# Gender Differences in using of Open E-Resources among the Public Libraries Users in Tiurnelveli District

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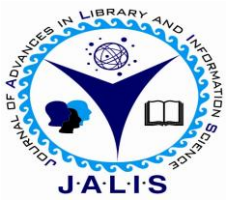
Abstract

*This paper discusses about the Gender Differences using of Open E-Resources among the Users in Public Libraries in Tiurnelveli Districtwhich consists students, Researchers, Completive exam aspirant, faculty members those who are working in government and private educational institutions. The 450 well tested Questionnaires were constructed by the authors to collect the relevant data from the users in public libraries and to know the awareness of Open –E-Resources for their academic and other purposes. Out of 450, 387 respondents were replied and the response rate is 86%. It found that the maximum of the 'Male' respondents are using the Open E-Resources from '2-3 years'.*

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Keywords
Awareness; Public libraries; Open E-Resources; Tirunelveli

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## I. Introduction

Public library is a social institution which is based on the concept of democracy and it is an institution for the people, by the people and of the people. S.R.Ranganathan defined it as a library owned and maintained by the public of its area for the socialization of its books and kindred materials for free service to the people of the area. Librarians Glossary defines public library as a library provided wholly or partly from public funds, and the use of which is not restricted to any class of persons in the community but is freely available to all. Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science defines that Public Library is a public institution, supported by taxation, one that opens its collections, facilities and services, with distinction to all students. It always strives to meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of the community by providing collection and services. Maximum utilization of library resources and services by the users is the main motive of a public library.

## 2. Review of Literature

Slatter and Howard (2013) emphasized most on the benefit of each participant which was community engagement, with all positive impacts on local communities arising as a result of the makers pace. Although there were significant differences in participants' individual experiences, each described similar benefits provided by content-creation spaces. Sandhu, P. K. (2016) studied that majority of the library users read every day. Their purpose of reading in the library is to update their knowledge. 30% of the library users visit library once a week. Majority of the respondents visit public library to read newspapers. The main reason for not coming to the library is lack of time. In a recent study, Majumder (2017) proposed some programmes which can be taken to provide CIS, i.e. public relation, information literacy and its marketing, distance education, preparation of information file, preparation of computerized database, internet and world wide web, preparation of area profile, identification of the needs of community, networking among community information centers, collection and preservation of indigenous knowledge, computer awareness programmes and training about internet. Jose, J. (2020) Assessed the public library system in India obliges pressing serious cosmetic touch up. An enormous financing and support service system is required for public

libraries in India today to make them true information resource centers for individuals. This paper gives a fundamental thought towards the current status of public libraries in India and the necessity for change through a public-private partnership.

### 3. Objective of the Study

The framed objectives are

1. To identify the age wise distribution of the respondents
2. To classify the respondents by domicile wise
3. To be identified the gender differences in awareness on Open E-Resources among the respondents.
4. To ascertain Level of gender differences while using the Open E-Resources
5. To know the Level of responses to awareness of Open E-Resources

### 4. Scope of the Study

The scope of present study is to identify the awareness of Open E-Resources among public library users in Tirunelveli District. This study is only focusing on users from District Central Library and branch libraries of Tirunelveli District.

### 5. Methodology

This is an attempt to make awareness of Open E-Resources among public library users in Tirunelveli District which consists students, Researchers, Completive exam aspirant, faculty members those who are working in government and private educational institutions. It is to identify their awareness, attitude, level of using and responses towards the awareness about the open E-Resources. The 450 well tested Questionnaires were constructed by the authors to collect the relevant data from the users in public libraries and to know the awareness of Open –E-Resources for their academic and other purposes. Out of 450, 387 respondents were replied and the response rate is 86%. The data collected was analyzed and use of statistical techniques like simple percentages, and Chi-square test.

### 6. Data Analysis and Interpretation

#### 6.1. Distribution of Questionnaires

The Distribution of Questionnaires among users has been analyzed based on the opinions and it is shown in the table.

**Table 1:** Distribution of Questionnaires

| Sl. No. | Questionnaires Distributed | % | Questionnaires Received | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 500 | 100.00 | 387 | 77.40 |

Table 1 shows the distribution of questionnaires among the public library users in Tirunelveli District only. Totally 500 questionnaires were distributed among the Users in Tirunelveli District those are literate people which consists of pursuing higher education, researching & peoples working in various academic and research institutions and people are searching employment opportunities. Out of 450, 387 replied after duly filled by the respondents and the response rate is 77.40%.

#### 6.2. Domicile Wise Distribution of Questionnaires

The Gender wise distribution of Questionnaires among user's been analyzed based and it is shown in the table 2.

**Table 2:** Gender Wise Distribution of Questionnaires

| Sl. No. | Gender | Questionnaires Distributed | % | Questionnaires Received | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Male | 250 | 50.00 | 222 | 44..40 |
| 2 | Female | 250 | 50.00 | 165 | 33.00 |
| | **Total** | **500** | **100.00** | **387** | **77.40** |

Table 2 shows the gender wise distribution of questionnaires based on residents of the users in the public libraries in Tirunelveli District. The users may be categorized based on the gender and the stratified random samplings were used for data collection. Equally 2500(50.00%) questionnaires were distributed. Out of 450, 387 were replied which consists of 222 (44.4%) users replied by 'Male' and 165(33%) Female were replied. It is pointed out that from the table, the maximum respondents were from "Male'.

### 6.3. Domicile Wise Distribution of Respondents

The domicile wise Distribution of respondents from public libraries in Tirunelveli district are categorised and it is shown in the table 3.

**Table 3:** Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents

| Sl. No, | Description | Gender | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Rural | Urban | Semi-Urban | |
| 1 | Male | 75(19.38) | 91(23.51) | 56(14.47) | 222(57.36) |
| 2 | Female | 70(18.09) | 47(12.14) | 48(12.4) | 165(42.64) |
| | Total | 145(37.47) | 138(35.66) | 104(26.87) | 387(100) |

*(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)*

Table 3 shows the domicile wise distribution of respondents from the public libraries in Tirunelveli District. The users may be categorized based on the gender which is Male and Female. Out of 222 Male respondents, 75 (19.38%) of them from 'Rural', 91(23.51%) of them from 'Urban' and 56(14.47%) from 'Semi Urban' area. Similarly 165 Female respondents, 70(18.09%) of them from 'Rural', 47(12.14%) of them from 'Urban' and 48(12.4%) from 'Semi Urban' area. It is pointed out that from the table, the maximum respondents are from "Rural'.

### 6.4. Age Frequency Wise Distribution of Respondents

The Age wise Distribution of users from public libraries in Tirunelveli district are categorised and it is shown in the table 4.

**Table 4:** Age Wise Distribution of Respondents

| Sl. No, | Description | Gender | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | below 30 | 30-45 | Above 45 | |
| 1 | Male | 67(17.31) | 107(27.65) | 48(12.4) | 222(57.36) |
| 2 | Female | 49(12.66) | 71(18.35) | 45(11.63) | 165(42.64) |
| | Total | 116(29.97) | 178(45.99) | 93(24.03) | 387(100) |

*(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)*

The table 4 indicates age frequency wise distribution of the responses received from respondents. Among the 222 Male, 67(17.31%) of the Users were in the age frequency of 'Below 30' 107(27.65%) of the Users were in the age frequency of '30-45' and 67(17.31%) of the Users were in the age frequency of 'Above 45'. Similarly, among the 165 Female, 49(12.66%) of the Users were in the age frequency of 'Below 30' 71(18.35%) of the Users were in the age frequency of '30-45' and 45(11.63%) of the Users were in the age frequency of 'Above 45'. It is revealed from the table the highest numbers of Users were in the age frequency of '30-45' from 'Male' respondents.

### 6.5. Awareness on Open E-Resources among the Users

The Awareness on Open E-Resources among the Users has been analyses based on their opinion and responses which is shown in the table 5.

**Table 5:** Awareness on Open E-Resources among the Users

| Sl. No. | Gender | Awareness On Open E-Resources | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Yes | No | Total |
| 1 | Male | 217(56.06) | 5(1.30) | 222(57.36) |
| 2 | Female | 160(41.34) | 5(1.30) | 165(42.64) |
| 3 | Male | 377(97.42) | 10(2.58) | 387(100) |

It is stated from the table 5, the gender wise distribution of awareness on Open E-Resources among the users. Out of 222 Male respondents, 217(56.06%) of them has awareness on Open E-Resources and 5 (1.30%) of them have not any awareness. Similarly among the 165 Female respondents, 160(41.34%) of them has awareness on Open E-Resources and 5 (1.30%) of them have not any awareness. It is clearly shows that the 10(2.58%) of the respondent were not aware on Open E-Resources.

### 6.6. Frequency Wise Distribution of Awareness about Open E-Resources

The frequency wise distribution of awareness about Open E-Resources among the Users has been analyzed based on their opinion and shown in the table 6.

**Table 6:** Frequency Wise Distribution of Awareness about Open E-Resources

| Sl. No. | Gender | Below 1 year | 1-2 yrs. | 2-3 yrs. | 3-4 yrs. | 4-5 yrs. | Above 5 yrs. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Male | 18(4.65) | 39(10.08) | 66(17.05) | 45(11.63) | 44(11.37) | 10(2.58) | 222(57.36) |
| 2 | Female | 20(5.17) | 35(9.04) | 37(9.56) | 43(11.11) | 26(6.72) | 4(1.03) | 165(42.64) |
| | Total | 38(9.82) | 74(19.12) | 103(26.61) | 88(22.74) | 70(18.09) | 14(3.62) | 387(100) |
| | Chi-square: 7.499, df 5, Sig. 0.186 | | | | | | | |

*(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)*

It is observed from the table 6, shows that the frequency wise distribution of awareness about Open E-Resources with the Category of 222 Male respondents, . 18(4.65%) of the Users were aware on Open E-Resources only 'Below 1 year', 39(10.08%) of the Users were aware on Open E-Resources only '1-2 years', 66(17.05%) of the Users were aware on Open E-Resources only '3-4 years', 44(11.37%) of the Users were aware on Open E-Resources only '4-5 years' and 10(2.58%) of the Users were aware on Open E-Resources only 'Above 5 years'. Out of 165 Female respondents, 20(5.17%) of the Users were aware on Open E-Resources only 'Below 1 year', 35(9.04%) of the Users were aware on Open E-Resources only '1-2 years', 37(9.56%) of the Users were aware on Open E-Resources only '2-3 years', 43(11.11%) of the Users were aware on Open E-Resources only '3-4 years', 26(6.72%) of the Users were aware on Open E-Resources only '4-5 years' and 4(1.03%) of the Users were aware on Open E-Resources only 'Above 5 years'. It is clearly shows that the maximum of the respondents are using the Open E-Resources from '2-3 years'.

Further, Chi square test has been administered to identify the significance. The calculated value has been shown in Table 8. For the gender wise analysis, the table value is 11.07 at 5% level of significance, the calculated value were less than the table value which indicated the variables are insignificant in their opinion between the categories of gender towards the level of awareness on Open E-Resources.

### 6.7. Frequency Wise Distribution of Using Open E-Resources

The frequency wise distribution of using Open E-Resources has been analyses based on the opinion of the Users and shown in the table 7.

**Table 7:** Frequency Wise Distribution of Using Open E-Resources

| Sl. No | Gender | Frequency | | | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Below 1 year | 1-2 yrs. | 2-3 yrs. | 3-4 yrs. | Above 5 yrs. | |
| 1 | Male | 44(11.37) | 46(11.89) | 57(14.73) | 53(13.7) | 22(5.68) | 222(57.36) |
| 2 | Female | 26(6.72) | 35(9.04) | 41(10.59) | 49(12.66) | 14(3.62) | 165(42.64) |
| 3 | Total | 70(18.09) | 81(20.93) | 98(25.32) | 102(26.36) | 36(9.3) | 387(100) |
| | Chi-square: 2.324, df 4, Sig. 0.676 | | | | | | |

*(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)*

It is observed from the table 7, shows that the frequency wise distribution of using Open E-Resources with the Category of gender. Out of 222 Male respondents, . 44(11.37%) of the Users are using Open E-Resources only 'Below 1 year', 46(11.89%) of the Users are using Open E-Resources only '1-2 years', 57(14.73%) of the Users are using Open E-Resources only '2-3 years', 53(13.7%) of the Users are using Open E-Resources only '3-4 years' and 22(5.68%) of the Users are using Open E-Resources only 'Above 5 years'. Out of 165 Female respondents, 26(6.72%) of the Users are using Open E-Resources only 'Below 1 year', 35(9.04%) of the Users are using Open E-Resources only '1-2 years', 41(10.59%) of the Users are using Open E-

Resources only '2-3 years', 49(10.59%) of the Users are using Open E-Resources only '3-4 years' and 14(3.62%) of the Users are using Open E-Resources only 'Above 5 years'. It is clearly shows that the maximum of the 'Male' respondents are using the Open E-Resources from '2-3 years'. Further, Chi square test has been administered to identify the significance. The calculated value has been shown in Table 8. For the gender wise analysis, the table value is 9.488 at 5% level of significance, the calculated value were less than the table value which indicated the variables are insignificant in their opinion between the categories of gender towards the level of using Open E-Resources.

### 6.8 Distribution of Responses towards the Awareness of E- Resources

The distribution of responses towards the awareness of Open E- Resources of the public libraries among the Users has been analyzed and shown in table 8.

**Table 8:** Distribution of Responses towards the Awareness of E- Resources

| Sl. No | Gender | Responses | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Very Good | Good | Fair | Poor | No Comments | Total |
| 1 | Male | 49(12.66) | 149(38.5) | 10(2.58) | 0(0) | 14(3.62) | 222(57.36) |
| 2 | Female | 39(10.08) | 109(28.17) | 10(2.58) | 1(0.26) | 6(1.55) | 165(42.64) |
| 3 | Total | 88(22.74) | 258(66.67) | 20(5.17) | 1(0.26) | 20(5.17) | 387(100) |
| | Chi-square: 3.212, df 4, Sig. 0.523 | | | | | | |

*(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)*

It is showed that from the table 8, distributions of responses towards the awareness Open E-Resources with the category of the gender. In the category of 'Male' out of 222, 49(12.66%)were responded for 'Good' towards the awareness of E-Resources, 149(38.5%) were 'Very Good', 14(3.62%)were 'No Commands' and 'Nobody replied 'Poor'. In Female category, 39(10.08%)of them were replied 'Very Good', 109(28.17%)were 'Good' and 10(2.58%) were responded 'Fair'. . It is analyzed from the table the highest number of Users 258(66.67%) were responded for 'Good' and 1(0.26%) were responded for 'Poor'.

Further, Chi square test has been administered to identify the significance. The calculated value has been shown in Table 8. For the gender wise analysis, the table value is 9.488 at 5% level of significance, the calculated value for most of the values were less than the table value which indicated the variables are insignificant in their opinion between the categories of gender towards the level of responses of awareness on Open E-Resources.

## 6. Conclusion

The public libraries are extent their services by way of Open E-Resources to required people. It enables the user to use their academic, research and other education and employment activities. In view of gender accessibility of Open E-Resources the Male respondents are using more Open E-Resources for their academic and personal development. The sum of the above study, almost the majority of the users are having more awareness and known to use in various purposes in the academic environment. The Open E-Resources will help to the improve society particularly in life style changes among public library users.

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