Use of ICT among Faculty Members of Periyar University, Salem: A Case Study

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Abstract

The Use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) among Faculty Members have transformed rapidly thanks to the penetration of ICT tools and techniques in the information.. A total number of 140 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty members, in Periyar University. The investigator could collect the questionnaires from only 125 Periyar University faculty members. It found that , 5 hours in respondents 47(37.6%) and below 4 to 5 hours of access to Internet 27 (21.6%), and below 3 to 4 hours of access to Internet 22 (17.6%), and below 2 to 3 hours of access to Internet 16 (12.8%), and the 1 to2hours of access to Internet 13 (10.4%). Majority of the faculty respondents have to above 5 hours of access to Internet.

Keywords

Usage of ICT; Social Networking Sites; Faculty; Periyar University
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INTRODUCTION

The Promotes of the use of information and communication technologies in education in the formal education sector today, as it has in the nonformal sector for more than 35 years. from the use of radio to spearhead the green revolution, to satellite-based, one-ay and interactive television for rural development in some of the most backward districts, today thrust for the use of open and distance learning models (whatsapp, facebook, twitter) to serve the large populations. India has tried it all, with varying degrees of success. Indian policy documents have identified out a role for technical applications, especially in the non-formal education sector. The internet facility in India has grown tremendously over the years. The use of modern technology is used rapidly increasing in now a day to its efficiency and capability in providing right time. Today education have been promoting the use of open and distance learning for both formal and non formal education sectors.

Internet has become an unavoidable necessarily for every institution of higher education learning. The Periyar University and technical education is important for the scientific advancement of the nation. For engineering faulty more accomplish and innovation in the work force information play vital role, for accessing information and keeping abreast with the new developments. The advent of information technology has resulted in reducing the size of libraries. The digital and electronic information is based on digitized data information are in the process of doing digitization of their document and moving towards to become digital libraries. There are number of terms which are used by authors to represent the concept of digital libraries. These terms are electronic library, desktop library, automation library, digital library, online library and without walls etc. "Digital and Electronic library" is the common word used by majority of the authors.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Krueger and Ray (2004) carried a survey "Applying Web Usability Techniques to Assess Student Awareness of Library Web Resources" in the library of the University of the Pacific (UOP). Web usability technique was used to assess the student awareness of their libraries and how much library web-site resources are used. 39 per cent of students were familiar; enough with the libraries web resources to

value them for seeking information resources. 6 per cent used library web resources but chose the wrong sort of resources. They concluded that Web usability technique was used to assess the students' awareness of their libraries web site and how much library web-site resources are used. They have reported 45 per cent of students were sufficiently aware of library web resources to use them as first tool of choice.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives are evolved for the purpose of the present study: ·

- To examine the respondents duration and its time of utilization in search of information.
- To assess the contemporary use of electronic information resources by the Periyar University faculty members.
- To analyze the respondents extent of access to information communication technology.
- To examine the attitude of the Periyar university faculty member towards use of ICT.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher has employed a well structure questionnaire for collecting the data from the periyar university faculty members. The questionnaire has been prepared in such a way that the respondents could easily understand the items. A total number of 140 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty members, who reside in and around Salem districts. The investigator could collect the questionnaires from only 125 Periyar University faculty members among whom the questionnaires were distributed. The constitutes 89% (125/140) of the total response.

DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1: Department wise Teaching Faculty Details

S.No	Department	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Total	Percentage
1	Biochemistry	1	-	5	6	4.20
2	Biotechnolgy	2	-	4	6	4.20
3	Microbiology	1	1	4	6	4.20
4	Commerce	4	-	2	6	4.20
5	Economics	1	1	4	6	4.20
6	PRIMS	2	1	6	9	6.29
7	English	1	-	4	5	3.50
8	Tamil	2	1	4	7	4.90
9	Sociology	2	-	5	7	4.90
10	Psychology	2	-	4	6	4.20
11	JMC	2	-	4	6	4.20
12	Botony	1	1	3	5	3.50
13	Zoology	1	1	4	6	4.20
14	Environmental Studies	1	1	4	6	4.20
15	Textiles	-	1	1	2	0.004
16	Food Science	1	1	3	5	3.50
17	Computer Science	2	-	4	6	4.20
18	Library Science	1	1	4	6	4.20
19	Mathematics	2	1	4	7	4.90
20	Physics	2	-	6	8	5.60
21	Chemistry	3	-	4	7	4.90
22	Geology	2	-	4	6	4.20
23	Energy Studies	-	1	1	2	0.004
24	Education	1	1	5	7	4.90
Total		**37**	**13**	**93**	**143**	**100**

A study of the data in table-1 indicates the Department wise distribution of respondents. It could be noted that out of the 125 respondents, 6.29 % of them are Periyar Institute of Management Studies and 5.60% of them are Physics. In this study 4.90% of the respondents are Tamil & Sociology and 0.004% respondents are Textiles& energy Studies It is concluded that more PRIM followed by Physics are the respondents in the study

Table 2: Age wise Distribution of Respondents

S.No	Age	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	25-30	7	5.6
2	31-35	21	16.8
3	36-40	58	46.4
4	41 above	39	31.2
Total		125	100

A study of data in table -2 indicates the age wise distribution of respondents. It could be noted that out of the 125 respondents, 5.6% of them belong to the age group of 25-30 years and 16.8% of them under the 31-35 years. In this study 46.4%of the age group of 36-40years. It is observed that 31.2% of the respondents belong to the age group of above 41 years. It is concluded from the above table the majority of the respondents are found to be with the age group of 36-40 years respondent

Table 3: Gender wise Distribution of Respondents

S.No	Gender	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	90	72
2	Female	35	28
Total		125	100

Table 3 shows that 125 questionnaires were distributed and received from the faculty members of Periyar University. Out of the 125, 90 (72%) copies were distributed to the male and 35 (28%) to the female respondents.

Table 4: Qualification Wise Distribution

S.No	Qualification	Respondents	Percentage
1	PG with M.Phil	32	25.6
2	Ph.D	58	46.4
3	NET/SLET	35	28
Total		125	100

Table 4 shows that 125 copies of the questionnaires were distributed and received to the faculty members of Periyar University. Out of the 125, 32 (25.6%) copies were distributed to the PG with M.Phil Respondents and 58 (46.4%) copied were received to the Ph.D respondents and 35 (28) copies were received to the NET/ SLET qualified respondents.

Table 5: Department wise Respondents' Frequency of Access to Internet

S.No	Department	Less than 2 Hours	2-3 Hours	3-4 Hours	4-5 Hours	Above 5 Hours	Total
1	Biochemistry	-	1	1	2	1	5
2	Biotechnolgy	-	-	-	1	3	4
3	Microbiology	-	-	-	2	3	5
4	Commerce	-	-	1	1	3	5
5	Economics	-	-	2	2	2	6
6	PRIMS	-	-	1	2	4	7
7	English	1	1	1	1	1	5
8	Tamil	1	1	1	1	2	6
9	Sociology	1	2	1	1	1	6
10	Psychology	-	-		2	3	5
11	Journalism and Mass Communication	-	-	1	1	3	5
12	Botony	-	1	2	1	1	5
13	Zoology	-	1	1	1	2	5
14	Environmental Studies	-	1	2	1	1	5

15	Textiles	1	1	-	-	-	2
16	Food Science	1	1	1	1	1	5
17	Computer Science	1	-	1	1	2	5
18	Library Science	1	1	1	-	3	6
19	Mathematics	1	1	1	1	1	5
20	Physics	1	-	1	2	3	7
21	Chemistry	1	1	1	1	2	6
22	Geology	1	1	1	1	2	6
23	Energy Studies	1	1	-	-	-	2
24	Education	1	1	1	1	3	7
	Total	**13**	**16**	**22**	**27**	**47**	**125**

Data presented in table 5 indicate the department wise respondent's frequency of access to Internet. It could be noted that , 5 hours in respondents 47(37.6%) and below 4 to 5 hours of access to Internet 27 (21.6%), and below 3 to 4 hours of access to Internet 22 (17.6%), and below 2 to 3 hours of access to Internet 16 (12.8%), and the 1 to2hours of access to Internet 13 (10.4%). Majority of the faculty respondents have to above 5 hours of access to Internet. It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that 1to 2 hours of access to Internet is quite common among the faculty respondents.

Table 6: Department wise Respondents' Frequency of Library Visits

S.No.	Department	Daily	Weekly once	Twice the Week	Fortnightly	Monthly	Total
2	Biochemistry	1	1	1	1	1	5
3	Biotechnolgy	1	1	1	1	-	4
4	Microbiology	1	1	1	1	1	5
5	Commerce	1	1	1	1	1	5
6	Economics	1	2	1	1	1	6
7	PRIMS	-	1	1	2	3	7
8	English	1	1	2	1	-	5
9	Tamil	-	1	2	2	1	6
1	Sociology	1	2	1	1	1	6
0	Psychology	1	1	1	1	1	5
11	Journalism and Mass Communication	1	2	1	1	-	5
12	Botony	1	1	2	1	-	5
13	Zoology	1	2	2	-	-	5
14	Environmental Studies	2	1	1	1	-	5
15	Textiles	-	1	1	-	-	2
16	Food Science	1	1	1	1	1	5
17	Computer Science	1	1	1	1	1	5
18	Library Science	1	1	1	1	2	6
19	Mathematics	1	1	1	1	1	5
20	Physics	2	2	2	1	-	7
21	Chemistry	2	1	1	1	1	6
22	Geology	1	1	2	2	-	6
23	Energy Studies	1	1	-	-	-	2
24	Education	1	3	2	1	-	7
	Total	**24**	**31**	**30**	**24**	**16**	**125**

Data presented in table 6 indicate the department wise respondent's frequency of Library Visit. It could be noted that majority of the weekly once library visit in faculty respondents 31(24.8%) and below twice the week of Library Visit 30 (24%), and fortnightly & daily library visit 24 (19.2%), and monthly to Library Visit 16 (12.8%). Majority of the faculty have to Library Visit weekly once. It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that Library Visit is quite common among the faculty respondents.

Table 7. Department wise Respondents' Mode of Searching Documents in the Library

S.No.	Department	Catalogue Wise	Staff	Direct search the shelf	OPAC	Online Database	Total
1	Biochemistry	-	1	2	2	-	5
2	Biotechnolgy	-	-	2	2	-	4
3	Microbiology		1	2	2	-	5
4	Commerce	1	1	1	2	-	5
5	Economics	-	1	3	2	-	6
6	PRIMS	-	-	3	4	-	7
7	English	-	1	2	1	1	5
8	Tamil	1	1	1	2	1	6
9	Sociology	1	1	1	2	1	6
10	Psychology	-	1	1	2	1	5
11	Journalism and Mass Communication	-	-	2	2	1	5
12	Botony	-	1	2	1	1	5
13	Zoology	-	-	2	3	-	5
14	Environmental Studies	-	-	3	2	-	5
15	Textiles	-	-	2	-	-	2
16	Food Science	-	-	3	2	-	5
17	Computer Science	-	1	2	2	-	5
18	Library Science	-	-	4	2	-	6
19	Mathematics	-	1	1	2	1	5
20	Physics	1	1	2	2	1	7
21	Chemistry	-	1	1	2	1	6
22	Geology	-	1	2	2	1	6
23	Energy Studies	-	-	2	-	-	2
24	Education	-	-	3	3	1	7
	Total	4	14	49	46	11	125

Data analysis from the table 7 shows that mode of search the document is the most important source through which the users become aware of modern information technologies used in their libraries. Direct search the shelf through the book 49 (39.2%) is the top most respondents used the mode of search the document. Second one 46 (36.8%) respondents are used OPAC wise searching the document. Catalogue wise search the document is the last place of 4 (3.2%). So respondents are aware the information technologies are used in their libraries

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Table 8: Department wise Respondents' Views on Library Services

S.No.	Department	Excellent	Good	Poor	Very Poor	No Opinion	Total
1	Biochemistry	4	1	-	-	-	5
2	Biotechnolgy	2	2	-	-	-	4
3	Microbiology	2	3	-	-	-	5
4	Commerce	3	2	-	-	-	5
5	Economics	3	3	-	-	-	6
6	PRIMS	3	4	-	-	-	7
7	English	2	2	-	-	1	5
8	Tamil	2	2	-	-	2	6
9	Sociology	3	2	-	-	1	6
10	Psychology	2	2	-	-	1	5
11	Journalism and Mass Communication	3	2	-	-	-	5
12	Botony	2	3	-	-	-	5
13	Zoology	3	2	-	-	-	5
14	Environmental Studies	2	2	-	-	1	5
15	Textiles	1	1	-	-	-	2
16	Food Science	2	2	-	-	1	5
17	Computer Science	3	2	-	-	-	5
18	Library Science	4	2	-	-	-	6
19	Mathematics	2	3	-	-	-	5
20	Physics	3	3	-	-	1	7
21	Chemistry	2	4	-	-	-	6
22	Geology	3	3	-	-	-	6
23	Energy Studies	1	1	-	-	-	2
24	Education	2	4	-	-	1	7
	Total	**59**	**57**	**-**	**-**	**9**	**125**

Table-8 presents data on the Department wise respondent's views on library services. It could be noted that more than 59 (47.2%) respondents are says Excellent library services is saying. Second one is 57 (45.6%) respondents are good library services in this university library. Last one is No opinion says that the 9(7.2%) respondents are says that the library services

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the various observations of the study the following suggestions are made.

- More computer terminals should be installed in the library for easy access to faculty members.
- The problems of slow access speed can be overcome by increasing the bandwith.
- Increasing resources should be allocated for enriching digital resources for the benefit of users.
- Awareness should be generated on the e-resources to obtain current information.
- The qualified IT staff should be appointed to provide the expert guidance to users about e-resources.
- There is need to develop knowledge about use of electronic theses and dissertations, technical reports, patents, etc., available online.
- Information regarding the popular and the latest websites with their addresses should be displayed on the notice board in the computer lab.

CONCLUSION

The study investigates the utilization of Information Communication Technology related issues among the faculty members of Periyar University at Salem. This is a matter of concern as presently, electronic information sources and the internet are considered

extremely important tools for effective research the Faculty members are heavily depended on ICT for their teaching and keep them up-to-date. The study reveals that the faculty members of Periyar University are using the available ICT satisfactorily. The library environment has currently undergone drastic change in terms of collections and services. The proliferation of e-resources has had a significant impact on the way the academic community uses, stores, and preserves information. The advantages of ICT have drawn attention of the library user's t a great extent. Though some expects that the role of faculty members as a attitudes seem to be very positive towards ICT for their study and research and the role of libraries as gateway to provide assistance in accessing these resources. Faculty members are heavily dependent on ICT for their required information and to keep themselves up-to-date in their Department area. Though some expects that the role of libraries as a gateway to the ICT will have less importance in future as faculty members access more and more e-resources in their respective departments or personal desktop/ laptop, it seems to more hypothetical. The Periyar university library needs to arrange various orientation and training programmes for faculty members for the optimum use of available e-resources.

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