Factors Impact on Usage of E-Resources: A User's Opinion Study

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Abstract

The present paper deals with certain factors which impact on the usage of e-resources. It is a kind of user opinion study to discuss the usage of e-resources for their academic and research need. The study provides the information related to importance and significance of e- resources while using the user respondents such as student and faculty members of arts and science colleges located in Chennai city. From the study we should know user's opinion towards e-resource supporting equipment, need of training to use e-resources, difficulty to find the relevant information, availability of enormous electronic resources, guidance to use electronic resources, for their specific discipline, need of experience to use electronic resources and importance of user profile

Keywords

e-resources, training , guidance, need and importance of e-resources.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Now a day we have adopted new methods in libraries, to handle digital information. In the world of globalization every country should prove its ability to develop its teaching institutions for that libraries play a key role in the concerning institutions. We can cure those deficiencies by providing the library services & effective use of its resources by adopting E-resources, E-resources will provide the library service to a busy user at his residing place and at any time. E-resources have been used to get accurate information within second. E-resources play a vital role as information repositories in promoting the use of information. E-resources give solutions to the challenges of the traditional libraries such as storage of data in digital form, means of processing and communicating information.

2.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the important objectives of the present study.

1. To find out gender wise respondents' level of agreement with the statements "e-resources not fulfill my information need" and "there are too much electronic resources".
2. To determine gender wise respondents' level of agreement with the statements "electronic resources are not updated" and "it takes too much time to find the relevant electronic resource".
3. To find out gender wise respondents' level of agreement with the statements "lack of supporting equipment limits the use of electronic resources" and "electronic resources are not always accessible"
4. To find out gender wise respondents' level of agreement with the statements "training in using electronic resources is not enough" and "more specific guides to using electronic resources related to my topic"
5. To find out gender wise level of agreement with the statements "examples and experiences on effective use of electronic resources are needed" and "relevant electronic resources should be pushed based on the user profile and interest"

3.METHODOLOGY

There are 71 arts and science colleges situated in Chennai city, among them the investigator randomly

selected only 18 colleges as a sample for the present study. The investigator distributed questionnaire to all the sample colleges. He employed a well structured questionnaire for collecting the data from the colleges. The questionnaire was prepared in such a way that the respondents could easily understand the items in it. At first, a pilot study was conducted to test the feelings of the respondents in answering questions. The data collection was done through filling the questionnaire by the respondents in their colleges. Random sampling method was adopted to collect the data from the respondents for this present study. The data collection was done in person by the researcher and filling the questionnaire by the respondents in their college premises. 1260 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents and only 1185 filled in questionnaires were received from the respondents making the response rate of 94.05 percent.

4.LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The findings of this study are applicable to students and teaching staff members of arts and science colleges located in Chennai city, Tamilnadu, India. No other arts and science colleges in other cities and districts of Tamilnadu are included in the present study. The study has not been covered the research scholars working in the study colleges.

5.ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: Gender wise respondents' level of agreement with the statement "E-Resources not Fulfill My Information Need"

S. No	Level of Agreement	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	Strongly disagree	75 (12.6)	55 (9.36)	130 (10.97)
2	Disagree	204 (34.2)	162 (27.6)	366 (30.89)
3.	Neutral	-	-	-
4	Agree	218 (36.8)	294 (50.8)	512 (43.20)
5.	Strongly agree	101 (16.9)	76 (12.9)	177 (14.93)
	Total	598	587	1185

Figure in the parenthesis denote percentage

Table 1 shows that Gender wise respondents' level of agreement with the statement "E-Resources not Fulfill My Information Need". Among 598 male respondents, majority 36.8 percent of them and out of 587 female respondents, majority 50.8 percent of them 'agree' with the above statement.

Table 2: Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "There are too much electronic resources"

S. No	Level of Agreement	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	Strongly disagree	-	21 (3.6)	21 (1.77)
2	Disagree	63 (10.63)	52 (8.85)	115 (9.70)
3.	Neutral	10 (1.6)	-	10 (0.84)
4	Agree	219 (36.7)	286 (48.8)	505 (42.61)
5.	Strongly agree	306 (51.2)	228 (38.84)	534 (45.06)
	Total	598 (50.46)	587 (49.54)	1185

Figure in the parenthesis denote percentage

Table 2 shows that Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "There are too much electronic resources". Among 598 male respondents, majority 51.2 percent of them 'Strongly agree' and out of 587 female respondents, majority 48.8 percent of them 'agree' with the above statement.

Table 3: Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "Electronic resources are not updated"

S. No	Level of Agreement	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	Strongly disagree	194 (32.5)	228 (38.84)	422 (35.61)
2	Disagree	261 (44.5)	281 (47.87)	542 (45.73)
3.	Neutral	22 (3.8)	-	22 (1.86)
4	Agree	101 (16.9)	78 (13.9)	179 (15.10)
5.	Strongly agree	20 (3.5)	-	20 (1.69)
	Total	598 (50.46)	587 (49.54)	1185

Figure in the parenthesis denote percentage

Table 3 shows that Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "Electronic resources are not updated". Among 598 Male

respondents, majority 44.5 percent of them and out of 587 female respondents, majority 47.87 percent of them 'disagree' with the above statement.

Table 4: Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "It takes too much time to find the relevant electronic resource"

S. No	Level of Agreement	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	Strongly disagree	74 (12.37)	56 (9.54)	130 (10.97)
2	Disagree	164 (27.42)	102 (17.37)	266 (22.45)
3.	Neutral	28 (4.68)	39 (6.64)	67 (5.65)
4	Agree	210 (35.11)	294 (50.08)	504 (42.53)
5.	Strongly agree	122 (20.40)	96 (16.35)	218 (18.40)
	Total	598 (50.46)	587 (49.54)	1185

Figure in the parenthesis denote percentage

Table 4 shows that Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "It takes too much time to find the relevant electronic resource". Among 598 Male respondents, majority 35.11 percent of them and out of 587 female respondents, majority 50.08 percent of them 'agree' with the above statement. But at the same time 20.40 percent male respondents 'strongly agree' and it is 16.35 percent among female respondents.

Table 5: Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "Lack of supporting equipment (such as connection, download, printing equipment) limits the use of electronic resources"

S. No	Level of Agreement	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	Strongly disagree	-	-	-
2	Disagree	104 (17.39)	52 (8.86)	156 (13.16)
3.	Neutral	121 (20.23)	50 (8.52)	171 (14.43)
4	Agree	259 (43.31)	284 (48.38)	543 (45.82)
5.	Strongly agree	114 (19.06)	201 (34.24)	315 (26.58)
	Total	598 (50.46)	587 (49.54)	1185

Figure in the parenthesis denote percentage

Table 5 Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "Lack of supporting equipment (such as connection, download, printing equipment) limits the use of electronic resources". Among 598 Male respondents, majority 43.31 percent of them and out of 587 female respondents, majority 48.38 percent of them 'agree' with the above statement. The table also shows that 34.24 percent of female respondents also 'strongly agree' with the statement but it is only 19.06 percent among the male respondents.

Table 6: Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "Electronic resources are not always accessible"

S. No	Level of Agreement	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	Strongly disagree	34 (5.68)	84 (14.31)	118 (9.96)
2	Disagree	84 (14.04)	115 (19.59)	199 (16.79)
3.	Neutral	168 (28.09)	102 (17.37)	270 (22.78)
4	Agree	221 (36.95)	185 (31.52)	406 (34.26)
5.	Strongly agree	91 (15.21)	101 (17.20)	192 (16.20)
	Total	598 (50.46)	587 (49.54)	1185

Figure in the parenthesis denote percentage

Table 6 shows that Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "Electronic resources are not always accessible". Among 598 male respondents, majority 36.95 percent of them and out of 587 female respondents, majority 31.52 percent of them 'agree' with the above statement.

Table 7: Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "Guide/help/training in using electronic resources is not enough"

S. No	Level of Agreement	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	Strongly disagree	-	-	-
2	Disagree	108 (18.06)	95 (16.18)	203 (17.13)
3.	Neutral	03 (0.50)	-	03 (0.25)

4	Agree	292 (48.82)	327 (55.70)	619 (52.23)
5.	Strongly agree	195 (32.60)	165 (28.10)	360 (30.38)
	Total	598 (50.46)	587 (49.54)	1185

Figure in the parenthesis denote percentage

Table 7 Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "Guide/help/training in using electronic resources is not enough". Among 598 male respondents, majority 48.82 percent of them and out of 587 female respondents, majority 55.70 percent of them 'agree' with the above statement. The table also shows that 32.60 percent of male respondents 'Strongly agree' with the statement.

Table 8: Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "More specific guides to using electronic resources related to topic/ subtopic/discipline/field I am interested in are needed"

S. No	Level of Agreement	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	Strongly disagree	-	-	-
2	Disagree	-	-	-
3.	Neutral	76 (12.71)	12 (2.04)	88 (7.42)
4	Agree	318 (53.17)	294 (50.09)	612 (51.65)
5.	Strongly agree	204 (34.11)	281 (47.87)	485 (40.92)
	Total	598 (50.46)	587 (49.54)	1185

Figure in the parenthesis denote percentage

Table 8 shows that Gender wise Respondents' level of agreement with the statement "More specific guides to using electronic resources related to topic/ subtopic/discipline/field I am interested in are needed". Among 598 male respondents, majority 53.17 percent of them and out of 587 female respondents, majority 50.09 percent of them 'agree' with the above statement. The above table also shows that 47.87 percent of female respondents 'strongly agree' with the statement.

Table 9: Gender wise Respondents' Level of Agreement with the Statement "Examples and Experiences on Effective use of Electronic Resources are Needed"

S. No	Level of Agreement	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	Strongly disagree	-	-	-
2	Disagree	02 (0.33)	20 (3.40)	22 (1.85)
3.	Neutral	118 (19.73)	87 (14.82)	205 (17.30)
4	Agree	286 (47.83)	259 (44.12)	545 (45.99)
5.	Strongly agree	192 (32.11)	221 (37.65)	413 (34.85)
	Total	598 (50.46)	587 (49.54)	1185

Figure in the parenthesis denote percentage

Table 9 shows that Gender wise Respondents' Level of Agreement with the Statement "Examples and Experiences on Effective use of Electronic Resources are Needed". Among 598 male respondents, majority 47.83 percent of them and out of 587 female respondents, majority 44.12 percent of them 'agree' with the above statement.

Table 10: Gender wise Respondents' Level of Agreement with The Statement "Relevant Electronic Resources Should Be Pushed Based on the User Profile And Interest"

S. No	Level of Agreement	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	Strongly disagree	-	86 (14.65)	86 (7.25)
2	Disagree	127 (21.24)	201 (34.24)	328 (27.68)
3.	Neutral	48 (8.03)	-	48 (4.51)
4	Agree	307 (51.34)	186 (31.69)	493 (41.60)
5.	Strongly agree	116 (19.39)	114 (19.42)	230 (19.41)
	Total	598 (50.46)	587 (49.54)	1185

Figure in the parenthesis denote percentage

Table 10 shows that Gender wise Respondents' Level of Agreement with The Statement "Relevant Electronic Resources Should Be Pushed Based on the User Profile And Interest". Among 598 male respondents, majority 51.34 percent of them 'agree' and out of 587 female respondents,

majority 34.24 percent of them 'disagree' with the above statement.

6.FINDINGS

Major findings of the study

- Majority of female respondents (50.8%) agree with the statement that e-Resources not Fulfill My Information Need
- Majority of male respondents(51.2%) strongly agree with the statement that there are too much electronic resources.
- Majority of female respondents (47.8%) disagree with the statement that Electronic resources are not updated
- Majority of female respondents (50.08%) agree with the statement that It takes too much time to find the relevant electronic resource
- Majority of female respondents(48.38%) agree with the statement that Lack of supporting equipment (such as connection, download, printing equipment) limits the use of electronic resources.
- Majority of male respondents(36.95%) agree with the statement that Electronic resources are not always accessible
- Majority of female respondents(55.70%) agree with the statement that Guide/help/training in using electronic resources is not enough
- Majority of male respondents(53.17%) agree with the statement that More specific guides to using electronic resources related to topic/ subtopic/discipline/field I am interested in are needed
- Majority of male respondents(47.83%) agree with the statement that Examples and Experiences on effective use of electronic resources are needed
- Majority of male respondents(51.34%) agree with the statement Relevant electronic resources should be pushed based on the user profile and interest.

7. CONCLUSION

Electronic resource plays a very vital role in research and academic activities. The development and growth of electronic / network resources has provided a wide range of opportunity for access *to* greater variety of resources in libraries. The e-resources is more and more important for the academic community in a information at the right time and in the right form. However, in to meet the ever increasing demand of the user community in a digital environment, libraries have to develop ways to manage access to materials available in electronic format and to effectively share them much as they have shred print resource for over a century through inter library inter library lending. From the findings of the present study, it is concluded that e-resources definitely impacts on information seeking behavior and information gathering habits of the users of the college libraries.

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