Use of Electronic Resources in Engineering College Libraries: User Study

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Abstract

This paper is an attempt to study the usage of electronic resources among the students of engineering colleges in Dindigul district. The primary data are collected from the respondents at engineering colleges by using questionnaire. A sample including engineering students were chosen from 5 selected engineering colleges in Dindigul district. A total number of 250 questionnaires were distributed. From this study, it is clear that majority of the respondents report the privacy problem is the prime problem in using electronic resources and they need workshop and classes for the effective use of e-resources.

Keywords

E-Resources, types of e-resources, Engineering databases, advantages and disadvantages of e-resources.

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INTRODUCTION

In the recent years, libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis both in the collection development and the service structure. A significant transformation has been noticed in collection development policies and practices due to availability of ICT based resources and services in plenty and had easy access to these resources. Print medium is increasingly giving way to the resources that are produced in electronic/ digital formats. The availability of CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, and other online resources of bibliographical and full – text databases is quite common in the majority of the university and college libraries. The libraries have an option to subscribe to these full – text databases as part of their digital collections. Most of the important publishers now offer web – enabled interfaces and full text of their journals. Some of the important full-text digital collections available on CD-ROM or online include Automatic Digital Online Information System (ADONIS), IEEE/IEE Electronic Library (IEL), Computer Application Binary Interface Databases (ABI/ INFORM) and Library and General Periodicals, E-space worlds, US Patents, etc. ICT based resources and services are resources in which information is stored electronically and which are accessible through electronic systems and networks. In this context the term means "any electronic product that delivers collection of data be it in text, numerical, graphical, or time based, as a commercially available resource.

An Electronic resource is any information source that the library provides access to in an electronic format. The library has purchased subscriptions to many electronic information resources in order to provide you with access to them free of charge. Our E-Resources include lots of things: full-text journals, newspapers, company information, e-books, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, economic data, digital images, industry profiles, market research, career information, etc. An Electronic resource is defined as a resource which requires 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, 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 electric

form. Hence to cope with the present situation, libraries are shifting towards new media, namely electronic resources for their collection developments that the demands of users are better fulfilled.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Adithya et al (2011) studied the reference sources collection, i.e., handbooks & manuals, bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, biographies, directories, yearbooks & almanacs, geographical sources, indexing & abstracting sources in seven university libraries of Karnataka. Alison et al (2012) analysis indicated that contextual and environmental factors have an influence one-resource usage. Factors such as students and faculty's personal characteristics influenced their use of the Internet. However, there were other factors that affect usage of e-resources, such as poor searching skills and limited number of resources available to users. Slowness of access to Internet information mainly caused by low and width was one of the main causes of poor use of Internet resources. It was interesting to explore how these and other factors influenced the usage in the Ugandan setting. Chandel (2012) presented the advent of e-resources and their increased use has changed the library scenario from physical to virtual. Users' preferences are more for e-resources and virtual libraries with little attraction for physical libraries. In spite of innumerable advantages of e-resources, there are certain problems also relating to their acquisition, maintenance, management, etc. Iqbal et al (2014) found several forms and types of electronic resources which are available on the internet. Some of the popular ones that are gaining ground are the electronic journals, standards, technical specifications, reports, patents, full-text articles, trade reports, and hosts of other document sources. Jose (2014) found that more than 9.42% respondents use different e- resources when necessary, 46.92% occasionally and rest of them (43.66%)very often. Online databases (35.10 %) and UGC Info- net (25.34 %) are the major sources of e resources .DOAJ Directory of Open Access Journals comes in third position (15.58 %) and WWW Sources (14.73 %) in fourth place. Masilamani et al (2016) studied 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.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

For this study, students of engineering colleges in Dindigul district are taken into consideration. The target respondents in other colleges are not included in this study. There is a scope for other future researchers to take this area for their study. The geographical area of this study is confined only to Dindigul district, Tamilnadu, India.

OBJECTIVES

- To enlist the primary purpose of using the e resources by the respondents.
- To indentify the frequency of e resources usage by the respondents.
- To find out the format preferred by users on electronic resources.
- To find out the rating of electronic resources.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: Response to the Questionnaire

S.No	Name of the Engineering College	Questionnaires Distributed	Response Received	%
1	PSNA College of Engg. & Tech.	50	41	82
2	SSM Institute of Engg. & Tech.	50	42	84
3	RVS College of Engg. & Tech.	50	45	90
4	NPR College of Engg. & Tech.	50	46	82
5	SBM College of Engg. & Tech.	50	44	88
		250	**218**	**87.20**

For this study, random sampling method was adopted for collecting Primary data. A sample including engineering students were chosen from the five selected engineering colleges in Dindigul district. A total number of 250 Questionnaires were distributed and only 218 Questionnaires were received back and 216 Questionnaires were used for data analysis and remaining 2 Questionnaires rejected for incomplete answers.

Table 2: Demographic Factor of Respondents

S.No	Gender	No. of Respondents	%
1	Male	142	65.74
2	Female	74	34.26
Total		**216**	100.00
AGE			
1	17-20	87	40.28
2	21-23	108	50.00
3	Above 24	21	9.72
Total		**216**	100.00

Table 2 Demographic Factor of Respondents, 142 respondents (65.74%) are male whereas, 74 respondents (34.26%) are female and 87 respondents (40.28%) belong to age category of 17-20 and it is followed by 108 respondents (50%) belong to 21-23 age category and 21 respondents (9.72%) belong to above 24.

Table3 discusses the purpose of visiting to the library. In this study, 184 respondents (85.19%) visit the library for the study purpose, 147 respondents (68.06%) for information up to date, 121 respondents (56.02%) for research purpose and 87 respondents (40.28%) for other purpose.

Table 3: Primary Purpose of Visiting the Library

S.No	Purpose	No. of Respondents	%
1	Study	184	85.19
2	Information up to date	147	68.06
3	Research	121	56.02
4	Others	87	40.28

Table 4: Using Frequency of E-Resources

S.No	Resources	Once in a Day		Once in a Week		Once in a Month		Rarely	
1	E- Books	51	23.61	62	28.70	48	22.22	55	25.46
2	E- Journals	47	21.76	77	35.65	25	11.57	67	31.02
3	Online Resources	32	14.81	58	26.85	62	28.70	64	29.63
4	CD-ROM Database	72	33.33	63	29.17	65	30.09	16	7.41
5	Multimedia Resources	87	40.28	52	24.07	55	25.46	22	10.19

Table 5: Accessing format of E-Resources

S.No	Format	No. of Respondents Access	Percentage
1	PDF	204	94.44
2	HTML	68	31.48
3	Word & PPT format	211	97.69
4	Multimedia Objects	174	80.56

Table 4 shows that Users Opinion about the E-Resources. 62 respondents (28.70%) use the e-books once in a a week, 77 respondents (35.65%) use e-journals once in a week, 64 respondents (29.63%) use the online resources opinion is rarely, 72 respondents (33.33%) use the CD-ROM database once in a day and 87 respondents (40.28%) use multimedia Resources once in a day.

Table 5 shows the types of format preferred to download the information. In this study, respondents 211 respondents (97.69%) who were used Word & PPT format for download information from Internet. This is followed by 204 respondents (94.44%) who were used PDF format, 174 respondents (80.56%) who were used Multimedia Objects format and 68 respondents (31.48%) use HTML format.

Table 6: Users Opinion about the E-Resources

S.No	E –Resources	Good		Average		Poor	
1	IEEE	123	56.94%	55	25.46%	38	17.59%
2	DELNET	66	30.56%	118	54.63%	32	14.81%
3	QUESTIA	127	58.80%	59	27.31%	30	13.89%
4	BCLINE	82	37.96%	80	37.04%	54	25.00%
5	ACE-DIGITAL LIBRARY	101	46.76%	87	40.28%	28	12.96%
6	J-GATE	89	41.20%	81	37.50%	46	21.30%
7	JSTOR	97	44.91%	72	33.33%	47	21.76%
8	ASCE	96	44.44%	74	34.26%	46	21.30%

Table 6 shows that Users Opinion about the E-Resources. In this study, 123(56.94%) respondents Good with subscribe IEEE, 127(58.80%) respondents Good with subscribe QUESTIA, 82(37.96%) respondents Good with subscribe BCLINE, 101(46.76%) respondents Good with subscribe ace-Digital Library, 89(41.20%) respondents Good with subscribe J.GATE, 97(44.91%) respondents Good with subscribe J.STORE and 96(44.44%) respondents Good with subscribe ASCE. 118(54.63%) respondents Average with subscribe DELNET.

Table 7 describes that rating the features of e-resources. In this study, 118 (54.63%) respondents have rated accessibility feature of e-resources as good, 121 (56.02%) respondents have rated availability of e-resources as good, 107 (49.54%) respondents have rated flexibility feature of e-resources as good and 97 (44.91%) respondents have rated Timeliness of e-resources as good. 125(57.87%) respondents have rated the accuracy feature of e-resources as poor, 98 (45.37%) respondents have rated the Consistency feature of e-resources as poor, 102(47.22%) respondents have rated the Ease of Use feature of e-resources as poor and 91(42.13%) respondents have rated the uniqueness feature as poor. 105(48.61%) respondents have rated the Uniqueness feature of e-resources as no comments.

Table 7: Rating the Features of E-Resources

S.No	Features	Good		Poor		No Comments	
1	Accessibility	118	54.63%	75	34.72%	23	10.65%
2	Accuracy	91	42.13%	125	57.87%	0	0.00%
3	Availability	121	56.02%	87	40.28%	8	3.70%
4	Consistency	87	40.28%	98	45.37%	31	14.35%
5	Ease of use	94	43.52%	102	47.22%	20	9.26%
6	Flexibility	107	49.54%	54	25.00%	55	25.46%
7	Permanence	87	40.28%	24	11.11%	105	48.61%
8	Timeliness	97	44.91%	52	24.07%	67	31.02%
9	Uniqueness	74	34.26%	91	42.13%	51	23.61%

FINDINGS

- Majority of respondents are use the libraries for study propose.
- Majority of respondents are access the electronic resources regularly and once in a day.
- Most of respondents are purpose visiting and use the electronic resource for developing knowledge.
- Most of respondents prefer using the Word & PPT format and PDF format to download information from the Internet.

CONCLUSION

Due to rapid advancement in information communication technology the internet has become an inseparable part of today's engineering educational system. With the development in the area of internet and information technology, more and more of the educational resources are being produced, distributed and accessed in the digital format. The web designers/ publishers/ distributors should provide online help menu in the search page for better utilization of their information resources. The speed of the internet should be increased and the technical institutions should organize seminars, workshops and orientation programs for students at regular interval of time to keep them in tune with latest technologies. The electronic resources in the virtual world represent a large investment of people's effort, money and wisdom. The users should become familiar with latest search techniques for optimum utilization of available electronic information resources.

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