TRENDS IN USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES (EIR) BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS OF PAVENDAR BHARATHIDASAN COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE, TRICHY: A STUDY

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Abstract

The present study aims to explore the trends in use of electronic information resources (EIR) by the faculty members of Pavendar Bharathidasan College of Arts & Science, Trichy. A questionnaire method used for this study. A well structure questionnaire was distributed the faculty members and return back. Total numbers of 60 users were taken into account for the study. Only on 57 copies of the questionnaires were returned with dully filled. The overall response rate was 95 percent. The study covers all department faculty members who are teach arts and science subject respectively. The collected questionnaire were analyzed and tabulated by simple calculation. This study covers the use of electronic information resources by the faculty members for their various purpose. The study found that electronic information resources have made a positive impact on the academic activities of the respondents.

Keywords: electronic information resources; arts and science college; faculty use; library resources

1.0 Introduction

Commonly electronic resources is what are the sources are avail in the form of electronic format that is called electronic resources. Electronic resources are avail on various forms like e-books, e-journals, e- magazine, e-learning portals, e-news, online video courses and video lectures. Each user needs electronic information every day. Electronic information resources (EIR) are no need of library space or physical materials and it is available on internet. Electronic information are stored in cloud, and access also shared to everyone. In present years most of the traditional resources are converting into the electronic forms which are very useful to everyone.

According to Wikipedia, Electronic Resources means "Information (usually a file) which can be stored in the form of electrical signals, usually on a computer; Information available on the Internet".

According to Gradman glossary, "A publication in digital format which must be stored and read on a computer device. There are two types: Direct access: these are physical objects such as CD-ROMs, diskettes, computer tapes, and computer cards, containing text, images, software etc.

2.0 About the Institute

Pavendar Bharathidasan College of Arts & Science is located at Mathur near Bharathidasan University, Trichy. It is affiliated with Bharathidasan University, Trichy, and accredited by University Grants Commission (UGC). The institute opened in 1998 with ten undergraduate and three postgraduate departments with the motto "Learning of Excellence", this institution situated in 100 acres. The main library situated in a separate building on campus, called the Library Block.

3.0 Literature Review

Joseph Jestin S K and Ally Sornam S (2016) study about the use of e-resources by the faculty members of engineering colleges in Kerala. The online questionnaire method was used for collection of primary data. The findings showed that the majority of faculty members are well aware about the e-resources and most of them are using e-resources at least once in a week (90%). IEEE, Elsevier, SPRINGER, Tata McGraw Hill ASME, ASCE are mainly used e-journal packages by the faculty members. The main purpose was teaching and research. **Sampath Kumar & Kumar (2010)** aimed to know the perception and use of e-resources and the internet by the engineering, medical and management academics in Bangalore City, India. The result showed that the students and faculty members are aware of electronic information sources but most of the students and faculty prefered print sources in addition to electronic information sources**. S.M. Zabed Ahmed, (2013)** described the use pattern of electronic information resources and satisfaction with university-paid resources by the faculty members in eight public universities in Bangladesh. The major constraints faced by them in accessing online resources were also identified. The constraints faced by the faculty members were tested in relation to their opinions on overall satisfaction using chi-square tests. The results showed that faculty members are not generally satisfied with the current level of university subscribed e-resources. They identified limited number of titles, limited access to back issues, difficulty in finding information, inability to access from home, limited access to computers and slow download speed as major constraints. These constraints do affect e-resources use in the public universities. first time an effort has been made to assess the use of university-paid online information resources by the academic community in Bangladesh. **Ashok kumar.V and Jayaprakash,M (2017)** study aimed focusing the engineering college faculty members awareness and use of e-resources prescribed by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. Survey method is used for this study. Primary data is collected by questionnaire. Anna university affiliated engineering college faculty members in Coimbatore and Tiruppur district are research subjects. Educational qualification (PG-68.6, PhD-31.4), Designation (AP-37.1, Acc.P-33.3, P-29.5), and experience are the independent variables. Dependent variable is AICTE prescribed e-resources. Three point likert scale is used. Percentage analysis and one-way ANOVA statistical tools are used for data analysis. Raosoft online calculator is used for identification of sample size. Educational qualification is classified into PG (ME, M,Tech, MS) and PG with Ph.D., qualification, designation is assistant professor, associate professor, and professor, finally experience is below 5 years, 5-10 years, 11-15 years, 16-20years, and above ten years. AICTE prescribed e-resources are, IEEE, Wiley - Blackwell, ASME, ASCE, McGraw Hill, Elsevier, IETE, ASTM Digital, J-GATE, DELNET, ISO, IEI, IET and National Digital Library. Null hypothesis is framed to test the data. Null and alternate hypotheses are framed. Based on the statistical result alternative hypothesis is accepted. Library professional to take initiative steps to make awareness about the e-resources prescribed by the AICTE.

4.0 Objectives of the Study

The present study was conducted to find out the trends in use of electronic library information resources by faculty members of Pavendar Bharathidasan College of Arts & Science, Trichy. The objectives are as follows:

- To identify the types of electronic information resources by the users
- To analyze the purpose of electronic information resources use
- To examine the frequency of accessing electronic resources in Library
- To examine the measurement of time spent for using electronic resources
- To identify the problems faced while using electronic information resources
- To study the satisfaction level in using electronic information resources.

5.0 Research Methodology

The present study is based on the primary data collected from the faculty members of Pavendar Bharathidasan College of Arts & Science, Trichy. The total population of faculty members are 80. A well-structured questionnaire was designed and distributed 60 staff members selected on the basis of random sampling method. 57 copies of the questionnaire were returned with dully filled. The overall response rate was 95%. A collected data are analyzed and tabulated by simple calculation.

6.0 Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table1. Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Sr.No	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	30	52.63
2	Female	27	47.37
	Total	57	100

Table 1 shows that 52.63% respondents were male and 47.37% were female.

Table 2. Distribution of Respondents by Age

Sr.No	Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	21 – 30	9	15.79
2	31 – 40	36	63.16
3	Above 40	12	21.05
Total		57	100

Table 2 shows that 63.16% respondents were in the age group of 31-40, followed by 21.05% respondents above 40, 15.79% in the age group of 21-30.

Table 3. Awareness of E-resources

Sr.No	Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	53	92.98
2	No	4	7.02
Total		57	100

Table 3 shows that 92.98% respondents were aware of the electronic resources available from the library and only 7.02% were not aware of it. It is a positive sign towards the use of the electronic resources by the faculty members.

Table 4. Frequency of accessing E-resources

Sr.No	Frequency	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Everyday	29	50.88
2	Once a week	15	26.31
3	Twice a week	9	15.79
4	Rarely	4	7.02
Total		57	100

Table 4 shows that the maximum 50.88% respondents accessed electronic resources every day, followed by 26.31% once a week, and 15.79% twice a week. Only 7.02% respondents used electronic resources rarely.

Table 5. Purpose of using E-resources (multiple answers)

Sr.No	Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	To write articles	45	78.94
2	To prepare study notes for teaching	38	66.67
3	To prepare for projects	48	84.21
4	To prepare for seminars or conferences	31	54.39
5	To write book reviews	5	8.77
6	To obtain general knowledge	34	59.65

In table 5 respondents gave the multiple answers for the question. The results shows that 84.21% respondents used electronic resources to prepare for projects, followed by 78.94% to write articles, 66.67% to prepare for study notes for teaching, 59.65% to prepare for obtain general knowledge, and 54.39% to seminars or conferences. Only 8.77% of respondents used electronic resources to write book reviews.
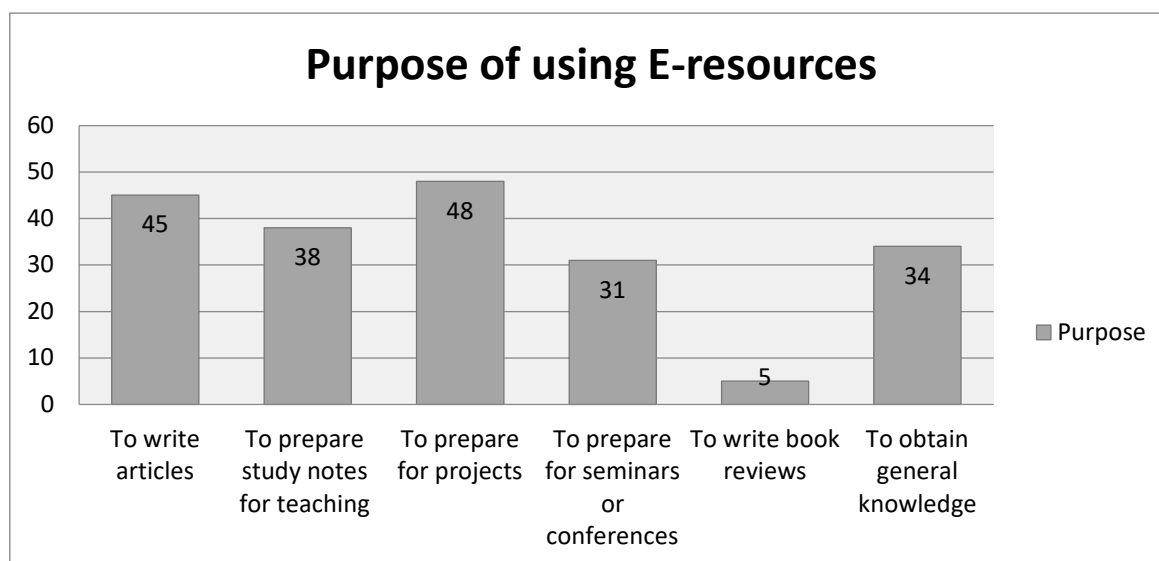
Chart 1.Purpose of using E-resources

Table 6. Time Spent on accessing E-resources

Sr.No	Time Spent	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	One hour	18	31.58
2	Two hours	29	50.88
3	More than two	10	17.54
Total		57	100

Table 6 shows that 50.88% respondents spent two hours on accessing electronic resources, followed by 31.58% spent one hour. Only 17.54% respondents spent more than two hours on accessing electronic resources.

Table 7. Problems faced with using E-resources (multiple answers)

Sr.No	Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Insufficient infrastructure	29	50.88
2	Insufficient training	26	45.61
3	Time lack	18	31.58
4	Lack of e-resources needed	32	56.14

In table 7 respondents gave the multiple answers for the question. The results shows that 56.14% respondents faced with the issue of lack of availability of needed electronic resources, followed by 50.88% with the issue of insufficient infrastructure, and 45.61% with the issue of lack of sufficient training in locating e-resources . Only 31.58% respondents believed that the timeliness was the issue.

Table 8. Satisfaction level of using Electronic Information Resources (multiple answers)

Sr.No	E- Resources	High Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	High Dissatisfied
1	E-Book	12 (21.05%)	33(57.89%)	6(10.52%)	3(5.26%)	3(5.26%)
2	E-Journal	18(31.58%)	31(54.38%)	4(7.02%)	3(5.26%)	1(1.75%)

3	E- Database	12 (21.05%)	39(68.42%)	5(8.78%)	1(1.75%)	-
4	E-Theses/ Dissertations	11(19.30)	42(73.68%)	3(5.26%)	1(1.75%)	-
5	E-News Paper/ Magazine	8(14.03%)	45(78.95%)	2(3.51)	1(1.75%)	1(1.75%)
6	Any others	-	-	-	-	-

Table 8 shows that the respondents expressed their opinion to the range of satisfied and highly satisfied with the availability of electronic information resources. Some of the respondents expressed their dissatisfaction level in availability of electronic information resources in the library.

7.0 Findings

- The majority (52.63%) of the respondents of the present study were male faculty members. Only (47.37%) were female faculty members.
- The majority (63.16%) the respondents were in the age group of 31-40, followed by (21.05%) above 40, and (15.79%) in the age group of 21-30.
- The majority (92.98%) of the respondents were aware of electronic information resources. Only (7.02%) of the respondents were not aware of it.
- The highest frequency of using electronic resources in the library was "Everyday" by (50.88%). The lowest frequency of using electronic resources in the library was rarely by (7.02%) of the respondents.
- Regarding the purpose of using electronic resources majority of respondents (84.21%) prefer "to prepare for projects". (78.94%) to write articles, (66.67%) to prepare for study notes for teaching. The least number of respondents (8.77%) prefer to write book review.
- Most of the respondents (50.88%) spent "two hours" to access the electronic resources. Only (17.54%) of the respondents spent "more than two hours" to access the electronic resources.
- The biggest issue with the respondents (56.14%) was the lack of availability of needed e-resources. Only (31.58%) of the respondents said that timeliness is a problem for searching e-resources.
- Most of the respondents expressed range of satisfied and highly satisfied with the availability of electronic information resources.

8.0 Conclusion

Libraries plays a major role in satisfying the user be providing the information. In this challenging electronic information world libraries need to change for their collection development policies. The majority of users are aware of electronic information resources on this survey. The major purposes of use of electronic information resources are for project work and to write articles for journals. Though the users opinion towards use of electronic information activities found to be positive.

9.0 Reference

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