

Table 5 reveals that institution wise respondent's preferred format for downloading articles from e-resources. The total number of 696 respondents, 580 (83.33%) of them preferred Pdf format, 432(76.44%) preferred Html format and 220 (31.61%) of them preferred word format.

**Table 6.Respondents' level of satisfaction with e-resources**

E-resource	Very much satisfied	Satisfied	Some what satisfied	Dis. Satisfied	Total
Online data base	419 (73.12)	106 (18.50)	44 (7.68)	4 (0.70)	573 (82.33)
E-journals	375 (72.96)	82 (15.95)	55 (10.70)	2 (0.39)	514 (73.85)
CD-ROM	366 (82.81)	65 (14.71)	9 (2.04)	2 (0.45)	442 (63.51)
E-newsletter	296 (70.64)	72 (17.18)	45 (10.74)	6 (1.43)	419 (60.20)
E-thesis and dissertation	152 (52.41)	59 (20.34)	71 (24.48)	8 (2.76)	290 (41.67)
E-books	241 (69.86)	60 (17.39)	41 (11.88)	3 (0.87)	345 (49.57)
Full text database	222 (88.45)	9 (3.59)	18 (7.17)	2 (0.80)	251 (36.06)
E-newspaper	289 (69.64)	73 (17.59)	46 (11.08)	7 (1.69)	415 (59.63)
Web resources	313 (68.04)	76 (16.52)	66 (14.35)	5 (1.09)	460 (66.09)
Open sources	61 (67.03)	12 (13.19)	13 (14.29)	5 (5.49)	91 (9.39)

Source: Computed (Note: Figures in parentheses denote percentage)

Table 6 shows that the respondent's level of satisfaction with e-resources. Among the respondents, more than 80% of the respondents very much satisfied with full text data base and CD-ROM and 70% to 80% of the respondents satisfied with online data base, e-journals and e-newsletter. It is detected that 60% to 70% of the respondents very much satisfied with e-books, e-newspaper, web resources and open sources. It is also observed from the table that only 52.41% of the respondents very much satisfied with e-thesis and dissertation.

#### Findings of the study

- It is found that among the number of e-resources most the respondents frequently used online database, e-journals, web resources, CD-ROM and e-newsletter.

The findings shows that among the e-journals, Royal society of chemistry, science online, Elsevier science direct, Springer journal are the most accessed journal by the respondents.

- It is found that most of the respondents accessed internet and e-resources for the purpose of updating subject knowledge & GK and career development.
- The result shows that among the various e-resources, CD-ROM, e-newspaper, online database, full text database, e-journal and e-books considered as the most importance e-resources by the respondents.
- The result shows that PDF and HTML are most preferred file format for downloading articles from e-resources by the academic community of pharmacy colleges in Chennai city.
- It is found that more than 80% of the respondents very much satisfied with full text database and CD-ROM.

### Conclusion

Electronic resources are highly useful for the academic community. To enhance the use of e-resources, more awareness programmes should be organized by the college authorities, and educate the user about the facilities and benefits available with electronic format as compared to print. A special training should be given to the student community how to use the e-journals and how to retrieve the e-resources. A well defined and proper infrastructure facilities remains to be an encouraging factor for the use of e-resources. From the study it is concluded that the academic community of pharmacy colleges are very much interested to access the e-resources but

the accessing of full text database, e-thesis & dissertation and e-books by the respondents were poor compared to others. Hence it is suggested that awareness and training programmes should be given to the users to optimum utilization of these sources.

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