A Study on Significance of Electronic Resources among the Engineering College Students in Coimbatore District

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Abstract

Information is an essential commodity to the user community to enrich their knowledge in multifaceted level. Especially engineering colleges are playing a vital role in satisfying the various purposes such as research, teaching and learning. A study of the use of electronic resources by the student and research scholars of engineering colleges in Coimbatore district was undertaken. A questionnaire was used as a data collection tool. The responses on satisfaction and awareness of various electronic resources gathered and analyzed using the simple percentage analysis. The data has been extracted from various types of user group and studied the significance of electronic resources in academic environment.

Keywords

Electronic Resources, Engineering Colleges, Electronic Services.

Electronic access

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INTRODUCTION

Due to tremendous growth and continuous developments in technology, the role of library becomes more responsive in making the world techno-savvy. Technological developments have effected not only the formats and sources of the information, but also how and where to provide library services. Libraries and their resources have partially moved to the virtual world of the internet. As a result, library users can access the resources from outside the physical library. Today, the Internet plays a vital role in the teaching, research and learning process. It is assumed that the engineering students in India feel more dependent on the Internet for their class assignments and for the latest information of their subject areas than conventional resources of information. The availability of e-resources opens new vistas for teaching, learning and research. In present scenario, information is highly explosive and available in various formats. Information which can be stored, accessed and transmitted through electronic gadgets is called electronic information. This paper focused on the significance of electronic resources among the students of engineering colleges in Coimbatore district.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The study is an attempt to explore the use of electronic information by the various user groups of engineering colleges in Coimbatore district and formulated the strategy to identify the area of improvement in providing the electronic information to all the layers of people in an academic environment.

The problem that have been identified from the survey are

- Users are facing issues on locating the relevant information for their disciplines.
- Comfort with the irrelevant internet resources.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major objective of this study is to find out the level of significance of electronic resource utilization among the students of engineering college in Coimbatore district.

- To identify the purpose of search done by the students of engineering college

- To find out the frequency of accessing the information resources
- To assess the level of satisfaction of electronic resources
- To analyze the need of computing facilities in libraries
- To find the predominant mode of access point of resources

METHODOLOGY

The study concentrated on the most frequent users of Internet and e-resources in the engineering colleges, i.e., the teachers and the students including research scholars. The study also evaluated the data collected from the librarians as well as the users, i.e., students, research scholars and faculty members. The scope of the study is limited to selected engineering colleges of Coimbatore district.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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. 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.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

TABLE 1: Type of Respondents

S. No	User Category	No of Respondents	%
1	UG Students	76	33.63
2	PG Students	109	48.23
3	Research Scholars	41	18.14
4	Total	226	100

Total of 250 questions were distributed 226 were responded by the different set of student category such as Undergraduate, Post Graduate and Research Scholars. There were 33.63% of Undergraduates, 48.23% of Postgraduates and 18.14% were Research Scholars of the engineering colleges.

TABLE 2: Frequency of Using E- Resources

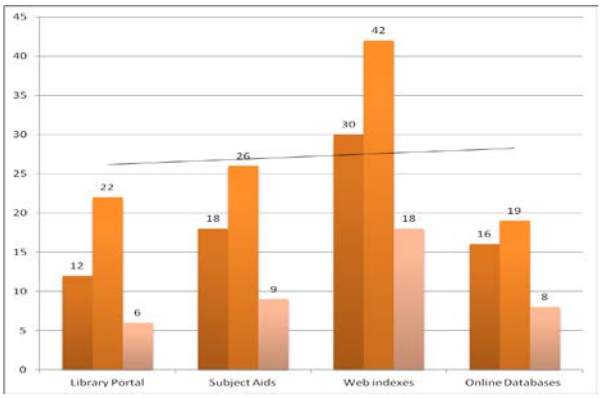
Frequency	**UG Students**	**PG Students**	**Research Scholars**	**%**
Daily	30	42	11	36.73
Twice a week	18	27	9	23.89
Weekly Once	12	21	8	18.14
15 days once	10	11	6	11.95
Monthly Once	6	8	7	9.29
Total	**76**	**109**	**41**	**100**

Table 2 shows that 36.73 percent users access to electronic resources consistently, 23.89 percent access twice a week, 18.14 percent of respondents weekly once, 11.95 percent got to at any rate once a fortnight and 9.29 percent of respondents use to access the electronic resources on monthly basis.

TABLE 3: Access Point of Electronic Resources

Access Point	**UG Students**	**PG Students**	**Research Scholars**	**Percentage (%)**
Library Portal	12	22	6	18
Subject Aids	18	26	9	23
Web indexes	30	42	18	40
Online Databases	16	19	8	19
Total	**76**	**109**	**41**	**100**

Table 3 highlights the respondents were drawn closer about the access point of resources from where they are frequently access the information.



The above figure clearly shows that Post graduate students are having the aspiration on accessing the information through library portals, wen indexes, subject aids and online databases. Undergraduate students are having quite good knowledge on accesing the information through various online mediums.

Table 4 highlights the utilization purpose of Electronic resources by the UG students is high in the aspect of Project preparation (30.26%), Post graduate students using for the purpose of research work followed by knowledge updation and the research scholars using the E-resources mainly for the purpose of carrying out their research work.

Table 4: Purpose of Using E- Resources

PURPOSE	UG Students	PG Students	Research Scholars	Percentage (%)
Knowledge Updating	20 (26.32%)	26 (23.85%)	11 (26.83%)	57 (25.22%)
Research Work	19 (25.00%)	50 (45.87%)	18 (43.90%)	87 (38.50%)
Examination/Assignment	14 (18.42%)	13 (11.93%)	4 (9.76%)	31 (13.71%)
Project Preparation	23 (30.26%)	20 (18.35%)	8 (19.51%)	51 (22.57%)
Total	**76 (100.00)**	**109 (100.00)**	**41 (100.00)**	**226 (100.00)**

TABLE 5: Difficulties in Using E-Resources

Difficulties	UG Students	PG Students	Research Scholars	%
Low Speed	32	44	12	39
Inadequate Training	16	25	8	22
Unavailability of Sources	13	21	9	19
Uneasy to read	9	12	5	11
No Problem	6	7	7	9
Total	76	109	41	226 (100)

Table 5 shows the difficulties faced by the user group while accessing the electronic resources. Many of the undergraduate students are not aware about the available resources, lack of training to access the resources and low speed connectivity of internet. Post graduate students reports on connectivity followed by inadequate training and availability of resources.

TABLE 6: Impact of E-Resources on Educational Activities

Impact on Education	UG Students	PG Students	Research Scholars	%
High	38	47	19	46
Average	18	29	10	25
Below average	11	23	9	19
Low	9	10	3	10
Total	**76**	**109**	**41**	**226 (100)**

From the investigation of these surveys it was found that, E-resources have created a great impact among the undergraduate students (38%) as well as the post graduate students (47%). Moreover e-resources have developed a great impact among all the user group of the engineering colleges in Coimbatore district.

TABLE 7: Level of Satisfaction on E-Resources

Level of Satisfaction	UG Students	PG Students	Research Scholars	%
Low	6	7	4	8
Below Average	20	21	9	22
Average	30	43	12	38
High	14	26	8	21
Very High	6	12	8	11
Total	**76**	**109**	**41**	**226 (100)**

From the above observation, undergraduate students are satisfied with the electronic resources not to the greater extent but the post graduate students are satisfied with the available electronic resources in their college. Research scholars are not satisfied with the subscribed available resources because of the cost of the resources are very expensive.

SUGGESSTIONS

The overall finding from this study suggests the following approaches to give more benefits to the students of engineering colleges of Coimbatore district.

- Dedicated high speed internet connectivity has to be provided to access the electronic resources.
- Training programs need to be organized periodically to access the E-resources and to get the update.
- Library portals have to be updated with the reliable and accessible information.
- Research scholars need to be given with the specific space and orientations to access the all the available resources.
- Library staff needs to be vibrant enough to cater the available information with the library.

CONCLUSION

The Internet has emerged as the single most powerful vehicle for providing access to unlimited information. The e-resources are an inseparable part of today's engineering educational system. The dependency on the web based resources and its services is increasing day by day and the users of engineering colleges too are depending more and more on the Internet for their various educational purposes. Electronic resources have created a great impact on educational activities especially in engineering education. Libraries have a major role to play in order to reach out the available resources to the end user in an extensible manner.

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