

# Role of DELNET in Engineering College Libraries: With Special Reference to Islamic Management Colleges of Tamil Nadu

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**Abstract** - This paper studies to determine the availability of DELNET electronic resources in Islamic Management engineering college libraries of Tamil Nadu. The objective of the study is to inspect the availability, usage, awareness, and level of satisfaction of DELNET resources in Libraries. Methodology- adopted to identify the Islamic Management engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu. A systematic Questionnaire has prepared and distributed to selected colleges of Tamil Nadu. Total 1000 questionnaires were distributed among them 864 were received back and considered for analysis. SPSS Software version 2.0 applied for the analysis of data. Findings of the study reveal that 90% of the colleges were subscribing to DELNET resources and users are very well known about the DELNET resources, in case of level of usage 112 respondents that are 15.5% accessing the DELNET resources. Suggestions were given to conduct proper orientation, user awareness, retrieval techniques about the DELNET access resources and a regular internet connection, and high bandwidth network facility to be provided.

**Keywords:** DELNET, Electronic resources, and Islamic Management Engineering colleges

## I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of digital information in the form of digital books, online journals in open sources as well as paid versions, institutional repositories, gadgets, like e-book reader federated search engines, have boosted and created abundant opportunities to meet their needs beyond their expectations. (Roopa E and Putta Swami, R M, 2017). Engineering institutions are mandatory to subscribe to certain electronic databases according to AICTE norms. DELNET one of the electronic resource's portal for Engineering and Technology Institutions. DELNET plays a vital role in the Engineering and Technology institutions in India. It provides various types of services to their client Institutions in India and abroad. DELNET was established in India International Centre in January 1988 and registered as a society in 1992. The prime objective of the DELNET is to promote resource sharing among libraries through the development of a network of libraries. It aims to collect, store, and disseminate information besides offering computerized services to users, to coordinate efforts for suitable

collection development and also to reduce unnecessary duplication wherever possible. It provides an e-book, e-journals, Thesis/Dissertations, and online databases through a discovery portal. Resource sharing is one of the best services provided by DELNET in this current scenario (Rao, N Laxman, 2006).

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Srinivasulu (2018) discussed in his paper Currently, Engineering College Libraries in South India is in various stages of advancement regarding sources, services and facilities. The VCE Central Library subscribes to several print periodicals (national & international), electronic resources (e-journals and e-books) and multiple volumes of books to satisfy the information needs of its users. VCE is renowned and as well as one of the leading institutions of Engineering Education in Telangana state. This paper describes the offering of the Information Sources and Services to the faculty members of Central Library, Vardhaman College of Engineering (Autonomous), Hyderabad and the purpose of this study is to understand how faculty members access different types of information sources, services and facilities and their purposes.

Sundareswari (2015) evaluated the use of e-resources available through DELNET, New Delhi, intending to examine the exposure of engineering colleges & university library members to e-resources. Academic libraries in India are facing a lot of problems due to static budget and exponential price hike of library collection materials. The library environment is currently undergoing a rapid and dynamic revolution leading to a new generation of libraries with the go green on e-resources. A lot of efforts have been taken in the past few years to overcome this problem of the financial crunch by resource sharing through DELNET for university & Engineering college libraries. DELNET are two major initiatives for the university library and Engineering college's library users.

These revolutionary steps are providing scholarly resources including peer-reviewed journal links, databases, abstracts proceedings and ILL Services etc. These efforts must be a boon to university library users

which will boost the level of the higher education system in our country.

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

There were 17 Islamic Management Engineering colleges provide higher education in Tamil Nadu. Among them, 10 Engineering colleges were randomly selected according to the Geographical coverage of the study. A systematic questionnaire has designed and distributed to selected Engineering College libraries. There were 1000 questionnaires have distributed, out of which 720 filled questionnaires were received back and considered for data analysis. SPSS software package utilized for data analysis and interpretation.

### IV. OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the availability of Islamic Management Engineering Colleges in Tamil Nadu
2. To know the DELNET resources available in concerned colleges understudy
3. To observe the awareness about the DELNET resources among the respondents
4. To identify the level of usage of DELNET among the respondents
5. To measure the level of satisfaction about the DELNET
6. To find out, the infrastructure facility provided in the concerned colleges' understudy
7. To inspect the barriers during the access of DELNET resources

### V. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

TABLE 1 DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRES AND RESPONSES AMONG THE ENGINEERING COLLEGES MANAGED BY MUSLIM MANAGEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of Institution(s)	No. of Questionnaire Distributed	No of Questionnaire Received	Percentage
1	Dhaanish Ahmed College of Engineering, Kanchipuram	100	72	72
2	C. Abdul Hakeem College of Engineering & Technology, Vellore	100	86	86
3	As-Salam College of Engineering & Technology, Tanjore	100	69	69
4	Annai College of Engineering & Technology, Kumbakonam	100	78	78
5	M.A.R.College of Engineering & Technology, Tiruchirappalli	100	65	65
6	M.A.M College of Engineering & Technology, Tiruchirappalli	100	71	71
7	Dhanish Ahmed Institute of Technology, Coimbatore	100	77	77
8	Mohamed Sathak Engineering College, Kilakarai	100	66	66
9	Syed Ammal Engineering college, Ramanathapuram	100	69	69
10	National College of Engineering, Tirunelveli	100	67	67
Total		1000	720	72

The above table shows academic status wise respondent(s) frequency of use/access to library resources. Among U.G students 30% were visiting the library daily, whereas 34% access the library weekly. Among P.G Students, 12% were

visiting the library, in case of Research Scholars, 30% were visiting daily to the library and 34% access the library weekly. Among faculty, 20% visit the library daily.

TABLE II ACADEMIC STATUSWISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS' FREQUENCY OF USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES

Frequency	U.G Students	P.G Students	Research Scholars	Faculty	Total
Every day	183(30%)	8(12%)	6(30%)	4(20%)	201
Once in a week	208(34%)	32(48%)	7(34%)	7(35%)	254
Twice a week	110(18%)	12(19%)	5(26%)	6(30%)	133
Once in a Month	73(12%)	8(12%)	1(5%)	2(10%)	84
Rarely	39(6%)	7(9%)	1(5%)	1(5%)	48
Total	613	67	20	20	720

TABLE III ACADEMIC STATUS WISE RESPONDENTS PURPOSE OF USING A LIBRARY

Purpose	U.G Students	P.G Students	Research Scholars	Faculty
To Borrow Books	452 (73%)	46 (68%)	20 (100%)	7 (85%)
To consult reference books	138 (22%)	15 (23%)	-	3(15%)
To Browse Internet	10 (2%)	4 (6%)	-	-
To Make CD/Print/Photocopy	6 (1%)	2 (3%)	-	-
To use e-mail	7 (2%)	-	-	-
Total	613	67	20	20

The academic statuses of users were undergraduate students, postgraduate students, research scholars, and faculty. It is found from the table the number of users who responded in the group of research scholars and faculty were small in numbers. Among the respondents from Engineering colleges, 73% of U.G (452) students, 68% (46) P.G students, 100% (20) research scholars and 85% (7) of faculty were having the purpose of visiting the library to borrow books. Concerning the use of reference books, it is observed that 22% (138) of U.G students and 23 % (15) of P.G students are visiting the library regularly.

It is also observed that 2% of U.G students (10) and 6% of P.G students were using a library for browsing the internet. It is also noted 1% (6) of U.G students and 3% of P.G students believe that the main purpose of using the library is to make CD copying, to get a printout and photocopying the library materials.

TABLE IV RESPONDENTS LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH LIBRARY COLLECTION

Materials	Engineering Colleges (N=720)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Books	482 (67%)	112 (16%)	65 (9%)	35 (5%)	26 (4%)
Journals	365 (51%)	200 (28%)	69 (10%)	46 (6%)	40 (6%)
Theses	160 (22%)	100 (14%)	176 (24%)	200 (28%)	84 (12%)
e-books	123 (17%)	87 (12%)	209 (29%)	169 (23%)	132 (18%)
e-Journals	219 (30%)	240 (33%)	160 (22%)	111 (15%)	80 (11%)
Rare Books	63 (9%)	59 (8%)	125 (17%)	200 (28%)	273 (38%)
CD-Roms	316 (44%)	104 (14%)	79 (11%)	111 (15%)	110 (15%)

(1) Highly satisfied (ii) Satisfied (iii). No Opinion (iv). Dissatisfied (V.) highly Dissatisfied

The above table depicts the opinion of respondents in the level of satisfaction with the library collection. It is evident from the table that a maximum of 67 % (482) of the respondents were highly satisfied in the collection of books available in their libraries. Like this, 51% of respondents (365) respondents are having a positive opinion and highly satisfied with the subscription of journals required for them. It is also observed that a maximum of 28% (200) of respondents are highly dissatisfied with the availability of Thesis in their library. According to the usage of e-books, 18% (132) of respondents were dissatisfied usage of e-books. It is also observed from the table that 33% (240) of users were satisfied with the availability of e-journals. More so, it is observed from the table that 38% (273) of respondents were highly dissatisfied with the collection of rare books. It is also noted that 44% (316) of respondents were highly satisfied with the availability of CD-ROMs

TABLE V PLACE OF ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

Place of Accessing the Internet	No. of respondents	Percentage
At Library	319	44.30
At Home	120	16.67
At Department	25	3.47
At Browsing Centre	110	15.27
Any place according to convenience	146	20.27
Total	720	100

It is observed from the table that a maximum of 44.30% (319) of students opined that they access the internet from their libraries. Next to this, 20.27 % (146) of respondents opined that they access the internet at any place according to their convenience. On an average 46 percent of the respondents believe that they are accessing the internet at the library shows the positive sign of using library resources.

TABLE VI USE OF E-RESOURCES

Using Pattern	No. of respondents	Percentage
Almost every day	525	72.9
Once in a week	85	11.80
Twice a week	65	9.02
Once in a fortnight	20	2.77
Once in a month	15	2.08
Rarely/Never	10	1.38
Total	720	100

It is found from the table that a maximum of 72% (525) of respondents were using e-resources daily. Next to this, 11% (85) of respondents were accessing e-resources once in a week. It is also found that only 2% (15) were accessing e-resources once in a month. Hence it has to be improved through awareness programs.

TABLE VII DIGITAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN LIBRARIES

Types of Digital Resources	No. of respondents	Percentage
Delnet	112	15.5
Inflibnet	120	16.6
Proquest	45	6.2
Scopus	54	7.6
Medline	12	1.7
Springer	20	2.8
Elsevier	15	2.0
Ieee	19	2.7
Nptel	125	17.4
Others	198	27.5
	720	100

It is observed from the table that a maximum of 16.6%(120) of the opinion that their college is having INFLIBNET-NLIST resources for access. As a total 22 percent of the respondents accepted this, Next to this 15.5%(112) of respondents accepted that their college library is having DELNET Resources.

It is positively opined by 85% (617) of respondents were aware of digital resources available and are being used regularly. Only 4.4% (32) were aware but they prefer the print version.

TABLE VIII OPINION ON ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES LIBRARY AWARENESS PROVIDED THROUGH COLLEGE LIBRARY

Opinion	No. of respondents	Percentage
I am unaware	46	6.3
I am aware and Using	617	85.6
I am aware but don't know how to use them	25	3.4
I am aware but prefer the print version	32	4.4
Total	720	100

TABLE IX KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE DIGITAL RESOURCES

Sources of Information	No. of respondents	Percentage
Institute's Website	85	11.8
Library Portal	225	31.2
Print Circular/ News Letter	245	30.0
Intranet	25	3.4
Bulletin Board	65	9.0
Faculty	45	6.2
Colleges	30	4.1
Total	720	100

It is observed that 31.2% (225) of respondents about the digital information resources through their library portal. Respondents knew that through Print Circular/ Newsletter it is 30% (245).

TABLE X BARRIERS ON ACCESSING THE E-RESOURCES

Barriers	No. of respondents	Percentage	Rank
Interface Design Problem	85	11.8	6
Hard to ask for immediate help	45	6.2	7
Instability of e-resources	45	6.2	8
Need more equipment and internet access point	210	29.1	1
Discomfort with e-reading	125	17.3	2
Complex access procedure	85	11.8	3
Downloading	25	3.4	9
No continuity in internet access	55	7.6	4
No assurance for long-term preservation	45	6.2	5
Total	720	100	

The above table explains the barriers faced by the respondents while accessing digital resources in their place of work. A maximum of 29.1 % (210) of the respondents thought that they need more equipment and internet access points. It is also noted that 17.3% (125) of respondents are facing the same problem.

## VI. SUGGESTIONS

- 1) It is suggested that compared with INFLIBNET-NLIST access, DELNET subscription is to be increased in the concerned institutions
- 2) It is suggested that DELNET awareness training programme to be given to the readers
- 3) Suggestions were given by respondents that they need user awareness and training programs for retrieval of electronic resources.
- 4) Respondents required several computers for accessing internet resources
- 5) Suggested to increase high bandwidth internet connections for quick retrieval of resources
- 6) In case of infrastructure facility, they insisted that UPS provision is to be given for regular power supply.

## VII. CONCLUSION

In this current scenario, many research studies are evident that digital resources have certainly been accepted and used by users for various reasons. There are a lot of electronic resources is available in higher education and research institutions.

Based on this concept DELNET is one of the essential and mandatory electronic resources in Engineering College students. According to AICTE norms subscription --of DELNET is mandatory for every Engineering college. Most of the Engineering colleges are run by their funds.

The Union Government and State Government may provide the subsidized rates of electronic resources to the engineering colleges are preferable. The Management and authorities of the institutions also take initiatives for infrastructure of the library to improve the readers circle. Library professionals also should take efforts to conduct user awareness programmed to their faculty, research scholars and students in regular intervals.

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