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Usage of Electronic Resources at Bharathidasan University Library : A Study

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines that the electronic resources available in the library, how the faculty members are aware of the e-resource, problem faced by them in accessing and the priority of e-resource they accessed. The users' demand for the information changed from traditional to digital environment due to Information Technology (IT). In present days, the libraries also need to adopt the latest technologies to provide effective and relevant information to the users. It is necessary for the libraries to develop the digital content based library collection to meet the requirement of the users. On the other hand, it is also very important to analyse, evaluate the utilisation of the digital resources at the user's level.

1 INTRODUCTION

The recorded information sources can be categorised in a number of ways, in terms of their physical forms, content, and so on. The recorded sources of information include printed documents such as books, monographs, theses, reports, articles etc. Prior to the information being available in the printed mode, information was recorded in some other mode as well. Evidence can be drawn from drawings, paintings and writings on a variety of media ranging from stone to clay tablets, parchment, cloths, leaves and paper. Information is also increasingly recorded on electronic media ranging from local or home grown databases to remote (online) databases and CD ROM

databases. Electronic resources are transmitting the collection of modern library.

E-resources are those electronic information resources and services that users access electronically via computing networks from inside the library or from outside the library. A user defines use of e-resources as searching, browsing, examining, and visiting an e-resource and/or service. Internet and its most used component www have turned into a biggest source of information with widest coverage and the fastest access available to users. It is the most powerful tool for global communication and exchange of information.

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2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the awareness among faculty members on e-resources available in the university library.
2. To study the purpose of using e-resource among the faculty members.
3. To study frequency of using the electronic resources and services.
4. To examine the preference of faculty members to use the e-resources.
5. To identify the problem faced by the faculty in accessing e-Resources.
6. To find out the satisfaction level among the faculty members in using the e-resources.

3. REVIEW LITERATURE

(Kanta Kapoor, 2010) discussed the use of electronic journals in comparison with the print collections in the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University Library. A detailed analysis was made on usage of electronic journals such as Science Direct, Emerald Management Xtra, ACM, and IEL Library, subscribed which are by the Library. (Gampath Kumar, B.T. and Kumar, G.T., 2010) examined the perception and use of e-resources and the internet by the engineering, medical and management academics in Bangalore City, India. The prime objective is to compare e-sources with print sources and how they perceive the advantages of e-sources and problems for accessing them. (Baljinder Kaur and Rama Verma, 2009) described the use of electronic resources and services provided at the central library of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. The paper is focused to know who these electronic information services users are, how often they use the services and the place where the information is accessed. Also, the users are asked to give their preferences between an electronic and print journal format. It has been found that usage of e-journals is increasing; this is due to awareness among the

users about the library e-resources and services. (Sudharma Haridasan and Majid Khan, 2009) focuses on the impact and use of e-resources by social scientists pursuing research in the NASSDOC library.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Data Collection

In order to accomplish the above set of research objective, a survey is conducted through a questionnaire circulated to 120 faculty members of various Departments in Bharathidasan University, Trichy. Out of 120 questionnaires 75 (62.5%) filled questionnaires were received. The collected data is presented in the form of tables and figures and analyzed by using a simple method of calculation.

5. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The University library is having very good collections in e-resources and allocating huge of money on e-resource collection development on continues basis. It is also important to analysis the usage of the e-resources. Hence study on Electronic Resource and its Usage in the Library, Bharathidasan University, Trichy: A study has been conducted.

6. PROFILE OF THE BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Bharathidasan University Library established in February 1982. It consists of various sections in the library such as Stack, Reference, Circulation, Periodical section, Technical section, Digital Library, Audio Visual Centre and Reprography. At present the library has in its stock about 95,000 volumes of Books and back volumes and subscribes to 204 current print journals at national and international level on various subjects. It also subscribes to 8000 electronic journals in full text and a few databases of abstracting and Indexing journals. In addition to the e-journals, 8500 Springer E-books on various subjects with perpetual access has been procured

to enhance the quality of teaching and research activities. In accessing the electronic resources under UGC-INFONET consortium Bharathidasan University Library stands first position in State Level and fifth position in National level. In addition to that accessing of Springer e-books our university library stands first position among Indian universities. The below screen shot shows our university library website.



<http://library.bdu.ac.in>

7. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

7.1. Gender wise distribution

The University faculty members are grouped into two categories as Male and Female. Table 1 shows that 59(79%) of male and 16(21%) female faculty members are accessing the e-resources.

Table 1: Gender wise distribution

S N	Gender	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	59	79%
2.	Female	16	21%
	Total	75	100%

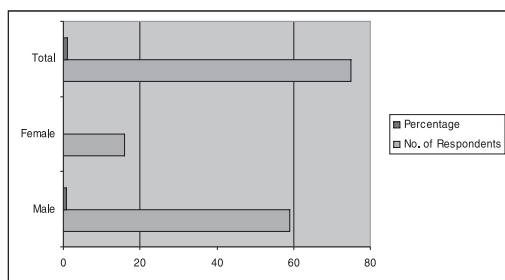


Figure 1: Gender wise distribution

7.2. DEPARTMENT WISE DISTRIBUTION

The structured questionnaire has been distributed to the faculty members in Arts and Science departments of the university. The table 2 shows that 63(84%) of Science faculty members and 12(16%) of Arts faculty members are responded for the study.

Table 2: Department wise distribution

S.N	Department	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Science	63	84%
2.	Arts	12	16%
	Total	75	100%

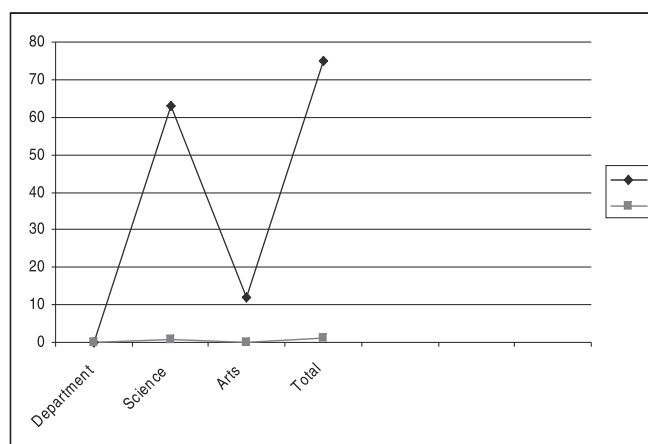


Figure 2: Department wise distribution

7.3. Awareness of Library E-Resources

Table 3 reveals that 16(21%) of faculty members are aware of the library e-resources available in the library through printed sources , 15(20%) of faculty members are aware by the email and 14(19%) of faculty members aware by library websites.

Usage of Electronic Resources at Bharathidasan University Library

Table 3: Awareness of Library E-Resources

S.N	Awareness of E-Resource	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Library orientation programs	8	11%
2.	Library professionals	13	17%
3.	Fellow colleagues	9	12%
4.	Through our website	14	19%
5.	Through printed sources	16	21%
6.	Through Mail	15	20%
	Total	75	100%

7.4. Purpose of using E-Resources

Table 4 show that 22(29%) of respondents are using the e-resources for teaching, and 3(4%) of the respondents are using their area of specialisation.

Table 4: Purpose of using E-Resources

S.N	Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Research purpose	12	16%
2	Publishing articles and books	09	12%
3	Keeping up to date subject information	11	15%
4	Finding the relevant information on area of specialization	03	4%
5	To help research scholarly	18	24%
6.	For handling regular classes	22	29%
	Total	75	100%

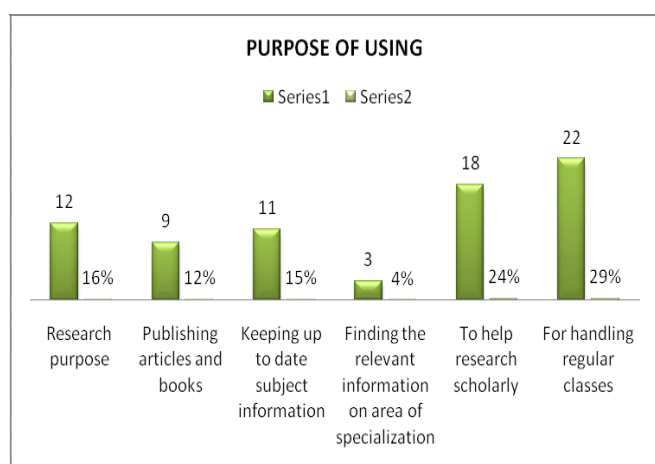


Figure 3: Purpose of using E-Resource

7.5. Frequency of Accessing E-Resources

Table 5 shows that that most of the respondents are accessed e-resources more frequently. It is found that 51(68%) of the respondent use of daily, 15(20%) of use weekly, and 9(12%) of the respondents use fortnightly.

Table 5 Frequency of E-Resource Access

S.N	Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	51	68%
2	Weekly	15	20%
3	Fortnightly	9	12%
4	Monthly	0	0
	Total	75	100%

7.6. Preference of Access to E-Resources

Table 6 shows that 24(32%) faculty members are preferred to access the journals, 18(24%) of faculty members preferred to access full-text online databases, 15(20%) of faculty members preferred to access e-books, 8(11%) of faculty members are preferred to access bibliographic databases and open access courseware/ Lecture notes 10(13%).

Table 6: Preference of Access to E-Resources

S.N	Types of information	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	E-journals	24	32%
2	E-books	15	20%
3	Bibliographic databases	08	11%
4	Full-text online databases	18	24%
5	Open access courseware/ Lecture notes	10	13%
	Total	75	100%

7.7. Searching Techniques

Table 7 shows that most of the respondents 29(39%) are using advance search techniques, 20(27%) of the respondents are using simple search to retrieve the relevant information.

Table 7: Searching Techniques

S.N	Types of information	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Simple search	20	27%
2.	Advance search	29	39%
3.	Truncation search	--	--
4.	Boolean search	09	12%
5.	Field search	13	17%
6.	Wild card search	04	05%
	Total	75	100%

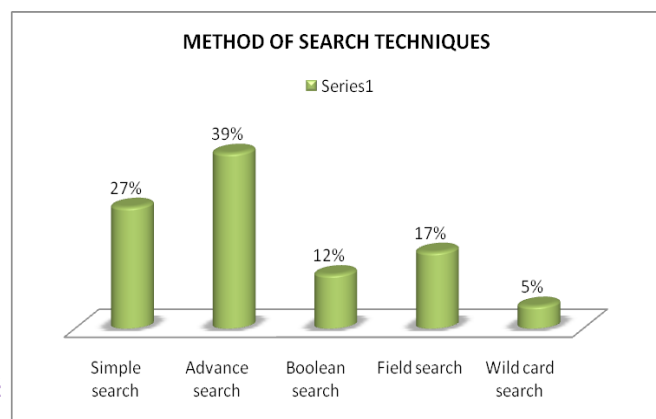


Figure 4: Searching Techniques

7.8. UGC-INFONET Consortium

Figure 5 reveals that the most of the respondents (24%) are frequently using Springer link database and 14% of the respondents are using Taylor & Francis database in UGC-INFONET.

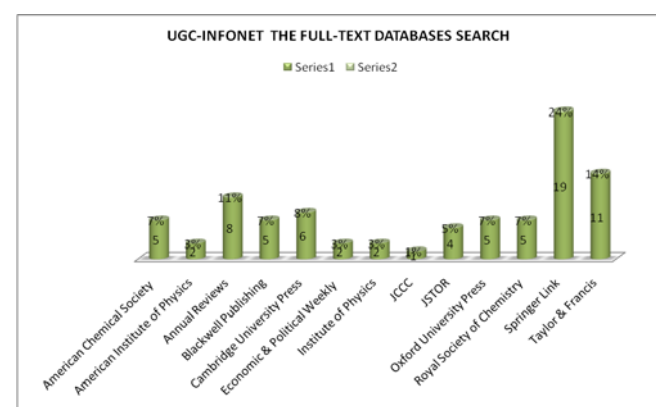


Figure 5: UGC-INFONET Consortium

7.9. Problem faced in accessing the E-Resources

Table 8 shows that most of the respondents faced the problem of slow speed 21(28%) and difficulty in accessing full-text 16(21%), while accessing the e-resources.

Table 8: Problem faced while Accessing the E-Resources

S.N	Problem faced while Accessing	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Slow speed	21	28%
2	Difficulty in accessing full-text	16	21%
3	Difficulty in finding relevant Information	06	08%
4	Retrieval problem	05	07%
5	Limited core journals	13	17%
6	Power failure	08	11%
7	Difficulty in reading on screen	04	05%
8	Other technical reasons	02	03%
	Total	75	100%

7.10. Satisfaction level of Accessing E-Resources

Table 9 shows that 5(6.66%) and 3(4%) of respondents got satisfaction level 'excellent' in accessing of UGC INFONET, Open access resources respectively, and only 3(4%) of respondents got the 'satisfaction' of accessing library subscribed resources.

Table 9: Satisfaction of Accessing E-Resources

S.N	E-Resources	Excellent	V.GOOD	Good	Satisfaction	Poor
1.	UGC-INFONET	05(6.66%)	15(20%)	09(12%)	--	--
2.	Library subscribed	02(2.66%)	09(12%)	04(5.33%)	03(4%)	--
3.	Open access	03(4%)	10(13.3%)	06(8%)	--	--
4.	Other databases	--	07(9.33%)	02(2.66%)	--	--

8. FINDINGS

1. It is found that most of the faculty member is aware of e-resources by using printed resources.
2. It is found that the majority of faculty members are frequently accessing the e-resources
3. It is also found the most of the faculty members are preferred to utilize the e-resources.
4. It is found that the majority of faculty members are using e-resources for the teaching purpose.
5. Most of the faculty members came across the problem of slow speed of internet while accessing e-resources.
6. It also found that the majority of faculty members are highly satisfied in accessing the UGC-INFONET e-resources.

9. CONCLUSION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays an important role in the information retrieval process in the electronic environment. The publication of electronic information resources is tremendously increased to cater the needs of users. In this context, the

librarian has to play very active roles to make electronic sources available for the users in a simple way of accessing the information. The libraries have to procure a number of e-resources which are available through various consortium programs such as UGC-INFONET, AICTE-INDEST and also library should subscribe the important online full text data bases and citation databases for their user community for the effective learning, teaching and research.

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