

Utilization of E-Resources by the Users of Arts and Science Colleges Affiliated to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore

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Abstract – The present study describes the usage of e-resources by the users of Arts and Science Colleges affiliated to Bharathiar University. This study focuses on the place of access, mode of learning, search engines used, browser, search mechanism adopted and purpose of accessing the internet and e-resources by the faculty and students for their academic demand.

Keywords: Electronic resources, Information and Communication Technology, Arts and Science Colleges

I. INTRODUCTION

In the 21st Century Information Technology (IT) had brought rapid changes in education. The conventional teaching and learning is gradually moving towards online. The concept of digital library, virtual library, and electronic library came into present situation. Electronic information resources have many advantages over traditional information resources. For teaching and learning, electronic resources are available in web enabled medium. A lot of developments are witnessed in the recent years in e publishing. Publishers are interested in many issues like publishing costs, changing readership, changing user expectations, rights management and archiving. Many authors and corporate bodies are resorting for self-publishing of various scholarly publications, and quality assurance. Researchers are interested to have easy access to full text publications and reference linking in a complex information space.

In the information technology era, academic libraries and information centers have radically changed the information environment. Higher education institutions started subscribing to electronic resources to meet the users' requirements and expectations.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the awareness of e-resources and services among the users of Arts and Science Colleges affiliated to Bharathiar University.

2. To determine the usefulness of e-resources and services.
3. To find out frequently used e-resources and services among the users of Arts and Science Colleges affiliated to Bharathiar University.
4. To find out the most preferred place for accessing e-resources by the users of Arts and Science Colleges affiliated to Bharathiar University.
5. To analyse the adequacy of using e-resources.
6. To analyse the influence of e-resources on research and academic process.

III. METHODOLOGY

The pertinent data has been collected from the PG students, Research scholars and Faculty members by administering the questionnaire method. The respondents were encouraged to give free and frank information. The respondents extended their full cooperation in the data collection. The data collection was carried out from December 2010 to March 2011. The collected data were classified and tabulated according to the objectives and hypothesis stated. For proper arrangement of the data, a master table was prepared by the author and was subjected to statistical treatments.

The findings of this study are applicable to the PG students, Research scholars and Faculty Members of 10 Colleges out of 72 Arts and Science Colleges affiliated to Bharathiar University and it does not represent PG students, Research scholars and Faculty members of other institutions.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE I AWARENESS OF E- RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Academic status	Very Good	Good	Poor	Total
PG Students	504 (65.80)	214 (27.94)	48 (6.27)	766
Research scholars	118 (44.53)	102 (38.49)	45 (16.98)	265
Faculty Members	336 (63.40)	166 (31.32)	28 (5.28)	530
Total	958 (61.37)	482 (30.88)	121 (7.75)	1561

(Figures in Parentheses denote Percentage)

Data presented in table I exhibits the academic status-wise distribution of respondents' awareness of e- resources and services. Out of 1561 total respondents, 958(61.37%) respondents have very good awareness of the use of e-resources and services, 482 (30.88%) respondents have good awareness of the use of e-resources and services and 121(7.75%) respondents have poor awareness of the use of e-resources and services.

With regard to 766 PG students, 65.80% of respondents have very good awareness of the use of e- resources and

services and 6.67 % of respondents have poor awareness of the use of e-resources and services. Among 265 Research Scholars, 44.53% of respondents have very good awareness of the use of e-resources and services and 16.98% of respondents have poor awareness of the use of e- resources and services. From the total of 530 Faculty Members, 63.40% of respondents have very good awareness and 5.28% of the faculty members have poor awareness of the use of e-resources and services.

TABLE II PLACE OF ACCESS OF E-RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Academic Status	On-Campus And Within Library	On-Campus And Outside The Library	Off – Campus And On - Shore	Off – Campus And Off-Shore	Total
PG Students	193 (25.20)	153 (19.97)	193 (25.20)	227 (29.63)	766
Research Scholars	67 (25.28)	70 (26.42)	94 (35.47)	34 (12.83)	265
Faculty Members	127 (23.96)	116 (21.89)	109 (20.57)	178 (33.58)	530
Total	387 (24.79)	339 (21.72)	396 (25.37)	439 (28.12)	1561

(Figures in Parentheses denote Percentage)

The details of the place of accessing e-resources and services are presented in table II. It could be noted that out of 1561 respondents, 387 (24.79%) respondents access the e-resources and services at On-campus and within library; 339 (21.72%) respondents access the e-resources and

services at On-campus and outside the library; 396 (25.37%) respondents access the e-resources and services at Off campus and on-shore and 439 (28.12%) respondents access the e-resources and services at Off-campus and off-shore.

TABLE III ADEQUACY OF USING E- RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Academic status	Always	Some time	Never	Total
P G Students	342 (44.65)	400 (52.22)	24 (3.13)	766
Research Scholars	147 (55.47)	105 (39.62)	13 (4.91)	265
Faculty members	392 (73.96)	127 (23.96)	11 (2.08)	530
Total	881 (56.44)	632 (40.49)	48 (3.07)	1561

(Figures in Parentheses denote Percentage)

Table III shows the academic status-wise distribution of respondent's adequacy of using e-resources. Out of 1561 respondents, 881(56.44%) respondents are using e-resources always; 632(40.49%) respondents are using sometime and 48(3.07%) respondents are never using e-resources.

Data presented in table IV indicates the academic status-wise distribution of respondents Influence of e-resources and services on research and academic process. It could be

noted that out of the total 1561 respondents, 223(14.29%) respondents indicated current information access; 242(15.50%) respondents indicated improved professional competence; 266(17.04%) respondents indicated wider information access; 443(28.38%) respondents indicated expedited research and academic process and 387(24.79%) respondents indicated easier and faster access.

TABLE IV INFLUENCE OF E - RESOURCES AND SERVICES ON RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC PROCESS

Academic status	Expedited research and academic process	Improved professional Competence	Current information access	Wider information access	Easier and faster access	Total
PG Students	203 (26.50)	92 (12.01)	99 (12.92)	139 (18.15)	233 (30.42)	766 (49.07)
Research scholars	45 (16.98)	32 (12.08)	53 (20.00)	63 (23.77)	72 (27.17)	265 (16.98)
Faculty Members	195 (36.79)	118 (22.26)	71 (13.40)	64 (12.08)	82 (15.47)	530 (33.95)
Total	443 (28.38)	242 (15.50)	223 (14.29)	266 (17.04)	387 (24.79)	1561 (100.00)

(Figures in Parentheses denote Percentage)

TABLE V FREQUENTLY USED E-RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Academic Status	E journals	E books	Online database	Online thesis	Online news	Online magazine	Website information	Library Catalogue	Others	Total
PG students	220 (28.72)	35 (4.56)	91 (11.88)	12 (1.57)	109 (14.23)	74 (9.66)	105 (13.71)	18 (2.35)	102 (13.32)	766
Research scholars	91 (34.34)	15 (5.66)	50 (18.87)	25 (9.43)	11 (4.15)	8 (3.02)	31 (11.70)	13 (4.91)	21 (7.92)	265
Faculty member	149 (28.11)	29 (5.47)	105 (19.81)	18 (3.40)	41 (7.74)	29 (5.47)	67 (12.64)	20 (3.77)	72 (13.58)	530
Total	460 (29.47)	79 (5.06)	246 (15.76)	55 (3.52)	161 (10.31)	111 (7.11)	203 (13.00)	51 (3.27)	195 (12.49)	1561

(Figures in Parentheses denote Percentage)

The details of the various types of e-resources used are presented in table V. It is observed from the table that 460(29.47%) respondents used e-journals; 79(5.06%) respondents used e-books; 246(15.76%) respondents used online database; 55(3.52%) respondents used on line thesis; 161(10.31%) respondents used online newspapers; 111(7.11%) respondents used online Magazines; 203(13.00%) respondents used Website information, 51(3.27%) respondents used library catalogue and the

remaining 51(3.27%) respondents used others. Hence it can be concluded that 460(29.47%) respondents used e-journals.

Table VI shows the academic status-wise distribution of respondent's usefulness of e-resources and services. It is clear that out of 1561 respondents, 660(42.28%) respondents felt that it is very useful; 628(40.23%) respondents felt that it is useful; 265(16.98%) respondents felt that it is average and 8(0.48%) respondent were felt that not useful.

TABLE VI USEFULNESS OF E- RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Academic Status	Very Useful	Useful	Average	Not useful	Total
P G Students	258 (33.68)	322 (42.04)	181 (23.63)	5 (0.65)	766
Research Scholars	105 (39.62)	127 (47.92)	31 (11.70)	2 (0.75)	265
Faculty members	297 (56.04)	179 (33.77)	53 (10.00)	1 (0.19)	530
Total	660 (42.28)	628 (40.23)	265 (16.98)	8 (0.48)	1561

(Figures in Parentheses denote Percentage)

V. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The findings of the distribution of respondent's Awareness of e-resources and services reveal the fact that 61.37 % of the respondents have very good awareness of the use of e-resources and services and 28.12 % of the respondents access the e-resources and services at off campus and offshore.

The findings of the distribution of respondent's frequently used e-resources reveal the fact that e-journals (29.47%) and online data base (15.76%) were the most used items of the respondents and 781(56.44%) respondent's always using e-resources; 632(40.49%) respondent's some time using e-resources and only 48(3.07%) respondent's never using e-resources.

The findings of the distribution of respondent's usefulness of e-resources reveal the fact that 660(42.28%) respondent's opinion that it is very useful, 628(40.23%) respondents' opinion that it is useful, 265(16.98%) respondent's opinion that it is average and 8(0.48%) respondent's opinion that it is not useful. The findings of the distribution of respondent's Influence of e- resources and services on research and academic process reveal the fact that 443(28.38%) respondents indicated expedited research process.

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