

Comparison of E-Resources in Tamilnadu Universities

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Abstract

Perception is the ability to see, hear or understand things related to an awareness of information sources. The study reported that the impact of electronic resources on the higher education community has considerably increased. Consortia access of electronic resources has increased the level of library services and convenience for the patrons of large libraries with "global access". The major findings of the study were that maximum number of the respondents had good awareness and adequate knowledge with electronic resources and were satisfied with the use of electronic resources.

KEY WORDS: e-resources, Research scholars, Information, Perception, Consortia

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1. Introduction

Education aims to impart knowledge and make us good citizens. Libraries are the repositories of knowledge and form an integral part of education. Libraries have a long history, starting with the chained and closed access libraries of earlier time to the present day hybrid, digital and virtual libraries that use the latest technology for provision of information through various services. Accordingly, libraries have also changed from storekeepers who are concerned with production of books against theft, mutilation, and pilferage, to that of information officers, navigators, and cybrarians who find themselves in the vast ocean of reading material and are busy satisfying their clients who want anytime and anywhere information.

2. Need for the Study

The e-resources are an inseparable part of today's higher educational system. The universities spend more amounts for e-resources for providing efficient service to the user community. It is the duty of the library and information officers to know and examine how effectively the e-resources are used and how it would help to provide better services to (8.9%).

the user community. It is therefore to find out the perception and usage of e-resources in different disciplines by the faculty members and research scholars of these two universities are surveyed

3. Review of Literature

Chemarthy, Reddy and Babu (2016) made an attempt and analysis of data collected from simple random sample of 1130 faculty members belonging to 37 Engineering colleges affiliated to JNTU- Anantapur using a questionnaire which reveals that most of the faculty members are using textbooks (97.3%), and internet (85.7%) for their teaching activity. Further most of the faculty members were satisfied with the latest edition of books available (79.8%) and with multiple copies available for prescribed textbooks in their libraries. Findings had shown (77.3%) faculty members consulting periodicals for their teaching and research purpose. A high percentage of the faculty members (45%) replied their libraries were subscribing e-books of Springer. These were followed by e-books of Oxford University Press (26.7%), IETE (19.4%) and Cambridge University Press

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Chennupati (2012) found the users' usage of e-books, the preferences between printed books and e-books, the willingness to pay for e-books and the problem faced by the users while using e-books in India. This survey was applied and data was collected through 150 questionnaires. The questionnaires were distributed to the users with a varying profile and on return 120 responses were analyzed. The survey revealed that Indians are generally willing to use and read e-books. 62% of the respondents are aware of international copyright and 38% of the respondents are not aware of the copyright.

4.SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is undertaken to investigate the perception and usage of e-resources among the faculty members and research scholars of surveyed universities. The respondents are aware of e-resources to find the way of promoting the usage of customizations. The scope of research covers two universities namely Bharathidasan University and Madurai Kamaraj University e-resources users' community of faculty members and research scholars working in the universities. The research covers faculty members and research scholars only.

5. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To analyze the awareness on e-resources among the respondents.
- To identify computer knowledge among the respondents of the surveyed two different universities.

- To find out the productivity of research work among the respondents of the surveyed two different universities.
- To find out the e-resources facilities available in the surveyed universities.
- To find out the barriers faced by the respondents in accessing the e-resources.
- To find out the user satisfaction on e-resources and services among the respondents of the surveyed two different universities.

6.METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The research design adopted for the present study is a "Descriptive" one, which is concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual or group. There search is based upon the two university environments of Bharathidasan University and Madurai Kamaraj University, which consist of several departments. The researcher adopted simple random sampling method. Descriptive statistic was employed in the analysis with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The results of the investigation carried out in this study, the analysis of data collected and discussion of findings are presented in this Paper.

Table – 1.1

Distribution of Respondents based on Frequency of Using Computer

S.No.	Frequencies	Bharathidasan University	Madurai Kamaraj University	Total	WAM
1	Daily	198 (55.93)	157 (47.43)	355 (51.82)	170.66
2	Alternate Days	71 (20.06)	83 (25.08)	154 (22.48)	79.00
3	Weekly	50 (14.12)	41 (12.39)	91 (13.28)	44.00
4	Monthly	11 (3.11)	15 (4.53)	26 (3.80)	13.66
5	Occasionally	24 (6.78)	35 (10.57)	59 (8.62)	31.33

[Figures in parentheses represent percentage.]

It is known from Table 1.1 the majority of 55.93% of the respondents from Bharathidasan University stated that they use computers daily and 47.43% from Madurai Kamaraj University use them daily, which is the same again. Further, 20.06% from Bharathidasan University stated that they use computers on alternate days and 25.08% of Madurai Kamaraj University use them on alternate days of the two universities, majority of the respondents use computers daily because

of our educational systems, based on the information and communication technology.

1.2 Distribution of Respondents based on Importance of Computer Literacy for Accessing e-Resources

Now-a-days traditional resources are converted into digital form. The users' community is aware of computer literacy to access in digital information and it is presented in Table 4.9.

Table –1.2

Distribution of Respondents based on Importance of Computer Literacy for Accessing e-Resources

S.No.	Computer Literacy for Accessing e-Resources	Total
1	Strongly Agree	469 (68.00)
2	Agree	106 (15.00)
3	Neutral	66 (10.00)
4	Disagree	33 (5.00)
5	Strongly Disagree	11 (2.00)
	Total	685

[Figures in parentheses represent percentage.]

It is found from Table 1.2 that 68.00% of the respondents opined that they strongly agree, to computer literacy for accessing e-resources. 15.00% of the respondents opined that they agree, to computer literacy for accessing e-resources. 10.00% of the respondents opined that they are neutral, to computer literacy for accessing e-resources. 5.00% of the respondents opined that they disagree, to computer literacy for accessing e-

resources. 2.00% of the respondents opined that they strongly disagree, to computer literacy for accessing e-resources.

Borgman revealed in his study that the use of online resources and retrieval systems require a basic knowledge of computing and searching skills. Similarly this study expressed that the respondents strongly agree 68% that computer literacy is a must to access e-resources.

1.3. A Distribution of Respondents based on Importance of Computer Literacy Vs Gender

Table – 1.3

Distribution of Respondents based on Importance of Computer Literacy Vs Gender

S.No	Computer Literacy for Accessing e-Resources	Male	Female	Total
1	Strongly Agree	433 (77.87)	36 (27.90)	469 (68.00)
2	Agree	64 (11.51)	42 (32.55)	106 (15.00)
3	Neutral	37 (6.65)	29 (22.48)	66 (10.00)
4	Disagree	18 (3.23)	15 11.62)	33 (5.00)
5	Strongly Disagree	4 (0.7)	7 (5.42)	11 (2.00)
	Total	556	129	685

[Figures in parentheses represent percentage.]

The researcher has intended to find out the gender with computer literacy of accessing e-resources. It can be seen from the table 1.3 that higher percentage of male respondents strongly

agree (77.87) the importance of computer literacy and female (32.55) respondents agree the important of computer literacy.

1.4 Distribution of Respondents based on Opinion of Computer Literacy for accessing e-Resources Vs Age

It is found from Table 1.4 that 15.18% of the respondents in Bharathidasan University are below 30 years, 15.76% of the respondents from 31-40 years, 2.91% of the respondents from 41-50 years and 0.87% of the respondents above 50 years opined that they strongly agree, to computer literacy for accessing e-resources. And 0.29% of the

respondents below 30 years, 0.29% of the respondents from 31-40 years, 0.14% of the respondents from 41-50 years and 0.14% of the respondents above 50 years opined that they strongly disagree, to computer literacy for accessing e-resources. It is found the Chi-Square value is 17.19 and its significance level is 0.05.

Table –1.4

Distribution of Respondents based on Opinion of Computer Literacy for Accessing e-Resources Vs Age

S. No	Bharathidasan University						Madurai Kamaraj University					Chi-Square
	Computer literacy for Accessing e-Resources	Below 30 Years	31-40 Years	41- 50 Year	Above 50 Years	WAM	Below 30 Years	31 -40 Years	41-50 Years	Above 50 Years	WAM	
1	Strongly Agree	104 (15.18)	108 (15.76)	20 (2.91)	6 (0.87)	40.40	101 (14.74)	104 (15.18)	20 (2.91)	6 (0.87)	39.30	Chi-17.19 t'=21.0261 df = 12 Sig0.05
2	Agree	21 (3.06)	25 (3.64)	11 (1.60)	2 (0.29)	11.20	19 (2.77)	15 (2.18)	11 (1.60)	2 (0.29)	9.00	
3	Neutral	12 (1.75)	14 (2.04)	5 (0.72)	2 (0.29)	6.30	14 (2.04)	11 (1.60)	6 (0.87)	2 (0.29)	6.20	
4	Disagree	6 (0.87)	8 (1.16)	3 (0.43)	1 (0.14)	3.50	5 (0.72)	7 (1.02)	2 (0.29)	1 (0.14)	3.30	
5	Strongly Disagree	2 (0.29)	2 (0.29)	1 (0.14)	1 (0.14)	1.30	2 (0.29)	1 (0.14)	1 (0.14)	1 (0.14)	1.10	

(Figures in parentheses represent percentage)

In Madurai Kamaraj University 14.74% are below 30 years, 15.18% of the respondents from 31-40 years, 2.91% of the respondents from 41-50 years and 0.87% of the respondents above 50 years opined that they strongly agree, to computer literacy for accessing e-resources. And 0.29% of the respondents are below 30 years, 0.14% of the respondents from 31-40 years, 0.14% of the respondents from 41-50 years and 0.14% of the respondents above 50 years opined that they strongly disagree, to computer literacy for accessing e-resources.

FINDINGS

- ❖ Most of the respondents from Bharathidasan University use computer regularly. Of the two universities, a majority of the respondents use computer daily because our educational system is based on the information communication technology
- ❖ Ranking of the respondents with research publications in Bharathidasan University have published good number of books, national and international journal articles when compared to Madurai Kamaraj University. Bharathidasan University respondents publish good number of books, national and international journal articles.
- ❖ The library professionals should periodically organize short term and long term training programmes/ workshops to the user community for accessing library resources and services especially e-resources.
- ❖ Library professionals should develop their knowledge based on the current development.

CONCLUSION

Use of electronic resources recorded huge success among academic staff and they demonstrated the positive impact of the e-resources on teaching and research work. E-resources have been widely and rapidly accepted in academic spheres and academic universities have widely indicated that they can ably use and access electronic resources. It is necessary that the university library professionals should be proactive in working with the academic community to develop training program aimed at enabling them to use e-resources more effectively. Training was pursued by some academicians to facilitate their use of electronic resources. The Web, e-mail, and search engines follow e-journals in the rank of e-resources being used among academics in the universities. E-resources will continue to enjoy a wider acceptance among the academicians as the future unfolds and barriers to their use are reduced. These studies investigate the overall usage of e-resources in the two university libraries of the large province of Tamil Nadu.

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