Use of Web-resources among the Engineering faculty members in Annamalai University: A Study

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Abstract

The present study deals with web-resources use among the engineering faculty members of Annamalai University. A total of 110 faculty members data were analyzed for assessing web resources of various factors like purpose, time spent, experience, location, web information sources, search engine, problems and satisfaction of using web resources .It also explains introduction, objectives, methodology, sample selection, data collection, limitation and findings

Keywords
Web Based Resources, Annamalai university,faculty members

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Introduction

Computing a vast network of linked hypertext files, stored on computers throughout the world, that can provide a computer user with information on a huge variety of subjects .The Internet and its "publishing arm" the WWW(World Wide Web) are important components in the communication process. WEB is popularly used as the synonymous term of World Wide Web or Internet or Online. As more libraries move towards providing services in a digital environment, the improved access to remote library collections is making the use of electronic information resources more realistic and more attractive. Traditional online services had transformed themselves into internet-based online services using web-based technologies. From traditional online services to today, four generations of information retrieval tools have passed that assist users in searching the World Wide Web.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the respondents designation wise, sex wise, department wise, purpose,time spent, experience of access the web-resources by the faculty members.
2. To find out the location of web-resources.
3. To find out the search engine for accessing web-resources.
4. To find out the problem and satisfaction of using web-resources.

Methodology

Data was collected using a questionnaire. The survey covers faculty members. There are 8 departments in the engineering faculty, of which questionnaires were distributed to engineering faculty only. A total of 160 questionnaires were distributed, a total of 110 valid questionnaires were collected from faculty members. The response rate was 68.75%.

Faculty of Engineering

The Faculty of Engineering consists of Civil engineering, Structural engineering, Mechanical engineering, Manufacturing engineering, Electrical engineering, Instrumentation engineering, Chemical engineering and Computer science & engineering.

Sample selection

In order to study the Web -resources use among the Engineering faculty members of Annamalai

University, 110 questionnaires are collected from faculty members.

Data collection

The data have been collected through a well structured questionnaire from the Engineering faculty members of the Annamalai University. **Limitations**

The study is restricted to Professor, Associate professor and Assistant professor of Engineering at Annamalai University

Table-1 Designation wise distribution of faculty members

S.No.	Designation	No.of Respondents	%
1	Assistant Professor	73	66.36
2	Associate Professor	24	21.82
3	Professor	13	11.82
	Total	**110**	**100.00**

Table-1 shows designation wise distribution of faculty members out of 110 faculty members 73(66.36%) of the the Assistant Professor respondents occupies first position, 24(21.82%) of the Associate Professor respondents occupies second position and 13(11.82%) of the Professor respondents occupies third position.

Table-2 Sex wise distribution of faculty members

S.No.	Sex	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
1	Male	48 (43.64)	16 (14.55)	10 (9.09)	74 (67.27)
2	Female	25 (22.72)	8 (7.27)	3 (2.73)	36 (32.73)
	Total	**73 (66.36)**	**24 (21.82)**	**13 (11.82)**	**110(100)**

Table-3 Department wise distribution of faculty members

S.No.	Department	No.of Respondents	%
1	Civil Engineering	9	8.18
2	Structural Engineering	8	7.27
3	Mechanical Engineering	20	18.18
4	Manufacturing Engineering	11	10.00
5	Electrical Engineering	23	20.91
6	Instrumentation Engineering	12	10.91
7	Chemical Engineering	15	13.64
8	Computer science & Engineering	12	10.91
	Total	**110**	**100.00**

Table-4 Purpose of using web resources

S.No.	Purpose	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
1	Lecturer notes	5 (4.55)	2 (1.82)	-	7 (6.37
2	Collect Subject information	4 (3.64)	-	2 (1.82)	6 (5.45)
3	Career development	20 (18.18)	4 (3.64)	6 (5.45)	30 (27.27)
4	Preparing conference paper	6 (5.45)	3 (2.73)	2 (1.82)	11 (10.00)
5	Current information	10 (9.09)	11 (10.00)	-	21 (19.09)
6	Updating knowledge	28 (25.45)	4 (3.63)	3 (2.73)	35 (31.82)
	Total	**73 (66.36)**	**24 (21.82)**	**13 (11.82)**	**110 (100)**

A study of data in table-2 indicates sex-wise distribution of faculty members. Among the total of 73 Assistant professor respondents 48 are male and 25 are female, among the total of 24 Associate professor respondents 16 are male and 8 are female and among the total of 13 Professor respondents 10 are male and 3 are female.

A data in table – 3 indicates about the faculty details based on their department reveals the following facts. Out of 110 respondents electrical engineering respondents 23(20.91 %) occupies first level, the mechanical engineering respondents 20(18.18%) occupies second level and structural engineering respondents 8(7.27%) occupies the last level.

Table 4 discussed about purpose of using web resources .The majority of Assistant Professor respondents 25.45% of them are using web resources for updating knowledge, Associate Professor respondents 10% of them are using for current information and Professor respondents 5.45% of them are using for career development

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Table- 5 Time spent for accessing the web resources

S.No.	Time	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
1	One hour	15 (13.63)	4 (3.64)	7 (6.36)	26 (23.64)
2	Two hours	20 (18.18)	6 (5.45)	4 (3.64)	30 (27.27)
3	More thanThree hours	38 (34.55)	14 (12.73)	2 (1.82)	54 (49.09)
	Total	**73 (66.36)**	**24 (21.82)**	**13 (11.82)**	**110 (100)**

Table-6 Experience of using web resources

S.No.	Experience	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
1	1 to 5 years	40 (36.36)	6 (5.45)	7 (6.36)	53 (48.18)
2	5 to 6 years	20 (18.18)	5 (4.55)	2 (1.82)	27 (24.55)
3	More than 6 years	13 (11.82)	13 (11.82)	4 (3.63)	30 (27.27)
	Total	**73 (66.36)**	**24 (21.82)**	**13 (11.82)**	**110 (100)**

Table – 7 Location of access to web resources

S.No.	Location	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
1	Library	30 (27.27)	10 (9.09)	-	40 (36.36)
2	Department	20 (18.18)	6 (5.45)	8 (7.27)	34 (30.9)
3	Computer centre	10 (9.09)	3 (2.73)	-	13 (11.82)
4	Home	10 (9.09)	3 (2.73)	3 (2.73)	16 (14.55)
5	Other places	3 (2.73)	2 (1.82)	2 (1.82)	7 (6.37)
	Total	**73 (66.36)**	**24 (21.82)**	**13 (11.82)**	**110 (100)**

Data presented in the table – 5 indicates time spent of web-resources. The category wise analysis reveals the following facts. The majority of Assistant professor respondents 34.55% of them are using web-resources for more than three hours, 12.73% of Asociate professor are using web-resources for more than three hours and 6.36% of Professor are using web-resources for one hour. It could be seen clearly from the above table - 6 indicate experience of using web resources. Out of 110 respondents the majority of Assistant professor respondents 40(36.36%)of them are using web resources for 1 to 5 years, Associate professor respondents 13(11.82%) of them are using web resources for more than 6 years and Professor respondents 7(6.36%) of them are using web resources for 1 to 5 years. Data given in table 7 shows location of acessing web- resources . Out of 110 respondents . The Assistant professor respondents 30(27.27%) of them are accessing web-resources at library,20(18.18%) of them are access web-resources at department, 10(9.09%) of them are accessing web-resources at computer centre and home, 3(2.73%) of them are accessing web-resources at other places. The Associate professor respondents 10(9.09%) of them are accessing web-resources at library, 6(5.45%) of them are accessing web-resources at department,3(2.73%)of them are accessing web-resources at computer centre and home and 2(1.82%) of them are accessing web-resources at other places and Professor respondents 8(7.27%) of them are accessing web-resources at department,3(2.73%) of them are accessing web-resources at home, 2(1.82%) of them are accessing web-resources at others places.

Table- 8 Web information sources

S.No.	Information sources	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
1	Electronic journal	10(9.09)	3(2.73)	-	13(11.82)
2	Online databases	7(6.36)	2(1.82)	3(2.73)	12(10.91)
3	Web directories	5(4.55)	-	-	5(4.55)
4	E-mail services	25(22.73)	10(9.09)	5(4.54)	40(36.36)
5	Web OPAC	6(5.45)	-	-	6(5.45)
6	Usenet news	11(10.00)	4(3.64)	3(2.73)	18(16.37)
7	Bibliographic and cataloguing services	9(8.18)	5(4.54)	2(1.82)	16(14.54)
	Total	**73(66.36)**	**24(21.82)**	**13(11.82)**	**110(100)**

Table - 9 Search engine to web resources

S.No.	Search Engine	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
1	Google	40(36.36)	13(11.82)	7(6.36)	60(54.54)
2	Yahoo	15(13.64)	4(3.63)	3(2.73)	22(20.00)
3	Ernet	5 (4.55)	2(1.82)	-	7(6.37)
4	Rediff	4(3.63)	3(2.73)	-	7(6.36)
5	Sify	3(2.73)	-	-	3(2.73)
6	Wikipedia	6(5.45)	2(1.82)	3(2.73)	11(10.00)
	Total	**73(66.36)**	**24(21.82)**	**13(11.82)**	**110(100)**

Table -10 Problems faced by the web resources

S.No.	Problems	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
1	Lack of time	12(10.91)	4(3.64)	-	16(14.55)
2	System problem	6(5.45)	2(1.82)	2 (1.82)	10(9.09)
3	Lack of search skills	8(7.27)	3(2.73)	3(2.73)	14(12.73)
4	Slow speed	22(20.00)	5(4.54)	5(4.54)	32(29.08)
5	Problems on downloading articles	12(10.91)	2(1.82)	-	14(12.73)
6	Lack of connectivity	13 (11.82)	8(7.27)	3 (2.73)	24(21.82)
	Total	**73(66.36)**	**24(21.82)**	**13(11.82)**	**110(100)**

Table – 11 Satisfaction of using web resources

S.No.	Satisfaction	Assistant Professor	Associate rofessor	Professor	Total
1	Satisfied	37(33.64)	12(10.91)	7(6.36)	56(50.91)
2	Partially satisfied	23(20.91)	8(7.27)	4(3.64)	35(31.82)
3	Not satisfied	13(11.82)	4(3.64)	2(1.81)	19(17.27)
	Total	**73(66.36)**	**24(21.82)**	**13(11.82)**	**110(100)**

A data were analyzed in table -8 indicates web information sources. 22.73% of Assistant Professor respondents are using E-mail services occupies highest level and 4.55% use web directories occupies the lowest level. 9.09% Associate Professor respondents are using E-mail services occupies highest level and 1.82% use online databases occupies the lowest level. 4.54% Professor respondents are using E-mail occupies highest level and 1.82% are using bibliographic and catologuing services occupies the lowest level.

Table - 9 shows that search engine to web resources . 36.36% Assistant professor respondents are using google is first and least using the sify 2.75%. The Associate Professor respondents highest of using google is 11.82% and occupies first level and lowest of using ernet and wikipedia 1.82%. The Professor respodents using the google is 6.36% occupies first

level and lowest of using the yahoo and wikipedia is 2.73%.

Table – 10 reveals that the problems faced by the web-resources. It could be noted that out of 110 respondents the Assistant professor respondents faced more problem to access the web-resources are slow speed 22(20%) and 13(11.82%) of them faced more problem to access web-resources by lack of connectivity.8(7.27%) of Associate professor faced problem to access web-resources at lack of connectivity and 5(4.54 %) of them access the web-resources are slow speed and Professor respondents 5(4.54%) of them faced more problem to access the web-resources are slow speed.

Table – 11 shows that satisfaction of using web-resources. It could be noted that out of the 110 respondents 56(50.91%) of them are fully satisfied , 35(31.82%) of them are partially satisfied and 19(17.27%) of them are not satisfied.

Findings

- The majority of respondents are Assistant Professor 66.66% . and the male faculty members 67.27 % respondents accessing web resources.
- Majority of electrical engineering department respondents 20.91% are using web resources.
- 25.45% of Assistant Professor respondents accessing web resources for updating knowledge .
- Majority of the Assistant Professor and Associate Professor respondents spend time more than three hours 34.55% and 12.73% where as Professor respondents spend time only one hour 6.36%.
- Most of the Assistant Professor and Professor respondents experience of using web resources 1 to 5 years 36.36%,6.36% and Associate Professor respondents experience of using web resources more than 6 years11.82%.
- 27.27 %, 9.09% of the Assistant Professor and Associate Professor respondents say web resources available in the library is good.
- Most of the Assistant Professor , Associate professor and Professor respondents using web sources for E-mail purpose.
- Search engine is used for browsing information. 54.54% of respondents have good opinion about google search.
- Respondents faced the problem by accessing web-resources at slow speed 29.08% and takes time for connectivity and 50.91% are satisfied of accessing web resources.

Conclusion

Web resources have played a vital role in all fields of human life and it provides the way of seeking and disseminating information. Faculty members are heavily dependent on web-resources for their required information and to keep themselves up-to-date in their subject area. Role of libraries in the age of web-resources will increase tremendously, particularly in providing training and guidance to use authentic and relevant information to certain extent the libraries will develop necessary tools to provide such services to their users satisfactorily. The Library needs to arrange various orientation and training programmes for faculty members for the optimum use of available web-resources. This study helps the faculty members to know the importance of web resources in academic environment.

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