Access and Utilization of E-Resources among the Academic and Research Community of Veterinary Colleges in Tamil Nadu: A Study

M. Selvi
Ph. D Research Scholar
Department of Library Information Science
Annamalai University, Annamalainagar

S. Mohamed Esmail
Associate Professor
Department of Library Information Science
Annamalai University, Annamalainagar

Abstract

This paper deals with the utilization behavior of e-resources by the academic community of veterinary colleges located in Tamil Nadu. The study provides information about the respondents' utilization behaviors in terms of frequency of access, place of access , purpose of access, use of e-consortium, level of confident with the ability to access e-resources, level of satisfaction and problems faced while accessing e-resources for their study and research. Nearly 35% and 40% of the respondents belongs to Chennai college approaches e-resource through their Colleagues/Friends and library website respectively. It is also seen from the table that 41% of the respondents in Tirunelveli college through their library staff.

Keywords

E-resources; e-consortium; satisfaction; confident; influences of e-resources; problems.

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INTRODUCTION

An "electronic resources" is defined as any work encoded and made available for access through the use of a computer. It includes both online data and electronic data in physical formats. E-Resources are now emerging as vital sources of information for all recent and nascent thought and ideas coming in to existence in whatever area of research. Whole books and periodicals have started appearing in digitized forms i,e. on CD Disk and others. Internet and www have provided a platform to display these resources globally. E-Resources can be any E-Journal, E-Zine, E-Newsletter, E-Books, E-Database, E-Thesis and Dissertations. Internet information resources can be defined as resources in digital format that provide information or indicator to the information and are accessible over the internet. Online availability of information enables the user to get relevant information and acquaint with latest development taking place in their respected field. Main purpose of electronic resources is providing current information. Update information is necessary for research work; through electronic resources users are able to access latest information. The main features of e-resources are save the time of user and staff, solve the space problem in library, easy to use and disseminate.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of the study is to explore the awareness and use behavior of e-resources by students, staff and research scholars of veterinary colleges located in Tamil Nadu.

The important objectives of the study one

- To find out college wise respondents place and purpose of accessing Internet/E-Resources.
- To know college wise respondent's approach to e-resources and use of e-resources consortium fo their academic activities.
- To find out college wise respondent's level of frequency of using e-resources for their study, teaching and research.
- To study college wise respondent's opinion on level of confident in their ability of accessing e-resources.
- To find out college wise respondent's opinion about "Influence of e-resources on their academic efficiency"

- To know college wise respondents opinion on level of satisfaction with relevant of e-resources and need of training to use e-resources
- To find out college wise respondent's opinion on problem face while accessing e-resources.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The scope of the present study is to find out the utilizing behavior of e-resources by the academic community of veterinary colleges located in Tamil Nadu. The study concentrated only all the four colleges which is providing veterinary science courses in Tamil Nadu. It does not cover other courses, other colleges in Tamil Nadu and also other states of India.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted among the UG, and PG student, research scholars and teaching staff of the veterinary colleges affiliated to Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animals Science University, Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu there are four colleges offering veterinary science courses namely,

1 Madders Veterinary Colleges, Vepery, Chennai.
2 Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal.
3 Veterinary College and Research Institute, Ramayanpattai, Tirunelveli.
4 Veterinary College and Research Institute, Orathanadu, Thanjavur.

Data was collected from the respondents of the four colleges by using questionnaires. The investigator distributor the questionnaires to all the respondents (i.e UG&PG students, research scholars and teaching staff) of the colleges. Out of 1665 total respondents, 1632 filed- in questioner received back from the respondents making the response rate 98 percent. The collected college questioner was tabula ted and analyzed for the present study.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: College wise Respondent's place of accessing Internet/E-Resources

S.No	Place of internet access	Colleges				
		Chennai	Namakkal	Tirunelveli	Orathanadu	Total
1	College library /Lab	525(76.98)	445 (77.53)	160(83.33)	161(87.5)	1291(79.11)
2	Home / Hostel	95(13.93)	154(26.83)	69(35.94)	68(36.96)	386(23.65)
3	Cybercafé	108(15.84)	51(8.88)	14(7.29)	7(3.80)	180(11.03)
4	Friends home	8(1.17)	21(3.66)	-	-	29(1.78)

The above table 1 shows that majority of the respondents in every college using the internet in their college library, but at the same time, it was more than 80% in Tirunelveli and Orathanadu colleges. A considerable level of respondent's also accessing internet and e-resources at their Home/Hostel.

Table 2:College wise Respondent's Purpose for Consulting E-Resources

S. No	Purpose	Colleges				
		Chennai	Namakkal	Tirunelveli	Orathanadu	Total
1	For research work	186(27.27)	152(26.48)	25(13.02)	22(11.96)	385(23.59)
2	For project purpose	208(30.50)	172(29.97)	56(29.16)	74(40.22)	510(31.25)
3	For knowing current information/development	524(76.83)	398(69.34)	121(63.03)	116(63.04)	1159(71.02)
4	To prepare class notes	52(7.62)	44(7.66)	67(34.90)	65(35.33)	228(13.97)
5	For taking seminar classes	269(39.44)	232(40.42)	154(80.21)	148(80.43)	803(49.20)
6	For presenting paper in conference/seminar	173(25.37)	146(25.44)	-	-	319(19.55)
7	For publishing articles in journal	302(44.28)	258(44.95)	126(65.62)	124(67.39)	810(49.63)

From the above table 2 it is observed that nearly 70% and more than 70% of the respondents in Namakkal and Chennai colleges consulting e-resource knowing current information/development /development in their filed. 80% of the respondent's

in Tirunelveli and Orathanadu colleges accessing e-resources for taking seminar classes.

Table 3:College wise Respondent's Approach to E-Resources

S.No	Approaches	Colleges				
		Chennai	Namakkal	Tirunelveli	Orathanadu	Total
1	Library Staff	98(14.37)	63(10.98)	79(41.15)	32(17.39)	272(16.66)
2	Library Websites	262(38.42)	192(33.45)	39(20.31)	66(35.86)	559(34.25)
3	Information Brochure of library	47(6.90)	40(6.97)	18(9.38)	13(7.06)	118(7.23)
4	Colleagues / Friends	233(34.16)	157(27.35)	56(29.17)	44(23.91)	490(30.02)
5	Teaching Staff	268(39.30)	214(37.28)	91(47.40)	88(47.82)	661(40.50)
6	User Orientation	61(8.94)	47(8.19)	32(16.66)	38(20.65)	178(10.90)

The data available in the table 3 shows that user approaches to e-resources available in their library. Majority of the respondents in every college approaches to e-resources through teaching staff of the college. Nearly 35% and 40% of the respondents belongs to Chennai college approaches e-resource through their Colleagues/Friends and library website respectively. It is also seen from the table that 41% of the respondents in Tirunelveli college through their library staff.

Table 4: College wise Respondent's use of E-Resources Consortium

S. No	Consortium	Colleges				
		Chennai	Namakkal	Tirunelveli	Orathanadu	Total
1	UGC-INFONET	235(34.46)	96(16.72)	53(27.60)	36(19.57)	420(25.74)
2	CSIR E-Journals Consortium	201(29.47)	106(18.47)	34(17.71)	22(11.96)	363(22.24)
3	CeRAE	603(88.42)	414(72.12)	117(60.94)	169(91.85)	1303(79.84)
4	ICAR E-Journals Consortium	519(76.10)	180(31.36)	116(60.42)	62(33.70)	877(53.74)

It is detected from the above table that majority of the respondents in every college getting e-resource through CeRAE and it is followed by majority of the respondents belongs to Chennai and Tirunelveli colleges used ICAR E- journal Consortium. It is also seen from the table that nearly 35% of respondents belongs to Chennai College whiled UGC INFONET consortium.

Table 5: College wise Respondents level of Confident in the Ability of Accessing E-Resources

S.No	Level of Confident	Colleges				
		Chennai	Namakkal	Tirunelveli	Orathanadu	Total
1	Not confident	12(1.76)	33(5.75)	12(6.25)	-	57(3.49)
2	Somewhat Confident	180(26.39)	226(39.37)	56(29.17)	66(35.87)	528(32.35)
3	Confident	334(48.97)	269(46.86)	116(60.42)	82(44.56)	801(49.08)
4	Extremely Confident	136(19.94)	46(8.01)	8(4.17)	36(19.57)	226(13.85)
5	Never Do This	20(2.93)	-	-	-	20(1.23)
	Total	682(41.79)	574(35.17)	192(17.77)	184(11.27)	1632

The above table 5 shows that respondent's level of confident in their ability to access e-resources. 60% of the respondents belongs to Tirunelveli have "Confident" but other College respondents comes under 40% to 50% in this case. Nearly 20% of the respondents belong to Chennai and Orathanadu have "Extremely Confident".

Table 6: College wise Respondent's level of Frequency of Using E-Resources

. No		Colleges									
		Chennai					Namakkal				
		Most frequently	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Total	Most frequently	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Total
	E-Books	221 (32.40)	88 (12.90)	358 (52.49)	15 (2.20)	682 (41.79)	193 (33.62)	125 (21.77)	198 (34.49)	58 (10.10)	574 (35.17)
	E-Journals	86 (12.61)	160 (23.46)	274 (40.18)	162 (23.75)	682 (41.79)	91 (15.55)	148 (25.78)	202 (35.19)	133 (23.17)	574 (35.17)
	Library catalogue OPAC	72 (10.56)	148 (21.70)	225 (32.99)	237 (34.75)	682 (41.79)	69 (12.02)	149 (25.96)	231 (40.74)	125 (21.77)	574 (35.17)
	Website Information	72 (10.56)	264 (38.71)	202 (29.62)	144 (21.11)	682 (41.79)	127 (22.12)	203 (35.36)	144 (25.08)	100 (17.42)	574 (35.17)
	E-Theses	59 (8.65)	307 (45.01)	107 (15.69)	209 (30.64)	682 (41.79)	62 (10.80)	57 (9.93)	254 (44.25)	201 (35.01)	574 (35.17)
	E-Research Reports	94 (13.78)	231 (33.87)	136 (19.94)	221 (32.40)	682 (41.79)	101 (17.59)	175 (30.48)	123 (21.43)	175 (30.49)	574 (35.17)
	E-Newspaper	123 (18.03)	168 (24.63)	253 (37.08)	138 (20.23)	682 (41.79)	114 (19.86)	128 (22.30)	206 (35.89)	126 (21.95)	574 (35.17)
	E-Manuscripts	-	-	-	682 (100)	682 (41.79)	-	-	-	574 (100)	574 (35.17)
	E-Maps	76 (11.14)	202 (29.62)	183 (26.83)	221 (32.40)	682 (41.79)	72 (12.54)	151 (26.31)	153 (26.65)	198 (34.49)	574 (35.17)
	E-Magazines	88 (12.90)	241 (35.34)	186 (27.27)	167 (24.49)	682 (41.79)	110 (19.16)	122 (21.25)	162 (28.22)	180 (31.35)	574 (35.17)
	E-Dictionaries	162 (23.75)	254 (37.24)	140 (20.52)	126 (18.47)	682 (41.79)	139 (24.21)	204 (35.54)	118 (20.55)	113 (19.60)	574 (35.17)
	E-Encyclopedia	207 (30.35)	143 (20.96)	219 (32.11)	113 (16.56)	682 (41.79)	171 (29.79)	124 (21.60)	173 (30.13)	106 (18.46)	574 (35.17)
	CD-ROM databases	94 (13.78)	95 (13.92)	167 (24.48)	326 (47.80)	682 (41.79)	75 (13.06)	94 (16.37)	134 (22.95)	271 (47.21)	574 (35.17)
	Online databases	169 (24.78)	145 (21.26)	193 (28.29)	175 (25.66)	682 (41.79)	131 (22.82)	132 (23)	165 (28.75)	146 (25.44)	574 (35.17)
	E-mail, discussion groups	261 (38.26)	137 (20.08)	107 (15.69)	177 (25.95)	682 (41.79)	198 (34.49)	123 (21.43)	89 (15.50)	164 (28.57)	574 (35.17)

The above table 6 shows that respondent's frequency of accessing e-resources. Out of 1632 total respondents, majority of them most frequently used e-mail discussion groups and it is followed by E-books, and E-encyclopedia. In Chennai College, 38 .26 % and 32.40 % of them most frequently used E-mail Discussion groups and E-books, but in Namakkal College, It was 34.49 % and 33.62%. Likewise in Tirunelveli College it was 35.42% and 26.53%. In Orathanadu College it was 38.59% and 31.52%.

Table 7:College wise Respondents Opinion about "Influence of E-Resources on Academic Efficiency"

S.No	Academic Efficiency	Colleges				
		Chennai	Namakkal	Tirunelveli	Orathanadu	Total
1	Expedite Research and Academic Process	134 (19.65)	119 (20.73)	80 (41.67)	52 (28.26)	385 (23.59)
2	Improves professional competency	79 (11.58)	59 (10.28)	54 (28.13)	47 (25.54)	239 (14.64)
3	Access to Current information	213 (31.23)	156 (27.18)	88 (45.83)	65 (35.33)	522 (31.98)
4	Access to wider Range of	124	89	51	48	312

	information	(18.18)	(15.50)	(26.56)	(26.09)	(19.12)
5	Dependency on e-journal has increased	61 (8.94)	54 (9.41)	42 (21.88)	16 (8.70)	173 (10.60)
6	Fast access of information	252 (36.95)	181 (31.53)	78 (40.63)	53 (28.80)	564 (34.56)

Table 7 shows that respondent's opinion about "Influence of e-resource on academic efficiency". Nearly 37 % of the respondent of Chennai College said "Fast access of the information". 27 % and 45% of the respondents belongs to Namakkal and Tirunelveli college says "Access to Current information" respectively and 35% of the respondents in Orathanadu college also agreed with that. So, majority of the respondents in every colleges except Chennai says the academic efficiency "Access to Current information" increases by using e-resources

Table 8:College wise Respondents Level of Satisfaction with Relevance of E-Resources

S.No	Level of Satisfied	Colleges				
		Chennai	Namakkal	Tirunelveli	Orathanadu	Total
1	Very Dissatisfied	8(1.17)	6(10.45)	3(1.56)	3(1.63)	20(1.23)
2	Dissatisfied	52(7.62)	37(6.44)	10(5.20)	6(3.26)	105(6.43)
3	Somewhat Satisfied	128(18.78)	54(9.40)	27(14.06)	31(16.85)	240(14.71)
4	Satisfied	356(52.20)	311(54.18)	108(56.25)	97(52.72)	872(53.43)
5	Very Satisfied	138(20.23)	166(28.92)	44(22.92)	47(25.54)	395(24.20)
	Total	682(41.79)	574(35.17)	192(17.77)	184(11.27)	1632

From the above table 8, it is observed that 50 to 60 % of the respondents in every college 'satisfied" with the relevance of e- resources. Nearby 30% of the respondents belongs to Namakkal also "Very Satisfied" with the relevance of e-resources. In overall, out of 1632 total respondents 53.43% of the respondents "Satisfied" and 24.20% of the respondents "Very Satisfied" with the relevance of e-resources.

Table 9:College wise Respondent's Opinion on Need of Training to Use E-Resources

S.No	Opinion	Colleges				
		Chennai	Namakkal	Tirunelveli	Orathanadu	Total
1	Strongly Disagree	26(3.81)	18(3.14)	4(2.08)	3(1.63)	51(3.12)
2	Disagree	65(9.53)	51(8.88)	14(7.29)	10(5.43)	140(8.58)
3	Agree	188(27.56)	181(31.53)	47(24.48)	108(58.70)	524(32.10)
4	Strongly Agree	88(12.90)	48(8.36)	23(11.97)	3(1.63)	162(9.92)
5	Neutral	315(46.19)	276(48.08)	104(54.16)	60(32.61)	755(46.26)
	Total	682(41.79)	574(35.17)	192(17.77)	184(11.27)	1632

The above table shows that respondents opinion on need of training to use e-resources. In this aspect, majority of the respondents belongs to Chennai, Namakkal and Tirunelveli remains 'neutral' but nearby 60% of the respondents belongs to Orathanadu 'Agree' with the statement of "Imparting training to use e-resource is essential".

Table-10:College wise Respondent's Opinion on Problem Feces While Accessing E-Resources

S. No	Problems	College				
		Chennai	Namakkal	Tirunelveli	Orathanadu	Total
1	In sufficiently of IT knowledge	280(41.06)	248(43.21)	85(44.27)	80(43.48)	693(42.46)
2	Difficulty in finding relevant information	177(25.95)	154(26.83)	49(25.52)	42(22.83)	422(25.86)

3	Limited computer terminals	197(28.88)	166(28.92)	54(28.12)	47(25.54)	464(28.43)
4	Time consuming	208(30.50)	182(31.71)	60(31.25)	52(28.26)	502(30.76)
5	Easy and convenient to use print form	227(33.28)	208(36.24)	67(34.90)	58(31.52)	560(34.31)
6	Limitation of internet access speed	242(35.48)	221(3.8.50)	76(39.58)	65(35.33)	604(37.00)

From the above table10, we found that insufficiency of IT knowledge is the major problem while accessing e-resource and it is comes inbetween 40-50%. 30 - 40 % of the respondents in every college above also pointed out "Limitation of internet access speed"

FINDING AND CONCLUSION

They are the major findings of the present study

- Majority of the respondents accessing internet and e-resources in their college library/lab.
- Majority of the respondents accessing/consulting e-resources for the purpose of to know current information/development in their field.
- Majority of the respondents approaches to e-resources with the help of teaching staff and library website.
- Majority of the respondents used CeRAE Consortium to access E-Resources.
- Majority of the respondents most frequently used e-mail, e-books, e-encyclopedia for their academic and research need.
- Majority of the respondents have 'confident' in their ability to access e-resources.
- Majority of the respondents felt that the academic efficiency access to current information increases by their use of e-resources.
- Majority of the respondents satisfied with the e-resources and they one neutral about the statement of 'improving training to use e-resources is essential.
- Majority of the respondents mostly faced the problems of insufficiently of IT knowledge while accessing e-resources.

The exponential growth of e-resources in veterinary science discipline, making the awareness and use of e-resources consortium among the academic community. Among the e-resources consortium, majority of the respondents heavily used the service provided by CeRAE. The college libraries also providing a well established infrastructure facility to make use of these sources satisfactorly. Now- a days this type of study is need to improve the facilities for the effective and efficient use of e-resources for their academic and research activities of the users.

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