

Utilization of E-Resources in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract - Nowadays, e-resources are easily accessible in a university library and very prominent among library users. This study aims at exploring the impact of e-resources on university libraries. The present study identifies the various e-resources, databases available in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library in Tirunelveli. The researcher investigated the preferences and importance of e-resources along with identifying purpose and problems faced while accessing online resources by the post graduates and research scholars. A well structured questionnaire was designed and distributed among the users of MS University library, Tirunelveli in order to evaluate the e-resource facility. The study reveals that 80% of respondents are aware of the availability of OPAC, e-resources etc. The study says that 38.67% of respondents explore electronic books followed by 32% electronic Journals. This survey reveals that 73.33% respondents are satisfied with e-resources available in the library. It is suggested that the library needs to provide user training and new techniques like controlled vocabulary and advanced search strategies which can enable electronic search process much faster and easier.

Keywords: E-resources, University Library, Electronic search

I. INTRODUCTION

The fast growing communication technologies significantly affect scholarly communication. In this modern era, in no time we are able to communicate the information vastly without geographical barriers. Libraries are undergoing great changes in accordance with the fast growing information technology and academic community behaviour. Libraries thus started to bring new products and services by introducing information technology in information processing. The advent of internet has made it possible to meet Information needs and retrieval of information efficiently and effectively. New policies have been adopted in Libraries for transformation in their collection development and their service structures aiming at improving the management of scholarly information and strengthening and accessing scholarly information speedily. Being mostly used for research work, the University Libraries need to move towards less expensive, more useful and easily accessible digital e-resources. This distant learners having limited time to access the libraries can access from outside to commonly available electronic resources, mainly CD-ROM, OPACs. The electronic forms

of materials are replacing the printed form of materials at higher rate.

II. OBJECTIVES

This survey has especially been undertaken to assess the benefits of the e-resources over conventional sources of information in the form of print materials. The main objectives of the present study are furnished here under:

1. To assess the awareness on e-resources among the users in MS University Library;
2. To examine the extent to which electronic resources are used;
3. To analyze how the users depend on e-resources;
4. To identify the problems faced by users while using electronic resources in MS University Library.
5. To find out the basic search strategies of the users in MS University Library for accessing e-resources
6. To study the users' satisfaction on the existing Information sources in MS University Library

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Madhusudhan's study (2008) reveals how electronic resources are being used by teachers, students and research scholars of universities and research organizations. The survey also states that seventy-eight percent (78%) of the respondents depend for their research work on the UGC-INFONET- e-journals. Users' suggestions include starting of current article alert services and electronic document supply services.

The study undertaken by Ray and Day (1998) reveals that 83% of students found e-resources are relatively easy to use and time saving. Two thirds of total respondents participated in the survey state that they prefer to save articles on CD-ROM rather than the print.

Another study of Ali (2005) on online searching of Scientific Information in Science and Technology Libraries of Delhi reveals that almost 60% of the respondents are facing diverse problems while accessing electronic

information, for instance lack of knowledge about the resources, lack of trained staff and inadequate terminal.

However, Amritpal Kaur, (2011) undertook the study to assess the impact of e-journals on university libraries in terms of resources, staffing, space, technical services and equipment. A well structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed to collect the data from 11 university libraries of Punjab. It reveals the fact that there is an increase in reference enquires in libraries.

Jotwani (2013) in his study analyses the functioning, their resources including e-resources, developments in digital libraries and services being provided by IITs. This study shows that the IITs libraries are well maintained and they work towards creation of knowledge and user oriented services.

In the study undertaken by Sharma (2009) at Guru Gobind Singh (GGS) Indraprastha University Campus describes that e-library resources are sufficient for all existing disciplines, however main problem to use the available e-resources is inadequate infrastructure to meet the requirements of users.

IV. METHODOLOGY

A well-structured questionnaire was designed and distributed systematically among the postgraduates and research scholars of MS University Library to collect the required information. A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed randomly to the users.125 filled in questionnaires received back were found suitable for analysis. Data collected were analyzed and presented in tabular form.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1 AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS

Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
20-30 Years	71	56.8
30-40years	50	40.0
40-50yeras	4	3.38
Total	125	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 shows that 71 respondents (56.8 percent) out of 125 users of MS University Library are in the age group of 20-30 years followed by 50 respondents (40 percent) are belonging to the age group of 30-40 years and 4 respondents (3.8 percent) belonging to the age group of 40-50 years.

TABLE 2 GENDER WISE RESPONDENTS

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	63	50.4
Female	62	49.6
Total	125	100

Source: Primary Data

The analysis of the data presented in the Table 2 shows that 63 respondents (50.4 percent) representing the category of “Male” use the library services in MS University whereas 62 respondents (49.6 percent) belonging to the category of “Female” use the library services in MS University library.

TABLE 3 CREDIBILITY OF E-RESOURCES

E-Resources	No Of Respondents	Percentage
Good	66	50.4
Very Good	47	37.6
Average	12	9.6
Total	125	100

Source: Primary Data

The data presented in Table-3 reveals that 66 respondents (50.4 percent) express their credibility on e-resources available in MS University library that it is good, followed by 47 respondents (37.6 percent) whose opinion about the credibility on e-resources available in MS University library is very good and 12 respondents (9.6 percent) whose opinion about the credibility of e-resources available in MS University library is average. The study shows that e-resources available in MS University library are useful for the students. It is understood from the analysis of data presented in the above Table-3 that the services offered by MS University library in terms of procurement and availability of e-resources is up to the mark.

TABLE 4 AWARENESS ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF COMPUTERS, INTERNET, OPAC, E-RESOURCES AND SO ON

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	103	82.4
No	21	16.8
None	1	0.8
Total	125	100

Source: Primary Data

The analysis of data presented in the Table 4 reveals that 103 respondents (82.4 percent) out of 125 respondents express that they are aware of the availability of Computers, Internets, OPAC, e-resources and so on. While 21 respondents (16.8 percent) opine that they are not aware of the availability of Computers, Internet, OPAC, e-resources and so on. The study indicates that one respondent (0.8

percent) states that they have “No Comments” about the awareness availability of Computers, Internet, OPAC, e-resources and so on. The study shows that MS University library still requires making awareness among its small number of users on the availability of OPAC, e-resources and so on.

TABLE 5 KNOWLEDGE AMONG STUDENTS ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	101	80.8
No	24	19.2
Total	125	100

Source: Primary Data

The data presented in Table 5 reveals that 101 respondents (80.8 percent) know how to access e-resources whereas 24 respondents (19.2 percent) do not know how to access e-resources. The study indicates that MS University library needs to arrange some training programme on the uses of e-resources for its users including faculties, research scholars and students.

TABLE 6 SOURCES OF ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

Sources	No Of Respondents	Percentage
Using Search Engines	68	54.4
OPAC	27	21.6
Website Of University And Institution	15	12.0
Both A & B	4	03.2
Both A & C	7	05.6
All A, B, & C	4	03.2
Total	125	100

Source: Primary Data

The data presented in the Table 6 indicates that 68 respondents (54.4 percent) state that they use search engines for seeking information through e-resources followed by 27 respondents (21.6 percent) who use OPAC for accessing e-resources, 15 respondents (12.0 percent) who use website of University for seeking information, 4 respondents (03.2 percent) use both search engines and OPAC for seeking information, 7 respondents (05.6 percent) who use both search engines and website of institution and 4 respondents (03.2 percent) use all the above for seeking information.

E-resources have made access the information easy and comfortable. E-resources also help integrate the process of teaching, learning and research in higher education. The data presented in the Table-7 reveals that 47 respondents (37.6 percent) access e-journal followed by 38 respondents (30.4 percent) who access e-books, 15 respondents (12 percent) who access online databases, 13 respondents (10.4

percent) who use CD ROM, 8 respondents (6.4 percent) who access bibliographic databases and 4 respondents (3.2 percent) who access UGC INFONET Journals.

TABLE 7 TYPES OF E-RESOURCES ACCESSED

Awareness	No.of Respondents	Percentage
Electronic Journals	38	30.4
Electronic Books	47	37.6
Bibliographic Databases	8	6.4
CD ROM	13	10.4
UGC INFONET Journals	4	3.2
Online Databases	15	12
Total	125	100

Source: Primary Data

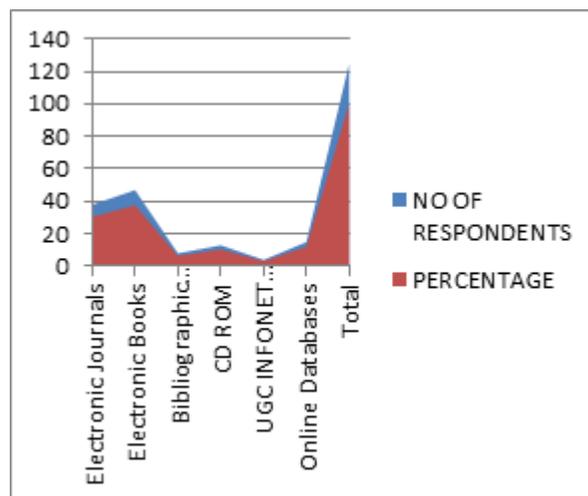


Fig.1 Types of E-Resources Accessed

TABLE 8 TIME SPENT FOR THE USE OF E-RESOURCES

Time Spent	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Frequently	43	34.4
Sometimes	63	50.4
Never	10	08.0
None	09	07.2
Total	125	100

Source: Primary Data

The data presented in the Table-8 indicates clearly that 63 respondents (50.4 percent) state they visit the University library sometimes for the use of e-resources followed by 43 respondents (34.4 percent) who visit the library frequently for the use of e-resources, 10 respondents (08.0 percent)

who never visit the library and 9 respondents (07.2 percent) who state they have “No Comments” on time spent for the use of e-resources in the library in MS University.

TABLE 9 PURPOSE OF USING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
For Learning To Prepare For Competition	38	30.4
For Academic Assignments	27	21.6
For Career Development And Growth	19	15.2
To Keep To Date On Subject Of Interest	13	10.4
Both A & B	11	8.8
Both A & D	06	4.8
Both B & D	02	1.6
All	05	4.0
A,B &D	02	1.6
No One	02	1.6

Source: Primary Data

The analysis of data presented in the Table – 9 indicates that 38 respondents (30.4 percent) use the e-resources for learning and preparing for competition exams followed by 27 respondents (21.6 percent) who use electronic resources for academic assignments, 19 respondents (15.2 percent) use e-resources for career development and growth, 30 respondents (10.4 percent) who use e-resources for the purpose of keeping themselves up to date on subject of their interest, 11 respondents (8.8 percent) who use e-resources for academic assignments and preparing for competition examinations, 6 respondents (4.8 percent) who use e-resources for the purpose of academic assignments and career growth, 2 respondents each (1.6 percent) who use e-resources towards (i) both preparing for competition exam and career growth, (ii) academic assignments, preparing for competition exams and career growth and (iii) nothing denoted above respectively and 5 respondents (4.0 percent) who use e-resources for the purpose of all presented in the above table.

TABLE 10 PROBLEMS FACED WHILE ACCESSING THE E-RESOURCES

Title	Response	No.of Respondents	Percent
A	Lack of Knowledge and skills in IT to effectively utilize services	45	36.00
B	Too Much Information is retrieved	35	28.00
C	Limited Access to Computer	25	20.00
D	Using e-resources distract from work	05	04.00
-	Both B & A	06	04.80
-	Both B & D	04	03.20
-	Both A & D	03	02.40
-	None of the above	02	01.60
-	Total	125	100.00

Source: Primary Data

The data analyzed in the Table-10 shows the problems faced by the respondents by the time of accessing e-resources. The study indicates 45 respondents (36 percent) opine that they lack in IT knowledge and skills in utilizing the services of e-resources in MS University library followed by 35 respondents (28.00 percent) who opine that too much of information is retrieved, 25 respondents (20.00 percent) who opine that they have limited access to computer, 5 respondents (04.00 percent) who opine that they get distracted from work while using e-resources, 6 respondents (04.80 percent) who opine that they lack in IT knowledge and skills in effectively utilizing the services of e-resources provided by MS University library with the remark, too much of information is retrieved, 4 respondents (03.20 percent) who opine that they lack in IT knowledge and skills in effectively utilizing e-resources with the limited access to computer, 3 respondents (02.40 percent) who opine that they have limited access to computer leaving the view, “Too much of information is retrieved and 2 respondents (01.60 percent) opine that they have No Comment on any of the above”.

TABLE 11 SATISFACTIONS WITH AVAILABILITY OF E-RESOURCES

Response Received	No.of Respondents	Percentage
Satisfied	91	72.8
Not Satisfied	19	15.2
No Comment	15	12.0
Total	125	100

Source: Primary Data

It is evident from the data presented in the Table-11 that 91 respondents (72,8 percent) feel that they are satisfied with the availability of e-resources in MS University library followed by 19 respondents who are not satisfied with the availability of e-resources and 15 respondents (12 percent) who opine they have “No Comments” on the availability of e-resources. It is highly essential for arranging orientation programme for library users in order to make them aware of the available e-resources in MS University library.

VI. SUGGESTIONS

The researcher provides a few suggestions through the analysis of the present study as follows:

1. The MS University Library should make sure that its users undergo a training programme for the advanced use of electronic resource enabling them in seeking a source to gain electronic literature independently.
2. The Library must bring to notice of its users of e-resources the new techniques like controlled vocabulary and advanced search strategies making electronic search process much faster and easier.
3. The university must adhere new polices to provide sufficient funds for subscribing e-resources.
4. Moreover, Library of MS University must take appropriate measures to overcome all the problems faced by the users while accessing information through e-resources. To sort out the issues such as (i) lack of knowledge and skills in IT to effectively utilize services (ii) Too much information is retrieved and (iii) limited access to computers, the Library needs to increase the number of terminals and printers so as to avoid clambering and shortage and arrange training programmes on literacy in IT.
5. If these suggestions are taken into account and implemented eventually, the situation pertaining to electronic resources information in MS University would improve to a great extent.

VII. CONCLUSION

The study reveals the fact that the e-resources are extensively hailed by most of the users of MS University Library, Tirunelveli. Furthermore, a large number of students are dependent on these e-resources to extract desired information they need. It is interesting to learn that most of the users of MS University Library are aware of the e-resources and services. It is understood from the analysis of the present study that e-resources to support course work and research work for all the existing disciplines in MS University are sufficiently available. The main problem faced by library users is inadequate infrastructural facilities in utilizing these resources. This may lead to hindering the ability to meet the sine qua non of students. Therefore, infrastructure and training is very important to make the electronic resources useful.

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