

USE OF E-RESOURCES BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS AT SRM UNIVERSITY-CHENNAI: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract: A survey was conducted to study the use and awareness of electronic information resources among the faculty members in academic year 2017 at SRM University Kattankulathur- Chennai. A total number of 200 faculty members from different departments were selected and their response was gathered from the respondents and analyzed and with the help of questioner method. The results shows that the respondents of all categories were well aware of e-resources, their satisfaction level is also high and their usage of e -resources to the maximum.

Keyword: E-resource, Digital Library, SRM University

1.0 Introduction:

Since the dawn of civilization man has been manipulating data in one form to other. In fine data would represent the facts figures and recorded observations. Data was essentially used to extract meaningful information in order that decision could be taken for action .Thus information turned out to be data which was organized, sifted, collated and offered in time .Different people saw the same data in different light with the advent of the industrial revolution. The birth of electronic computers helped in all levels of information explosion.

“The Information explosion and the fast-emerging world as changed the libraries to regain particular information without wasting time. Significantly to improve the services of libraries and librarians as to improve their knowledge in Information Technology.¹ At present libraries are not only seen with printed document and non-print document but also with computers. As technology has advanced, educational software has become a major influence at all levels from elementary schools to universities .Library is an institution that manages the intellectual products of society and processes them in such a manner that the individual can readily gain access to them. Access to information through Internet has changed the role of libraries. Currently most of the academic libraries have the e-resources and e -documents. The electronic documents can be accumulated, accessed, and agreed as and when required.”

2.0 Review of Literature:

“Dinesh and Gupta² (2011) analyzed the use pattern of Print and electronic journals by faculty members and research scholars at kurukshetra university .As analyzed the results shows the respondents are more attracted towards e-journals than the print. And also they depend more on open sources than those of Infonet. The users recommended that they need the training in using e-resources and retrieving information from them.”

“Sasirekha and Balamurugan³ (2011) studied and analyzed the Use of E-resources in digital environment among engineering Institutions in Tamilnadu: An Empirical Stud. There analyses shows that most of the institutions preferred Online Journals of about 88% and also most of them preferred digital resources than the print. They analyzed that most of the institutions preferring consortium for subscribing e-resources.”

3.0 E-Resources

“E-resources are short term for Electronic Resources or electronic information resources⁴. These are collections of information in electronic or digital format that are accessed on an electronic device” An electronic resource is any information source that the library provides access to in an electronic format. “E-Resources include lots of things:

full-text journals, newspapers, company information, e-books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, economic data, digital images, industry profiles, market research, career information, etc.”

4.0 The E-resources are Basically Divided in Two Major Types Are:

1. Online e-resources, which may include:

- E-journal (Full text & bibliographic)
- E-books
- On-line Databases
- Web sites

2. Other electronic resources may include:

- CD ROM
- Diskettes
- Other portable computer databases

“E-resources are nowadays a most important boon to Academic libraries as it gives the up to date information in all the fields and also it can be accessed anywhere , any place and at any time across the world. Such a great valuable resources as made the topic to study the various e-resources and analysis the value of them.”

5.0 About SRM University

SRM University is one of the top ranking universities in India with 50,044 students and 2758 Faculty across all the campus, offering a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programs in Engineering, Management, Medicine and health Sciences and Science and Humanities. Over 600 acres replete with a variety of facilities, State of the art Labs, Libraries, Wi-Fi etc., SRM stands for creating an environment of academic freedom Where bright minds meet, discover, learn and inspire in a sophisticated world class facility. We constantly build on to the strong foundation of commitment and contribution. Few of our recent achievement include NAAC has awarded “A” grade in the year 2013; ranked India’s No.1 (Factual Rank) by India Today (2013) and Deccan Chronicle ranking has placed SRM as No.1 private university (2012).⁵

5.1 About SRM University Central Library

The University Central Library Spread across 1.50 lakhs sq. ft. is one of the modern libraries in India. The library is fully automated with RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) Technology with in-house developed software viz., e-LIMS (Electronic Library Information Management System).it has a collection of about 138200 volumes of Books and 61000 Titles 275 National and International (print) journals 800 educational Video programs and 5425 back volumes covering various branches. Digital library collection of 30000 + online journals such IEL-Online, ACM Digital library, ASME,ASCE, Science Direct ,Springer, SAE Digital Library, Nature Online and Data bases like SCOPUS and EPSCO and ETD. Also, 19000 + titles of e-books such as John Wiley, Elsevier and Springer publication collection are available through Intranet across the campus.

6.0 Objectives:

- To identify the level of consciousness and utilization of electronic information resources among the faculty Members
- To know how often the faculty members are using electronic information resources
- To find out the main purpose’s behind the use of electronic information resources by the faculty members
- To identify the search strategy for accessing e-resources by the faculty members
- To find out the level of satisfaction of the faculty members about availability and coverage of electronic information resources
- To find out the hindrances and problems faced by the faculty members while accessing and using electronic information resources
- To suggest the suitable recommendations to improve their facilities and services related to the usage of electronic information resources.

7.0 Methodology:

There are different types of research methodologies for data collection. In the present study, a structured questionnaire was prepared to collect data from the Faculty members of SRM University

For about 200 questionnaires were distributed out of which 180 as taken as a valid and analyzed through simple analysis method.

8.0 E-Resources Available in SRM University:**E-Resources available in SRM University**

Online Resource		
1	IEL Online (IEEE & IEE)	http://www.ieeexplore.ieee.org
2	ACM (Association for Computing Machinery)	http://dl.acm.org
3	ASCE (American Society of civil Engg.)	http://pubs.asce.org
4	ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engg.)	http://www.asmedl.org
5	ELSEVIER - Engineering & Tech - Computer Science	http://www.sciencedirect.com
6	SPRINGER - Engineering and Technology - Medicine - Computer Science	http://www.springerlink.com
7	NATURE	http://www.nature.com
8	SAE Digital Library	http://digitallibrary.sae.org/
9	Bentham Science	http://www.eurekaselect.com
10	Clinical key - 630 journals	www.clinicalkey.com
11	ProQuest - PsycArticles - Pharma collection (Full Text Theses Dissertation)	http://search.proquest.com/index
Databases		
1	SCOPUS	http://www.scopus.com
2	EBSCO (Management Research Database) - Business Source Premier - CINAHL PLUS database - Dentistry & Oral Sciences Source	http://search.ebscohost.com
3	J Gate	https://jgateplus.com/search/
4	DELNET Databases	http://www.delnet.nic.in
5	Digital Repository - M.Phil and PhD Thesis - Question Papers	http://dspace.srmuniv.ac.in/jspui (Available only in Intranet)
6	NPTEL	nptel-ideocourse.srmuniv.ac.in/NPTEL (Available only in Intranet)

7	IndiaSat - Revealing India Statistically	www.indiastat.com/default.aspx
8	SCC Online Web Edition Platinum	http://www.sconline.com/
9	Remotexs Software	http://srmuniv.remotexs.in/home
10	Grammarly Software	https://www.grammarly.com/edu/signin
11	Turnitin (Anti-Plagrisim tool)	http://www.turnitin.com/
12	e-Shodhsindu	https://www.inflibnet.ac.in/ess/
13	Shodhganga	http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/
14	National Digital Library	https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/

E-Books

1	Wiley black well - Engineering	http://www3.interscience.wiley.com
2	McGraw Hill Express Library	http://mcgrawhilleducation.pdn.ipublishcentral.com
3	Elsevier - Engineering & Tech - Agricultural and Biological Science - Biochemistry, Genetics & Molecular Biology - Physics and Astronomy - Computer Science - Material Science - Mathematics - Energy	http://www.sciencedirect.com
4	Springer - Biomedical & Life Science - Chemistry and Materials Science - Computer Science - Engineering - Mathematics and Statistics - Physics and Astronomy - Professional and Applied Computing	http://www.springerlink.com
5	IET e-Books	http://digital-library.theiet.org/content/books
6	Clinical key - 1155 books	http://www.clinicalkey.com

9.0 Data Analysis and Interpretation

Data analysis is the next step in research process. It is the link between raw data and significant results leading to conclusions. This process of analysis has to be result oriented.

Table 1: Categories Wise Use of E- Resources by Faculty Members

Sl.No	Designation	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Professor	20	11%
2	Associate Professor	35	19.4%
3	Assistant Professor	90	50%
4	Teaching Assistant	35	19.4%
	Total	180	

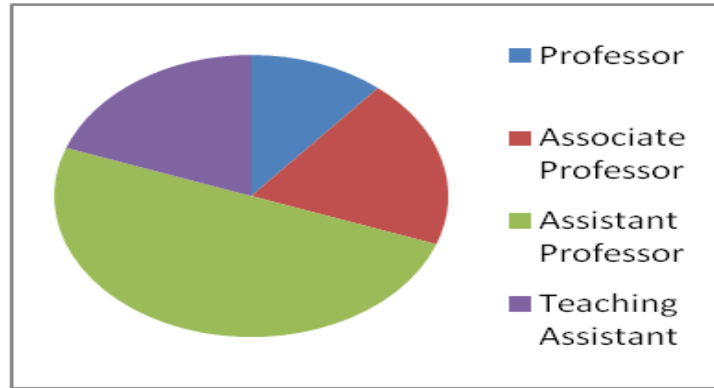


Figure1. Categories wise distribution of Respondents

From the Table- 1 the respondents were categorized with designation in that Professor is about 11% Associate Professor 19.4% and Assistant Professor 50% as highest response among the all and Teaching Assistant with 19.4% are using the e-Resources for various purposes

Table 2: Gender Wise Use of The E- Resources

Sl.No	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Male	90	50%
2	Female	90	50%
	Total	180	100%

From the Table- 2 the respondents were categorized with gender in that the male is about 50% of them and female is about 50% are using the e-Resources for various purposes .Male and Female percentage are same in accessing the e resources.

Table 3: Awareness about E-resources available in Central library

Sl.No	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Male	78	43%
2	Female	82	45.5%
	Total	180	88.5%

From Table-3 The awareness about E-resources among the respondents of both genders are almost same with Male are about 43% and Female is about 45.5 .This data shows female and male are aware about the E-resources available at SRM University. Slightly female was 2.5% greater than the male.

Table 4: Frequency of accessing e- resources

Sl.No	Duration	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	85	47.2%
2	Once in two days	31	17.2%
3	2 or 3 days in week	26	14.4%
4	Weekly	18	10%
5	Monthly	20	11.1%
	Total	180	100%

From the Table 4 it is observed that the respondents use the e-resources for various purpose daily of about 47.2% and 17.2% once in two days and 14.4% 2or 3 days in a week 10% of the respondents are using weekly once 11.1% are using monthly once.

Table5: Purpose of using e- resources

Sl.No	Type	Number	Percentage
1	Teaching	87	48.3%
2	Research work	122	67.7%
3	Paper publication	131	72.7%
4	Career Development	54	30%
5	To update the subject knowledge	41	22.7%
6	To gain current and general information	33	18.3%

Note: Since the questions are multiple choices total sample exceeds the required size.

From the Table-5 it is clear that the faculty members use the e-resources mostly for paper publication of about 72.7% and next 67.7% for Research work 48.3% for teaching purpose and for career development 30% and to update their subject knowledge the use of about 22.7% and the last to gain current and general information 18.3% of them using the e-resources.

Table 6: Location of accessing e- resources

Sl.No	Location	Number	Percentage
1	Central library	34	18.8%
2	Department	87	48.3%
3	Browsing Zone	20	11.1%
4	Home	39	21.6%
	Total	180	100%

From the table -6 the respondents mostly use the e-resources in their respective departments(48.3%)and next in Home of about (21.6%) through RemoteX software and in central library they use of about 18.8%and in last the browsing zone of about (11.1%).

Table 7: Satisfaction level of accessing e-resources

Sl.No	Level	Number	Percentage
1	Highly Satisfied	86	47.7%
2	Satisfied	58	32.3%
3	Average	17	9.4%
4	Good	13	7.2%
5	Not Satisfied	6	3.3%
	Total	180	100%

From the Table-7 it is clear that the respondents are Highly satisfied in accessing the e-journals at SRM University of about 47.7% and satisfied level of about 32.3% .the average level is of about 9.4%.the respondents gave 7.2% for good and only 3.3%of respondents are not satisfied.

Table 8: Hindrances in Accessing Electronic Resources

Sl.No	Hindrances	Number	Percentage
1	Time consuming	78	43.3%
2	Library does not subscribe the required titles	108	60%
3	Lack of IT knowledge to effectively utilize the services	20	11.1%
4	Coverage on E-resources is not suited in related area	89	49.4%
5	Difficult to find relevant information	18	10%

Note: Since the questions are multiple choices total sample exceeds the required size.

From the Table-7 Analyzes the problems facing while accessing the e-resources it was noted that 60% of problem from the library does not subscribe the required titles and next the coverage on e-resources is not suited in related area and 43.3% time consuming in searching the resources and 11.1%shows the lack of IT knowledge to effectively utilize the services and 10% in difficult to find relevant information

10.0 Major Findings and Conclusion

- The overall result of the study shows that the use of e-resources in SRM University studied was reasonably high. It is concluded that the awareness of the respondents are up to satisfied level only.
- From the survey it is well clear that the lack of awareness and Knowledge about what is available in library is most common obstacle among the faculty. Library can respond to this need with relatively moderate resources.
- The Library should send the alerts regarding the new resources available in the library.
- The University library should conduct workshop, seminars, and orientation programme for the faculty members at regular interval to keep them in latest technologies.
- It may found some lack of difficulties or problems while accessing the e-resources but overall now in current digital atmosphere E-resources are most common and most required in all Academic libraries.
- Electronic resources plays the most important role in Academic libraries nowadays they have changed the ways of seeking the information in education system .Internet as become as important as the blood in human circulatory system. Now a days due to information technology educational resources are mainly produced and

accessed in electronic format so the libraries are spending more money in e-resources as a result the faculty members must be aware of e-resources available in their universities and utilize them to a great extent.

11.0 References:

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