

Recent Trends in Accessibility and Utilization of Electronic Resources by Undergraduate Students of Government Arts & Science Colleges, Thiruvallur District: A Study

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Abstract - The study explores the impact of electronic resources on science department students in Government Arts and Science Colleges, Thiruvallur District Tamilnadu. The study also highlights different types of electronic resources used by students the purpose and frequency of using electronic resources and the problem faced by the studies while accessing and using the electronic resources in the Government Arts and science colleges. The study was conducted through a structures questionnaires distributed among 200 students of different science departments, out of which 156 dully filled in questionnaires were received back giving an overall response rate 78%. The study aimed at identifying the adequacy of electronic resources purpose and frequency of using digital resources and dependency of the students on electronic resources. It presents new challenges to the students of the archive and could yet spell the end for many print documents. The article concludes that electronic resources have become an integral part of the information needs of students at Government Arts and Science Colleges, Further it finds that electronic resources can be good substitutes, easy for using and conventional electronic resources.

Index Terms - Electronic resources, E-resource management, Government Arts College, User studies.

INTRODUCTION

The present electronic age has witnessed tremendous changes in the operation and management of libraries using information communication technology. Libraries of all size are embracing electronic collection. E resources can be linked from and to indexing and abstracting databases, access can be from the user's home, office, or dormitory whether or not the physical library is open, e-resources save space and

is relatively easy to maintain. Electronic resources usually consist of e-journals, e-books, e-articles, e-newspapers, thesis, etc. Which are likely to be the alternative to the print media. All updated information is published in these e-resources. The familiarity and use of electronic information resources in the libraries for rapid development is necessary and important. In recent years internet has emerged as the most important and powerful medium for storage and retrieval of information. In today's world information transfer through internet plays a significant role in the utilization of its resources, thus understanding of their structure and formats is essential.

E- Resources

An electronic resources are defined as a resources which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and so on. Over the past few years, a numbers of techniques and related standards have been developed which allow documents to be created and distributed in electronic form. Hence to cope with the present situation, librarians are shifting towards new media, namely electronic resources for their collection developments that the documents of users are better fulfilled. The e-resources on magnetic and optical media have a vast impact on the collections of university libraries. These are more useful due to inherent capabilities for manipulation and searching,

providing information access is cheaper to acquiring information resources, savings in storage and maintenance etc. and sometimes the electronic form is the only alternatives.

E-Resources Management

E-resources management we a great challenge as the e-resources demand a special marketing challenge for academic libraries. Because libraries must compete with then publicity available resources on the web, they need to provide succinct marketing rationale for library users to make the effort to use the library's electronic resources. They also need to be careful to maintain the libraries credibility and library user's trust in the library by not over promising on the capability and library user's trust prematurely forcing users into the electronic realm when print may better meet their needs. So it is important to give insight on collection of electronic resources. Which upholds library mission, with a good digital library software and marketing technical like newsletter, highlighting on web pages, dash boards, banners at the right places. So challenges of e-resources management can be met easily with proper digital library software and marketing techniques.

Why we need E-resources

Electronics resources are playing a vital role in the field of library and information science to provide better services and easy access to library. The new considerable points are maintain below

Multi-Access: E- resources accessibility of information is made available 24x7 days. Multiple users can use the information at a time with their terminals

Speed: E-resources are quicker to browse or search, extract, integrate information into other material and to cross search or reference between different publications are possible.

Search: Literature search will be one point search and searching within the document is possible. E-resources will allow the users to approach the publication by click of the mouse.

Functionality: E- resources will allow the user to approach the publication by click of the mouse on search made.

Content: The Ability to store and retrieve large amounts of information

REVIEW OF LITERARURE

Kaur & Verma (2009), This article is an attempt to study the issues like use of electronic information resources. Its impact on the collection of print and electronic journals its awareness among the users, and the places where the users are accessing these resources. A study was conducted in the academic year 2006-2007 at the Thapar University. Pattiala. A total number of 504 users from the undergraduate, postgraduate, research scholar and faculty members were selected and their response was obtained with the help of questionnaire. The findings show that users from all these categories were using e-resources, the awareness about e-resources encourages users to use such resources to the maximum, and the users are using computer centre and hostels more for accessing the information. The impact of e-resources was visible from the decrease in number of printed journals in comparison to the increase in number of electronic journals.

Tahir, Mahmood & shafique (2010) assessed the use of electronic information resources and facilities by humanities scholars at the University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan. A questionnaire survey of faculty from arts and humanities departments at the University of Punjab was conducted. In total 62 faculty and research staff participated. The results correspond with previous studies conducted in other countries. The humanities still stick to the printed information sources but they pay good attention to electronic resources. Although faced with many problems, the humanities perceive that modern technology made their work easier. The study is based only on the humanities faculty in a large university of Pakistan. The survey should be replicated on a larger sample for generalization. Keeping in view the positive trend of humanities towards modern technology universities and libraries should give more funding to provide electronic resources and facilities in the arts and humanities discipline. Special training programmers for humanities should be organized.

Vasantha & manjunatha (2013) information explosion and the information revolution have occurred in the last three decade. Libraries and information centers have been biggest beneficiaries. These technologies have emerged as boons to us. The present electronic age has witnessed tremendous changes in the operation and management of libraries using information communication technology. Libraries of all size are embracing electronic collection. Electronic resources impact on student’s community. It is clear from the study that younger generations have accepted the digital reading culture. Users have knowledge about availability of electronic resources, but many use them as the supplementary way to the information. Proper training and user orientation/awareness methods need to adopt to increase the e-resources usage.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the gender wise distribution of respondents
- To analyze the frequency use of electronic resources in Government Arts college
- To find out the purpose of using electronic resources in Government Arts college
- To examine the level of awareness of electronic resources in science students
- To offer benefits for the effective utilization of e-resources used students
- To know the implementation of the e-resources in Government Arts college

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data collected through questionnaire from the users in Government Arts and science College students. Questionnaire was distributed in only science department students. Total number of the in 12 selected five courses, in department of Botany, zoology, chemistry, mathematics, computer science in questionnaire contains pertaining of the use of e-resources by the students. For the purpose a total of 200 questionnaires were distributed among the students from the Government Arts college for women students out of these 156 questionnaires were responded and then data was analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in form of this article.

Data Analysis and interpretation

The findings of this study are presented in the following tables with a brief summary

Table 1 Department wise distribution of E-resources

S.No	Department	No.of respondents	Percentage
1	Botany	49	31.41
2	Zoology	28	17.95
3	Chemistry	32	20.51
4	Mathematics	16	10.26
5	Computer science	31	19.87
	Total	156	100.00

Table 1 show that the department wise distribution of majority of the department used in the e-resources in botany 49 (31.41%), Chemistry 32 (20.51%) computer science 31 (19.87%) Zoology 28(17.95%) Mathematics 16 (10.26 %) of the use of e-resources in different departments.

Table 2 Age wise distribution

S.NO	Age	No.of respondents	Percentage
1	17-19	44	28.21
2	20-22	52	33.33
3	22-24	34	21.79
4	Above 24	26	16.67
	Total	156	100.00

Table 2 show that the age wise distribution of the students in 20-22 age students in 52 (33.33%) 17-19 age wise students in 44 (28.21%) 22-24 age wise students in 34(21.79%) above 24 age wise students in 26(16.67%) in use of electronic resources.

Table 3 place of living uses of e-resources

S.NO	Place of living	No.of respondents	Percentage
1	Urban	38	24.36
2	Semi urban	56	35.90
3	Rural	62	39.74
	Total	156	100.00

Table 3 indicates that the majority of the respondents of Rural in 62 (39.74%), Semi urban is 56 (35.90%), Urban in 38 (24.36) living of using e-resources.

Table 4 Frequency of using e- resources

S.NO	Frequency of using e-resources	No.of respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	64	41.02
2	Twice in a week	25	16.03
3	Weekly	30	19.24
4	Monthly once	37	23.71
	Total	156	100.00

Table 4 show that the frequency of using e-resources used in the Daily 64 (41.02%), monthly once 37 (23.71%), weekly used in e-resources in 30 (19.24%), twice in a week in 25(16.03%) used in the electronic resources.

Table 5 Frequency of Accessing Electronic resources

S.No	Frequency of accessing e-resources	No.of respondents	Percentage
1	University/college Library	28	17.94
2	Computer Lab	18	11.54
3	Hostel	34	21.79

4	Teachers/Research room	15	9.62
5	Home	28	17.95
6	Department of Library	17	10.90
7	Other Place	16	10.26
	Total	156	100.00

Table 5 show that the frequency of accessing electronic resources I the majority respondents in hostel 34 (21.79%), home 28 (17.95%), University/college library used in 28 (17.95%) , Computer Lab 18 (11.54%), Department Library 17 (10.90%).

Table 6 Purpose of Using Electronic resources

S.No	Purpose of E-resources	Excellent	Good	Moderate	Poor	Very Poor
1	ICT facilities	54(34.61%)	36(23.07%)	23(14.74%)	31(19.87%)	12(7.69%)
2	Digital Library	34(21.79%)	29(18.58%)	17(10.89%)	36(23.07%)	40(25.64%)
3	Audio/video	52(33.33%)	55(35.25%)	15(9.61%)	18(11.54%)	16(10.26%)
4	E-learning service	26(16.67%)	34(21.79%)	40(25.64%)	43(27.56%)	13(8.33%)
5	Virtual Classroom	20(12.82%)	32(20.51%)	23(14.74%)	47(30.13%)	34(27.79%)
6	E-resources	32(20.51%)	42(26.92%)	52(33.33%)	12(7.69%)	18(11.54%)
7	Open source software	47(30.13%)	32(20.51%)	22(14.10%)	21(13.46%)	34(21.79%)
8	Awareness programmer on e-learning	19(12.18%)	24(15.38%)	50(32.05%)	33(21.15%)	30(19.23%)

Table 6 provides the details about the respondents purpose of using electronic resources in majority of the ICT facilities 54(34.61%) in excellent, 36(23.07) good, Moderate 23(14.74%), poor 31(19.87%), very poor of used in electronic resources 12(7.69%).

Awareness programmers on E-learning of using electronic resources in the excellent 19(12.18%), Good 24(15.38%) moderate 50(32.05%) poor 33(21.15%), very poor 30(19.23%).

Table 7 Usage of E-Resources

S.No	Usage of E-Resources	Very Good	Good	Moderate	Poor
1	Preparing Lectures/speeches/presentations	40(25.64%)	63(40.38%)	25(16.02%)	28(17.95%)
2	Preparing research/research paper	35(22.44%)	50(32.05%)	18(11.54%)	53(33.97%)
3	Writing Book/assignment	30(19.23%)	55(35.26%)	36(23.08%)	35(22.43%)
4	Preparing for examination	16(10.26%)	60(38.46%)	44(28.20%)	36(23.08%)
5	Accessing/knowning General Information	14(8.97%)	91(58.33%)	17(10.90%)	34(21.79%)
6	Leisure/relaxation/time pass	25(16.02%)	38(24.36%)	43(27.56%)	50(32.05%)
7	To keep abreast with latest development	30(19.23%)	42(26.92%)	38(24.36%)	46(29.49%)

Table 7 show that the details about the respondents usage of electronic resources in majority of the respondents in very good 40(25.64%) preparing for lectures/speeches/presentations, Good 63(40.38%) in the usage of electronic resources in moderate in

25(16.03%), very poor 28(17.95%), Accessing/knowning general information in very good in 14(8.97%) good in 91(58.33%), moderate in 17(10.90%), poor in 34(21.79%).

Table 8 Implementation of Electronic Resources

S.No	Implementation of the E- resources	Strongly Agree	Agree	Can't Express	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Lack of Funds	25(16.66%)	36(23.08%)	48(30.77%)	24(15.38%)	23(14.74%)
2	Lack of ICT infrastructure	30(19.23%)	55(35.26%)	16(10.26%)	21(13.46%)	34(21.79%)

3	Lack of power failure	21(13.46%)	16(10.26%)	34(21.79%)	30(19.23%)	55(35.26%)
4	Lack of motivation from the authorities	24(15.38%)	28(17.95%)	50(32.05%)	20(12.82%)	34(21.79%)
5	Lack of training	15(9.62%)	35(22.44%)	31(19.87%)	46(29.49%)	29(18.59%)
6	Lack of working hours	24(15.38%)	32(20.51%)	46(29.49%)	25(16.03%)	29(18.59%)
7	Lack of co operation	21(16.46%)	33(21.15%)	35(22.44%)	28(17.95%)	39(25.00%)
8	Lack of skill	26(10.26%)	24(15.38%)	42(26.92%)	22(14.10%)	52(33.33%)
9	Lack of Knowledge	56(35.90%)	44(28.21%)	30(19.23%)	11(7.05%)	15(9.62%)
10	Lack of information sources	40(25.64%)	34(21.79%)	41(26.28%)	15(9.62%)	26(16.67%)

Table 8 shows that the majority of the students strongly agree in the lack of knowledge in the 56(35.90%), agree 44(28.21%), can't express in the 30(19.23%), disagree in 11(7.5%) of the strongly disagree in 15(9.62%) implementation of electronic resources, low level of the lack of training in strongly agree in the 15(9.62%), Agree in 35(22.44%), can't express in 31(19.87%), disagree in 46(26.49%), strongly disagree in 29(18.59%) of the implementation of the e-resources.

Table 9 Problem of Electronic Resources

S.No	Problems of E- Resources	Percentage
1	Slow access speed	40(25.64%)
2	Difficulty in finding relevant information	45(28.85%)
3	Overload of information on the internet	16(10.26%)
4	It takes too long to view/download pages	20(12.82%)
5	Privacy Problems	12(7.69%)
6	Any other	23 (14.74)
	Total	156(100%)

Table 9 shows that the problems of electronic resources for the students in majority of difficult in finding relevant information in 45(28.85%), slow access speed in 40(25.64), low level of the privacy problem in 12(7.69%) problems for the students.

CONCLUSION

The present study concludes that the use of electronic resources in common in the Government Arts and Science Colleges, Majority of the students are dependent e-resources to get desired and relevant information. Government Arts and science college students confidently accessing and searching the e-resources. Students have undergone some workshops, orientation, and demonstrations to make best of use of the electronic resources. It was found that the students are accepting e-resources and they have changed their way in finding the information from e-resources.

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