

ROLE OF ICT FOR ACCESSING E-RESOURCES BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS IN SHRI MADHWA VADIRAJA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT AT BANTAKAL UDUPI, KARNATAKA : A STUDY

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Abstract

The main aim of this study focuses on the role of information Communication Technology for accessing e-resources by the research scholars, faculty members and under graduate students in Shri Madhwa Vadiraja Institute of Technology & Management, Bantakal. Investigator has adopted survey method for collecting data through well-structured questionnaires. The questions were randomly distributed among 250 users and 225 (75 from research scholars and 150 from students) valid samples were collected. The analysis of collected data declares the role of internet and how e-resources are accessing by the effective use of information communication technology, how electronic e-resources are enlightening the research work, academic carriers of the faculty members and students and also what problems are being faced at the time of using the information communication technology.

KEYWORDS: Information Communication Technology, Faculty Members, Undergraduate Students, Engineering College, Electronic Resources, Academic Carriers.

INTRODUCTION

Information is a fundamental resource and also support for the continuous growth of any organization. Without proper information and knowledge infrastructure, no education system can stand and achieve its setup goals and objectives. For fulfilling the information needs of users ICT playing a very important role. Now-a-days information is spread all over the world through information communication technology. Due to multiple advantages of ICT it has now taken a dominant position in the information field. Librarians are trying to satisfy the user's needs by preparing a low budget and taking appropriate purchase decisions balancing both individual and institutional needs. The user's attitude towards information is progressively shifting from the printed documents

to electronic resources. There are many reasons for this change. Due to its associated advantages, library users demand the resources in an electronic format. In the digital era, library staff is expert with ICT and is also happy with the functionalities of the software and hardware by fulfilling the library user's needs. Publishers, vendors and agents have great responsibilities to develop the e-resource market and are eager to supply electronic resources/ services along with print based materials. Further, the World Wide Web (www) is an important resourceful platform for the supply of required information to the users and provides a basis for the shift from ownership of physical collections to access on demand. Web being a real time information delivery channel has made CD-ROM based delivery a reality. To fulfill the demands of users, libraries are shifting towards new media – like electronic resources for their collection development. A huge amount of money is spent on electronic resources for their collection development.

BAGROUND INFORMATION

Shri Madhwa Vadiraja Institute of Technology and Management (SMVITM) is one of the prestigious engineering colleges established in the year 2010, located in a village called Bantakal near the world famous temple town of Udupi, a relatively small but culturally vibrant and intellectually enlightened town in the region with the goal of the upliftment of the underprivileged sections of society by providing them with quality and affordable technical education. The institute firmly believes that the essence of imparting quality education is to create a hunger for knowledge among the students and to make them not only improve their subject knowledge, but also help them achieve their goals and also total personality development. The institute strives to provide students with worldwide education that encourages them to apply their minds and think 'out of the box' to get solutions to real time technological problems. The institute has 4 undergraduate programs in engineering i.e. Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Civil Engineering. Research activities are also undertaken in all the branches of this institution.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Number of sources has been consulted and the content was gone through to identify the related studies. Some of the studies relevant to the present survey are Natarajan, et al. conducted a survey of 117 faculty members and research scholars on the use and user perception of e-resources in Annamalai University. The study reveal that despite the availability of wide range of e-resources, the frequency of their use was low. The reasons identified for this were lack of time, lack of awareness,, lack of subject coverage and slow downloading. Patil and Parameshwar in their paper explained about he e-resources and their use by the faculty members and research schoalers in ulbarga University. The paper revealed that the e-resources available in the University library were helpful in fulfilling their information needs. There was need to train the faculty members and research scholars in using the e-resources.

Kumar (2014) describes the initiatives on electronic collection and development in engineering college libraries in the Rayalaseema region of Andra Pradesh. Author opines on librarians, on the most preferred electronic materials and on the various electronic resources acquainted with their library. The electronic library initiatives cover a variety of

activities starting from electronic collection building, digitalization, digital collection, maintenance and digital preservation. 34.57% of libraries are in the process of building digital collections.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The present study has the following as its main objectives:

1. To find the purpose and utilization of e- resources.
2. To examine the user's frequencies.
3. To know the preferred format for using e-resources.
4. To find out the problems in the use of e-resources.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The study covered the faculty and undergraduate students of Shri Madhwa Vadiraja Institute of Technology & Management. The students and faculty members are drawn from four departments i.e. Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Civil Engineering.

METHODOLOGY AND SURVEY DESIGN

The present study started with literature search from LISA (Library and Information Science Abstract) database and Library and Information Science and Technology Abstract (LISTA), Google Scholar, and Emerald Insight. Some important ALA books were also consulted to design the questionnaire for engineering college students and faculties. A well designed questionnaire was used to collect the data in Shri Madhwa Vadiraja Institute of Technology & Management. The questionnaire covered various questions relating to the responsiveness and use of e-resources. For this reason, a total of 200 questionnaires were distributed among undergraduate students and faculty members. Out of 250 questionnaires, 225 valid questionnaires were collected from undergraduate students (150) and from faculty members (75). Then data was analyzed. The response rate was 90%.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results and discussion of the present study are given in the following paragraphs in a systematic manner.

GENDER

The gender wise status of Shri Madhwa Vadiraja Institute of Technology & Management Library users is shown in Table 1. It may be seen from the table that majority of the respondents (135(60%)) are male and the remaining 90(40%) are female respondents.

Table 1. Gender of the Users

SL. No.	Gender	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	Male	135	60
2	Female	90	40
Total		225	100

ACADEMIC STATUS OF THE USERS

The category wise distribution of engineering college respondents is shown in Table 2, which reveals that 150(66.67%) of respondents are undergraduate students and 75(33.33%) are research scholars.

Table 2. Academic Status of the Users

Sl. No	Academic Status	No of Responses	Percentage
1	Undergraduate Students	150	66.67
2	Research Scholars	75	33.33
Total		225	100.00

AWARENESS ABOUT E-RESOURCES

Table 3 shows that the awareness of e-resources among the respondents available through the library. 46.67 % of the male users were aware about the e-resources and 30.22% of female respondents were aware about the availability of e-resources. It can be shown that male respondents are more aware about the availability of e-resources than female.

Table 3. Awareness about E-resources

Sl. No	Academic Status	No of Responses (%)	Percentage (%)
1	Male	105(46.67)	35(15.55)
2	Female	68(30.22)	17 (7.56)
Total		173(76.89)	52 (23.11)

Preference Level of Using E-resources

Table 4 shows that majority (56.89%) of the respondents wanted to access information through electronic version only, 28.00% users wanted to access information through print version and 15.11% of the users wanted to use information on both electronic and print version.

Table 4. Preference of respondents about using E-resources

Sl. No.	Resources	No. of responses	Percentage
1	Electronic	128	56.89
2	Print	63	28.00
3	Both	34	15.11
Total		225	100.00

Frequency of Using E-Resources

The frequency of using e-resources by the Shri Madhwa Vadiraja Institute of Technology & Management library users is given in Table 5. The table reveals that majority (89(39.56%)) of the respondents used e-resources weekly, nearly 58(25.78%) of the respondents used the e-resources daily, 43(19.11 %) respondents replayed weekly twice and 35(15.55%) respondents used e-resources monthly.

Table 5. Frequency of Using E-Resources

Sl. No.	Frequency	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	Daily	58	25.78
2	Weekly Twice	43	19.11
3	Weekly	89	39.56
4	Monthly	35	15.55
Total		225	100.00

Purpose of Using E-Resources

The purpose of using e-resources by the users is presented in Table 6. The users used the e-resources for various purposes like for studying course work, to update their subject knowledge, for teaching, for seminar, for research work, project and writing papers. Majority of the respondents (68 (30.22%)) used the e-resources for writing papers. Nearly (42(18.67)) respondents used the e-resources for their research/project work, only (46(20.44%)) used them for studying course work 30(13.33%) for teaching /seminars 28 (12.44%) to update their subject knowledge and the remaining 11 (4.89%) for other works i.e. exam etc.

Table 6. Purpose of using E-Resources

Sl. No.	Purposes	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	For studying Course Work	46	20.44
2	To update subject knowledge	28	12.44
3	To teaching/Seminars	30	13.33
4	For Research Work/ Project	42	18.67
5	For Writing Papers	68	30.22
6	Any other Work	11	4.89
Total		225	100.00

METHODS OF LEARNING E-RESOURCES

Table 7 reveals that majority (109(48.44%)) of the respondents acquired their e-resources usage skill through training by the library staff, nearly 56 (24.89%) by self study, only 42 (18.67%) by their friends and the remaining 18(8.00%) learned by external sources.

Table 7. Learning Methods of E-Resources

Sl. No.	Methods	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	Training by the library staff	109	48.44
2	Self-study/instruction	56	24.89
3	From Friends	42	18.67
4	External Sources	18	8.00
Total		225	100.00

LOCATION FOR ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

It is clear from Table 8 that majority of the respondents (128 (56.89%)) accessed e-resources from central library, 48(21.33%) from department library, 32(14.22%) from computer lab and remaining 17(7.56%) from other places.

Table 8. Location for Accessing E-Resources

Sl. No.	Location	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	Central Library	128	56.89
2	Department Library	48	21.33
3	Computer Lab	32	14.22
4	Other Places	17	7.56
Total		125	100.00

LINKING PATTERN OF E – RESOURCES

Table 9 shows how respondents searched e-resources available on various websites. Majority of the respondents i.e. 107 (47.56%) searched e-resources through linking facility available on the Library website, 61 (27.11%) respondents searched e-resources through Websites, 32 (14.22%) searched through search engines and remaining 25 (11.11%) respondents through publisher's website.

Table 9. Linking Pattern of E-resources

Sl. No.	Linking	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	Links through library Website	107	47.56
2	Links through Publisher's Website	25	11.11
3	Links through Search Engine	32	14.22
4	Links through E-resources Website	61	27.11
Total		225	100.00

PATTERN OF USAGE OF E-RESOURCES

The pattern of usage of e-resources in Shri Madhwa Vadiraja Institute of Technology and Management library users is given in Table 10. The table reveals that 125 (55.56%)

download the content in storage devices. Nearly 54 (24.00%) of the respondents took printout of the information and remaining 46 (20.44%) respondents used it on the computer screen.

Table 10. Usage Pattern of E-Resources

Sl. No.	Use of E-resources	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	Computer Screen	46	20.44
2	Download in Storage Devices	125	55.56
3	Printout	54	24.00
Total		225	100.00

FORMATS OF E – RESOURCES

E-Resources are available in two major formats like PDF and HTML. It was observed from the analysis that 143 (63.55%) respondents preferred PDF format for using e-resources, whereas 56 (24.89%) respondents preferred HTML format and 26 (11.56%) had no preference.

Table 11. File Formats of E-Resources

Sl. No.	File Formats	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	HTML	56	24.89
2	PDF	143	63.55
3	No Preference	26	11.56
Total		225	100.00

SATISFACTION LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS REGARDING ACCESS OF E-RESOURCES

The analysis of satisfaction level of accessing e-resources by the respondents is presented in Table 12. A question was asked to know the user's satisfaction level by accessing e-resources. It was observed that majority of the respondents (124(55.11%) were highly satisfied with the infrastructure provided by the library for accessing e-resources at different levels , nearly 53 (23.56%) respondents reported to be satisfied, 29(12.89%) to be average and only 19 (8.44%) respondents were not satisfied with the same.

Table 12. Satisfaction Level of Respondents Regarding Access of E-Resources

Sl. No.	Satisfaction	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	Highly Satisfied	124	55.11
2	Satisfied	53	23.56
3	Average	29	12.89
4	Not Satisfied	19	8.44
Total		225	100.00

Table 13. Difficulties faced by the Respondents While Accessing E-Resources

Sl. No.	File Formats	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	Not Many E-resources being available in my subject	99	44.00
2	Coverage on E-resources not being suitable to my Research Area	58	25.78
3	No assistance being provided by the information professionals	33	14.67
4	Lack of Training	25	11.11
5	Time Consuming	10	4.44
Total		225	100.00

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE RESPONDENTS WHILE ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

Though e-resources have become a common source among the academic and research groups, a majority of users indicated that they faced problems while using e-resources. The specific problems faced by the users are given in Table 13.

It clearly shows that the majority of respondents were not satisfied with quantity of available e-resources. The other problems faced were the content not being suited to their research area, the process being time consuming, no assistance being provided by the information professionals, and lack of training.

CONCLUSION

E-resource usage is one of the most important concepts in engineering college libraries now a days. Most of the engineering colleges are using e-resources on a large scale for their progress. The traditional methods of research, storage, retrieval and communication of scholarly information have changed by the fast growth of information and communication technologies and particularly internet and electronic resources. For storage and retrieval of information, internet has emerged as the most powerful medium. In order to retrieve relevant information, users have to make use of different types of electronic and web resources. The study showed that the use of electronic resources has created a great impact upon users of Shri Madhwa Vadiraja Institute of Technology & Management central library in their research and progress of works. The rapid progress in information & communication technology has facilitated the emergence of new electronic procedures and formats. Information has been embedded in a variety of ways and forms in various kinds of electronic resources. It is clear from the study that the younger generation generally prefers the usage of electronic resources. Many of the respondents are aware of e-resources but have not used online thesis/ dissertations, abstracts/ indices, OPAC, and online databases, which are very relevant for their study and research. So the library should take initiatives to organize orientation programs and user awareness programs in this area.

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