

USE OF E-RESOURCES BY RESEARCH SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS AT Dr.T.P.M. LIBRARY IN MADURAI KAMARAJ UNIVERSITY, MADURAI: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract

This paper sets out to investigate the use of e-resources by research scholars and students at Dr.T.P.M Library in Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. The purpose of the study is to determine the knowledge and use of e-resources; users' skills in handling e-resources; to reveal the factors which influence the effective use of e-resources; problems faced by the respondents and their level of satisfaction regarding the use of E-resources of Dr.T.P.M.Library.

Key words: *E-resources, Internet, Search engines, user study, user education, Information seeking behaviour.*

Introduction

An e-resource is produced, published and distributed all over the globe via electronic networks or the internet. Publishers have moved quickly towards the use of the latter as a major medium for the distribution of their products. In fact, e-resources are becoming an accepted and necessary means of meeting the demands for the dissemination of knowledge everywhere. With the advancement of the technology the libraries are moving towards digital resources, which are found to be less expensive and more helpful for easy access. These are helpful especially to distant learners who have limited time to access the libraries from outside. The exponential growth of interest in the e-resources in recent years has created a digital extension for certain kinds of materials. Valuable collection of texts, images and sounds from many scholarly communities now exists only in electronic form and may be accessible from the Internet. E-resources are materials consisting of data and / or computer programmes(s) encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer by the use of a peripheral device directly connected to the computer, such as CD ROM Drive or remotely via a network, such as the internet. The category includes software applications, electronic databases, bibliographic databases etc. A detailed note is give below.

Objectives

The basic objectives of the present study are to:

- Study the demographic characteristics of users of Dr.T.P.M.Library
- Study the frequency of using E-resources
- Study the purpose of using E-resources

- Study the Problem faced while using e-resources
- Study the level of satisfaction of respondents regarding the use of E-resources.

Methodology

For this study Convenient Random sampling method was adopted for collecting Primary data from the respondents. A sample including research scholars and students of Madurai Kamaraj University those who are use the Dr.T.P.M.Library (University Central Library). A total number of 100 Questionnaires were distributed to respondents and 81 filled questionnaires were received back by the researchers. Hence selected 81 questionnaires are used for analysis and interpretation of data.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Gender- wise distribution of respondents

S.No	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	50	61.73
2	Female	31	38.27
	Total	81	100

Source: Primary data

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents by the gender- wise. In this study 50 respondents are male it shares 61.73% whereas 31 respondents are female it shares 38.27%.

Table 2: Age- wise distribution of respondents

S.No	Age	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	21-25	72	88.89
2	26-30	6	7.41
3	31-35	2	2.47
4	above 35	1	1.23
	Total	81	100

Source: Primary data

Table 2 reveals the distribution of respondents by age-wise. In this study, 72 respondents (88.89%) belong to 21-25 age group. This is followed by,6 respondents (7.41%) are 26-30 age group,2 respondents (2.47%) are 31-35 age group 1 respondent (1.23%) is above 35age group who use the e-resources. Hence most of the users belong to 21-25 age group who use the e-resources at Dr.T.P.M library in Madurai Kamaraj University.

Table 3: Status- wise distribution of respondents

S. No	Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Research scholars	38	46.91
2	students	43	53.09
	Total	81	100

Source: Primary data

The table 3 displays the status- wise distribution of respondents. In this study, 38 respondents (46.91%) are research scholars whereas 43 respondents (53.09%) are students.

Table 4: Department- wise distribution of respondents

S.No	Departments	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Sciences	33	40.74
2	Humanities	20	24.69
3	Social science	28	34.57
	Total	81	100

Source: Primary data

Table 4 shows that the distribution of respondents based on the department wise. The present investigation has taken into account Dr.S.R.Ranganathan's Classification namely Sciences, Humanities and Social sciences for categorizing the 20 schools including 77 departments in the Madurai Kamaraj University. In this study, 33 respondents (40.74%) are science department, 20 respondents (24.69%) are humanities department and 28 respondents (34.57%) are social science department.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents by residing sector-wise

S.No	Residing sector	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	Rural	48	59.26
2	Urban	33	40.74
	Total	81	100

Source: Primary data

As seen in table 5 shows the distribution of respondents by residing sector-wise. Forty eight respondents (59.26%) are rural respondents and 33 respondents (40.74%) are urban respondents are taken into the study.

Table 6: Frequency of using e- resources

S.No	Frequency	No .of Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	43	53.09
2	2-3 times in a week	28	34.57
3	2-3 times in a month	5	6.17
4	Once in a month	5	6.17
	Total	81	100

Source: Primary data

Table 6 displays Frequency of using e- resources. Forty three respondents (53.09%) use the e-resources daily, 28 respondents (34.57%) 2-3 time in a week, 5 respondents (6.17%) 2-3 times in a month and once in a month. Hence more than half of the respondents who use the e-resources daily.

Table 7: Time spent for using e- resources per day per hour

S.No	Hours	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Less than 1 hour	33	40.74
2	2-3 hours	36	44.44
3	3-4 hours	3	3.71
4	More than 4 hours	9	11.11
	Total	81	100

Source: Primary data

Data presented in table 7 shows the time spent for using e- resources per day per hour. Thirty three respondents (40.74%) use the e-resources less than an hour, 36 respondents (44.44%) use the e-resources 2-3 hours, 3 respondents (3.71%) 3-4 hours and 9 respondents (11.11%) use the e- resources more than 4 hours per day. Hence majority of students and research scholar use the e-resources 2-3 hours per day.

Table 8: Method of learning e- resources skill

S.No	Method	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	From Library professionals	23	28.39
2	Guidance from colleagues and friends	17	20.99
3	self instruction	32	39.51
4	External courses	5	6.17
5	Others	4	4.94
	Total	81	100

Source: Primary data

Table 8 shows the Method of learning e- resources skill. Twenty three respondents (28.39%) learn from Library professionals, 17 respondents (20.99%) from colleagues' guidance 32 respondents (39.51%) from self instruction, and 5 respondents (6.17%) from external courses. Besides cited above, there are some other methods also (4.94%). Hence majority of respondents learn e-resources skill by self instruction and their second rank goes to library professionals.

Table 9: Purpose of using e-resources

S.No	Propose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Developing knowledge	60	74.07
2	Prepare class Seminar	6	7.41
3	Prepare competitive exam's	3	3.70
4	Writing journal articles	8	9.88
5	Others	4	4.94
	Total	81	100

Source: Primary data

Table 9 shows the purpose of using e-resources. Sixty respondents (74.07%) use the e-resources for developing knowledge, 6 respondents (7.41%) for prepare class seminar, 3 respondents (3.70%) for prepare competitive examination and 8 respondents (9.88%) for writing journals. Besides cited above, there are some other purposes also (4.94%). Hence majority of the respondents use the e-resources for developing knowledge.

Table 10: Problem Faced while using e-resources

S.No	Problems	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Slow access speed	34	41.98
2	Difficulty in finding relevant information	11	13.58
3	Overload of information on the Internet	16	19.75
4	Privacy problem	7	8.64
5	Lake of computer	13	16.05
	Total	81	100

Source: Primary data

Table 10 shows the problem faced while using e-resources. Thirty four respondents (41.98%) report that slow access speed. This is followed by,11 respondents (13.58%) difficulty in finding relevant information, 16 respondents (19.75%) over load information on the internet problem,7 respondents (8.64%) privacy problem, and 13 respondents (16.05%) lake of computer. Hence majority of students and research scholars report that slow access speed is the main problem while using the internet and their second problem goes to overload of information on the Internet.

Table 11: Satisfaction level of using e- resources

S.No	Satisfaction level	No .of respondents	Percentage
1	Fully	35	43.21
2	Partially	23	28.39
3	Dissatisfied	14	17.28
4	No comments	9	11.11
	Total	81	100

Source: Primary data

Table 11 display the satisfaction level of using e- resources. In this study,35 respondents (43.21%) are fully satisfied with use of e-resources,23 respondents (28.39%) are partially satisfied and 14 respondents (17.28%) are dissatisfied respectively. Nine respondents (11.11%) have not expressed any comments. Hence majority of the respondents are satisfied with using e-resources in Dr.T.P.M.Library.

Major Findings

- More than half of the respondents use the e-resources daily.
- 53.03% of the respondents use the e-resources daily.
- 44.44% of students and research scholars use the e-resources 2-3 hours per day.
- Nearly two fifth of respondents learn e-resources skill from self instruction and their second rank goes to library professionals.
- Nearly three fourth of the respondents use the e-resources for developing knowledge
- Majority of students and research scholars report that slow access speed is the main problem while using the internet and their second problem goes to overload of information on the Internet.
- 71.6% of the respondents are satisfied with using e-resources.

Suggestions

- It is suggested that university authority should appoint more number of Library professionals with IT Knowledge at UGC-INFONET section of Dr.T.P.M.Library for assist the respondents.
- It is suggested that the library authority should subscribe more number of E-journals/Online journals.
- It is suggested that the number of computer terminals should be installed with internet connectivity.
- It is suggested that the library should provide more number of CD-ROM databases to research sholars and students.
- Budgetary resources should be increased gradually for strengthening UGC-INFONET section of the library.

Conclusion

Recent developments in information format and retrieval have had a definite impact on the academic community, who have been required to change their methodology in accessing information. E-resources have rapidly established themselves as a viable media in all fields. Because of their rapid publication capabilities they are often the best sources of information on current research and development in all fields. There is a great future for e- resources among academic community. It is also urgently needed that systematic efforts are taken to develop suitable information infrastructure for providing access to e-resources. It is concluded that majority of the students and research scholars are satisfied with E-resources rendered by the Dr.T.P.M.Library of Madurai Kamaraj University.

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