USE AND IMPACT OF E-RESOURCES IN NAAC ACCREDITED ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN KURNOOL DISTRICT: A STUDY

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Abstract

Engineering college libraries in India are facing challenges due to budget cut, in-sufficient staff, depreciation of rupee, abrupt hike in conversion of foreign currencies, and growth in cost of publication. Due to many aspects mentioned above, engineering libraries are facing difficult to acquire necessary books and periodicals as per the AICTE norms. Electronic resources are making a revolution in engineering college libraries. Many librarians consider that these resources are the best option to support major role in satisfy the user needs of research and development in the field of engineering. This paper discusses about the engineering college libraries, importance and impact of e-resources on engineering colleges. The paper also explains about E-Resources and the role of E-Journals provided by the INDEST – AICTE consortium.

Key Words: Engineering College Libraries, INDEST – AICTE, E-Resources, E-Journals

INTRODUCTION

The technological revolution has influenced the libraries so deeply and profoundly. The unprecedented growth of information and knowledge proliferation and at the same time an ever escalating demands from readers in academic community especially, in the engineering education provision of library and information services on contemporary lines by means of information and communication technology. Therefore, there is a need to provide a new dimension in collection, management, processing and dissemination of information.

The future of acquiring collection is indecisive, because at present professionals are paying concentration more on access to electronic resources than on building archives of print resources. But an additional facet of the same issue is the co-operative funding of huge digital archives. For the purpose, five technologies, viz., push technologies, search engine technology, electronic commerce, web TV, and CD and DVD use are going to play noteworthy role in near future. Technology has to be used for 'housekeeping' and for provide access to data of textual, numeric, and visual information. Print-on-paper will be the exceptional medium for the communication of collective knowledge.

ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Engineering college libraries like any other college libraries are affiliated to the institutions that contribute first and foremost to the teaching and learning process by providing different category of information and learning resources to the patrons for their successful persuasion of the course programs obtainable by the institution. AICTE has framed elaborate norms for the libraries of engineering colleges offering various technical courses.

The libraries are responsible for the selection, preservation and organization of the collection and dissemination of the material or the information resources suitable for their clientele of their institutions. Libraries as centre of learning are playing an significant role in sustaining and fulfilling the information requirements of parent institutions. For the efficient, effective and scientific development of information resources and services, the libraries need to be planned and developed systematically.

The mass growth of literature resulted in the demand for the latest information. 20th century is paving way for the next millennium and it is not many years away. In this age of science and technology the scientific research must form an integral part since the key to academic and economic wealth lies in the development of science and technology. It is high time that the engineering colleges should aim at a programme for promotion and support of information technology by an interlinking network, which only serves the user interests. The demand for information has grown at a faster rate, with a wider geographical coverage especially in the technological field. The library should be capable of providing access to scientific literature comprehensively, speedily and economically on which progress of science rests.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES:

Over the last decade there have been major changes in the approach people work. The changes are due to radical changes in technology such as the introduction of computers, the addition of telecommunications and the increase in popularity of the Internet. These developments are on going, and are predominantly important in that, they offer access to enormous amounts of information to people at home or at work place.

Information stored in digital form once can break all the physical and geographical barriers and can reach the remotest corners of the globe. New technologies are budding to preserve

and process enormous amounts of information electronically. New methodologies for accessing information are evolving on an almost daily basis. Access to right information at the right time is the need of the hour. Various types of information, a user can access at different levels beginning from resources available in a library or information centre to the network based information services from different networks.

E-RESOURCES IN ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES

The information resources in any engineering college library can be mostly grouped into two i.e. print and electronic formats. The following are the some of the examples of Print Form-Books, Hardcopies of Periodicals, Back Volumes of Periodicals, Question Papers, Reports, Directories, Project Reports, News papers, Newsletters, etc.,

For various reasons, the engineering college libraries are procuring or subscribing electronic resources besides print versions. Due to the introduction of information and communication technology, the librarians are acquiring electronic resources to satisfy the information needs of users. Now the concept of information provision to users is changed from information availability to information access. Therefore, there is no option left out to library professionals except going for electronic resources. The electronic resources had various advantages which forced the library professionals to incorporate them in library collections. The following are the some of the e-resources in engineering colleges; E-Books, E-Journals, E-Databases, E-Magazines, E-Lectures, E-Conference Proceedings, E-Audios, E-Images, E-Music, E-News, E-Subject Guides, E-Newsletter, E-Reports, and E-Directories.

OBJECTIVES:

For the present study, some of the objectives are listed below

1. To know the frequency of the users.
2. To study the use of different types of electronic resources.
3. To study the purpose of using of electronic resources.
4. To identify the problems faced by the users to use the ICT/Internet accessing.
5. To study the availability of the existing Library Resources & Services
6. To ascertain the level of satisfaction among the users with the available library resources and services..
7. To suggest recommendations to improve the electronic resources and services for the users.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Barbara J. Bergman (2005) has discussed the position of electronic resources as a specialty to deal with the management of digital resources, but little has been written about the librarians now working in this specialty. Electronic resources management appears substantially to blur the line between public and technical services.

Mulla (2006) has highlighted in his paper "Electronic Resources and Services in Academic Libraries: A Case Study" about the ways of accessing electronic resources and types and type of electronic resources and services infrastructure n the academic libraries.

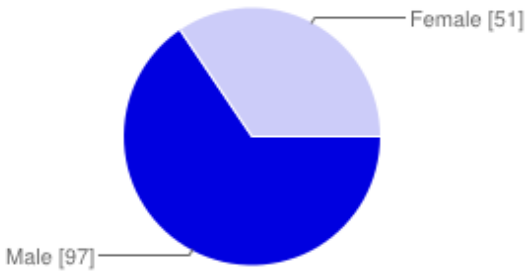
Kaur and Verma (2006) have made a survey about the use of electronic resources at TIET library, Patiala. This paper also examines the interest of the users about internet, CD-ROM databases and other services provided by the library.

Mandal and Panda (2009) have jointly conducted a study on e-resources supplied though INDEST consortium and its impact on 21st century environment. The study successfully unfolds some reasons for low usage and suggests some remedial steps to improve the use of e-resources and services.

Lohar and Roopashree (2006) have analyzed the collected data to cover the use of electronic resources and how the electronic resources have improved the academic career of the faculty and also the problems that are faced in using the electronic resources. They conclude that the main intention of the use of the electronic resources has been the academic interest of the users.

METHODOLOGY AND ANALYSIS FOR THE PRESENT STUDY:

For the present study, a questionnaire is prepared and online survey has taken in NAAC Accredited Engineering Colleges in Kurnool District and there are about 148 responses were received. The analysis is done by Google Docs and the same given below.

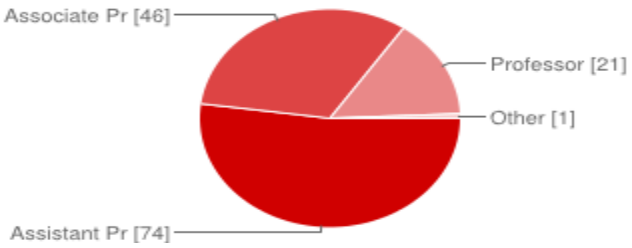


Gender:

Male	**97**	65%
Female	**51**	35%

Table & graph shows that majority 97 (65%) of the respondents are male and 51 (35%) are females

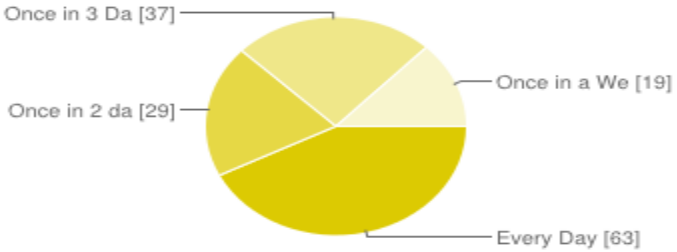
Designation:



Assistant Professor	**74**	49%
Associate Professor	**46**	31%
Professor	**21**	14%
Other	**1**	1%

The above graph and table presents the faculty designation of respondents. It is observed that majority 67(47%) respondents are Assistant Professor, followed by 46(32%) are Associate Professor and 21(15%) are Professors.

Visiting to Library:

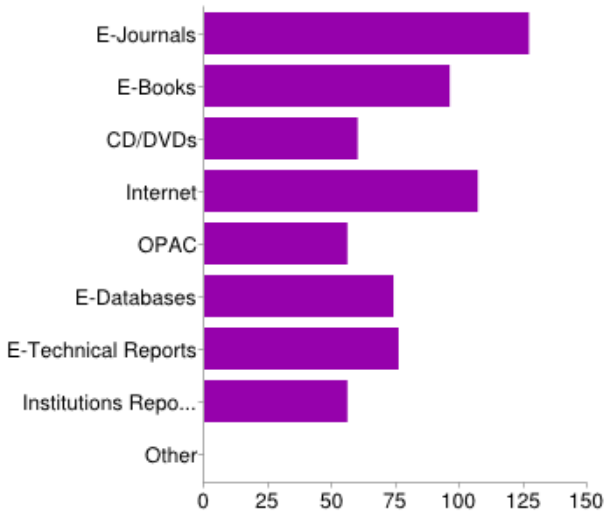


Every Day	**63**	42%
Once in 2 days	**29**	19%
Once in 3 Days	**37**	25%
Once in a Week	**19**	13%

The above table shows that the majority of respondents 63 (42%) are visiting the library every day, following by 37 (25%) respondents are visiting once in 3 days, 29 (19%) respondents visiting 2 days once and 19 (13%) respondents visiting once in a week respectively.

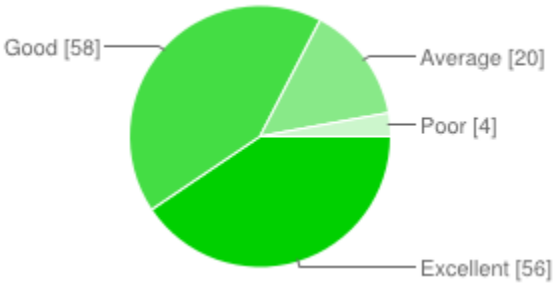
Use of E-Resources in the library:

E-Journals	**127**	85%
E-Books	**96**	64%
CD/DVDs	**60**	40%
Internet	**107**	71%
OPAC	**56**	37%
E-Databases	**74**	49%
E-Technical Reports	**76**	51%
Institutions Repository	**56**	37%
Other	**0**	0%



Based on the above table & graph E-journals 127 (85%) are ranked in1st place and preferred majority of respondents followed by Internet 107 (71%) occupies 2nd, e-books 96 (64%) in 3 rd place, Technical Reports 76 (51%) as 4th place and followed by e-databases, CD/DVD, OPAC and Institutional Repositories.

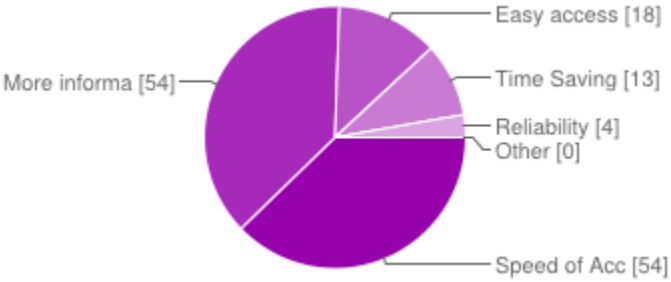
Knowledge of using e-resources:



Excellent	**56**	37%
Good	**58**	39%
Average	**20**	13%
Poor	**4**	3%

The above graph gives the details of knowledge in using e-resources, majority 58 (39%) of respondents have good knowledge in using e-resources followed by 56 (37%) had average knowledge and 20 (13%) respondents having average knowledge respectively.

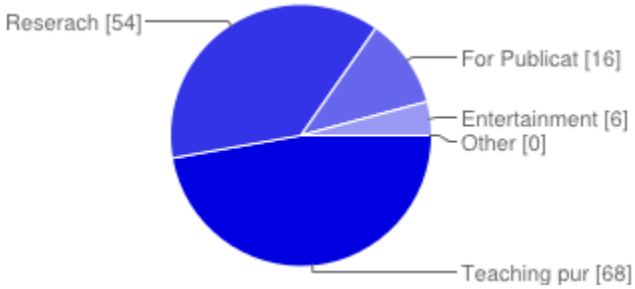
Criteria for using electronic resources:



Speed of Access	**54**	36%
More information	**54**	36%
Easy access	**18**	12%
Time Saving	**13**	9%
Reliability	**4**	3%
Other	**0**	0%

The above table is evident that a majority of the users 54 (36%) using e-resources to get the more information, followed by 49 (35%) of the users using because of speed in access, 18 (13%) of the users feels that easy to access, and remaining 12(8%), 3(2%) of the users feels that tame saving and reliability is the cause respectively.

Purpose of using e-resources:



Teaching purpose	**68**	45%
Research	**54**	36%
For Publication	**16**	11%
Entertainment	**6**	4%
Other	**0**	0%

Table and graph shows that a majority of the respondents 68 (45%) using e-resources for the Research, followed by 54 (36%) of the users using for teaching purpose, 16 (11%) of the users using for publication and remaining 6 (4%), of the users using for entertainment respectively.

E-resources that keeps up-to-date:

E-Jopurnals	**107**	71%
E-Books	**55**	37%
CD/DVD	**35**	23%
E-Databases	**36**	24%
Internet	**87**	58%
OPAC	**24**	16%
ETD	**18**	12%
E-Technical Reports	**31**	21%
Institutional Repositories	**16**	11%
Other	**0**	0%

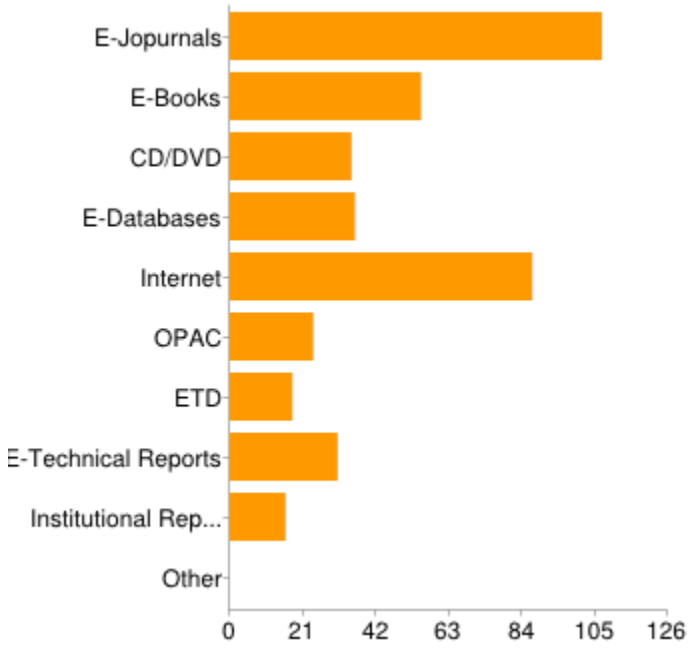
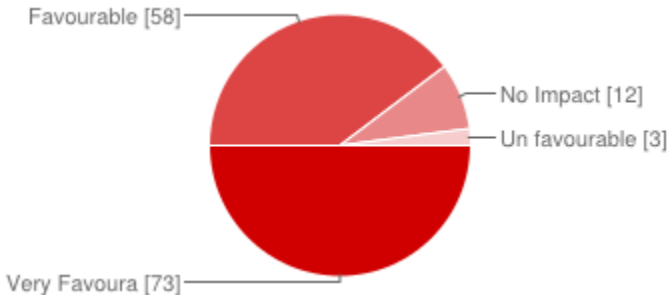


Table presents the respondents opinion on e-resources which keeping them up-to-date. It shows that the majority of the users 107(71%) are feels e-journals are keeping them up-to-date, followed by 87 (58%) respondents are using internet and followed by 55 (37%), 35 (23%) are using e-books, CD/DVD respectively.

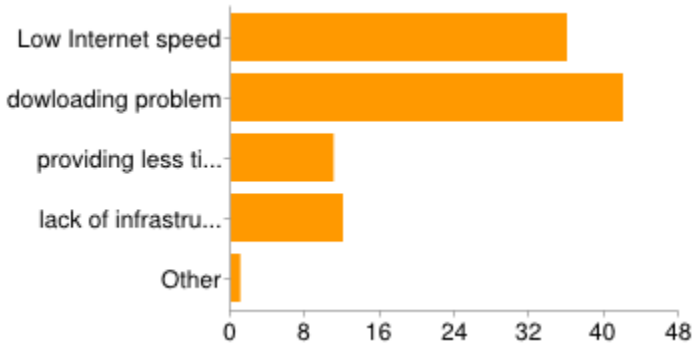
Impact that the E-Resources make on your working environment:



Very Favourable	**73**	49%
Favourable	**58**	39%
No Impact	**12**	8%
Un Favourable	**3**	2%

Above table shows that a majority of the respondents 73 (49%) using e-resources helps them very favorable, followed by 58 (39%) of the users feels its favorable, 10 (7%) of the users feels no impact and remaining 2 (1%), of the users feels its unfavorable.

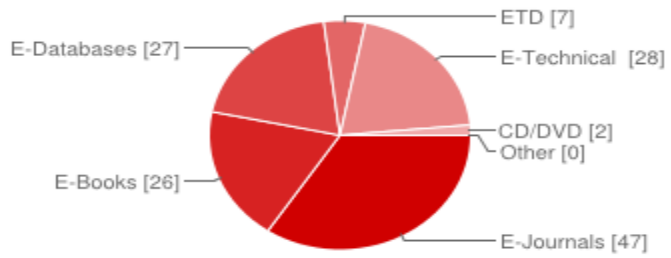
Difficulties faced while access e-resources:



Low Internet speed	**36**	24%
downloading problem	**42**	28%
providing less time to access	**11**	7%
lack of infrastructure	**12**	8%
Other	**1**	1%

The above table reveals that majority 42 (28%) of respondents feels that downloading speed is the main problem to access the e-resources followed by 36 (24%) feels that low internet speed is the barrier, 12 (8%) feel lack of infrastructure is the barrier to access the resources respectively.

E-resources feel to increase in library:



E-Journals	**47**	31%
E-Books	**26**	17%
E-Databases	**27**	18%
ETD	**7**	5%
E-Technical Reports	**28**	19%
CD/DVD	**2**	1%
Other	**0**	0%

The above table shows that 47 (31%) of the users says to increase e-journals in the library followed by 28 (19%) feels to increase e-technical reports, 27 (18%) feels to increase e-databases, 26 (17%)feels to increase e-books respectively.

Findings:

From the above analysis the following findings were found:

- It is noticed that the majority of the users 99(70%) are feels e-journals are keeping them up-to-date, followed by 82 (58%) respondents are using internet and followed by 54 (38%), 35 (25%) are using e-books, CD/DVD respectively.
- It shows that a majority of the respondents 67 (47%) using e-journals for the Research, followed by 50 (35%) of the users using for teaching purpose, 15 (11%) of the users using for publication and remaining 5 (4%), of the users using for entertainment respectively.
- A majority of the users 53 (37%) using e-journals to get more information, followed by 49 (35%) of the users using because of speed in access, 18 (13%) of the users feels that easy to access, and remaining 12(8%), 3(2%) of the users feels that tame saving and reliability is the cause respectively.
- It is revealed that majority of the respondents 71 (50%) using e-journals helps them very favorable, followed by 56 (39%) of the users feels its favorable, 10 (7%) of the users feels no impact and remaining 2 (1%), of the users feels its unfavorable.

Suggestions:

Based on the detailed study and its outcome, the following suggestions are made to improve the e-resources in the digital library.

1. There is need to create awareness among the users in engineering colleges.
2. There is also need to increase the e-journals to satisfy the needs of faculty members.
3. Librarians can conduct periodical user surveys and change the collection policy according to the user perceptions.

Conclusion:

This study showed that the usage of e-resources is very common among the faculty members of engineering Colleges libraries. It also showed that majority of faculty are dependent on IEL journals to get desired and relevant information for their research as well as for teaching. The e-journals are helping them very much in their working environment also. It is revealed that practical uses of e-resources are more important in the engineering colleges for the research, so to satisfy the needs of users library professionals should subscribe more number of e-resources in engineering college libraries.

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