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# **Utilization of E- Resources by Faculty Members and Students in Management Institutions, Coimbatore: A Study**

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## ***Abstract***

*This study investigates the relationship between impact of electronic resources and its usage in selected management institution libraries in Coimbatore. This is a quantitative approach-based study done by using questionnaire to gather data and information. A valid response rate of 76% has been obtained. Survey method is used for this study, primary data is collected via questionnaire. Five-point Likert scale is used, SPSS software helped to analyse the data in respect of descriptive elements. The study is relevant as it will help to build up awareness about e-resources and view them as valuable scholarly tools. Another reason for the importance of the study is that it enquires about the purposes for which the academia in higher education uses e-resources, thus contributing to knowledge in those areas. The study recommends library professional to take initiative to make awareness about the e-resources and intensive marketing strategies should be adopted to increase usage of electronic resources in management institution libraries in Coimbatore.*

**Keywords:** Online Database, Electronic Resources, Information Literacy, Management institutions, Coimbatore

## **INTRODUCTION**

Technology has entered all areas of life and the use of information and communication technology (ICT) is common in the 21st century. Libraries have perceived a great metamorphosis in recent years both in their collection development and in their service structures. Thus, Libraries are using technology to improve the management of scholarly information to reinforce and speed access to scholarly information not held locally.

Electronic services have made incredible impact on the academic activities of the faculty, researchers, and students. With the introduction of electronic services, noteworthy transition is seen in their approach and the way in which they seek information. Number of publishers are developing e-Resources packages including e-books, e-journals, and e-databases for the development of higher education and research.

The most effective way to provide access to electronic books/journals in academic libraries is through subscription to online databases which can be accessed through the internet. Online databases are a collection of electronic information sources (e-journals/e-books) by publishers from various fields and disciplines, some of these databases are provided free of charge to libraries in developing countries by their publishers or vendors. The accessibility of e-journals has increased exponentially in the last decade. These have become a pivotal part of the libraries' collection. It is now being estimated that 96.1 percent of journal titles in science, technology and medicine and 86.5 percent titles in the arts, humanities and social sciences are available online. Thus, academic libraries have increased their budget manifold for e-journals, partly out of market trends and partly due to user demands.

In libraries, Electronic Resources have been widely and rapidly accepted in academics, universities have widely indicated that they can skilfully use and access electronic resources. Electronic resources are easily accessible in remote areas. Electronic resources solve storage problems and control the flood of information. Databases and electronic journals are used by academics for both teaching and research, among many other uses.

## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

In the last five decades, the growth of higher education presents a very remarkable representation. There has been commendable quantitative expansion in terms of students' enrolment, number of teachers, colleges, universities, and research degrees. E-resources have become an amalgamated part of the educational system. Academics have indicated satisfaction with their use of electronic resources and have committed their interest to the continuous use of e-resources because their use leads to better research and augments scholarly communication. But academic libraries are struggling with lessening funds for acquisition of these kind of library resources. This is due to the cost involved in acquiring or licensing them and specificities of lack of a physical material attached to them. It is much important to know how these e-resources are being used by the users and up to what extent as it is accessed largely over computer networks. The main purpose of this study was to investigate the awareness, level of use of electronic resources, the academic productivity of teachers and students while using electronic resources in the Management Institutions Library in Coimbatore.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The purpose of the study is to find out the scope of utilization of e-resources by faculty and students of selected Management Institutions in Coimbatore.

#### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

In view of the vast amount of literature available in this field, few are listed here. Thanuskodi (2012) opinion that e-resources are the electronic representation of information. There are available in various forms like e-books, digital libraries, online journal magazine, e-learning tutors and on-line test. Because of the effective presentation with multimedia tools, these e-resources have become the source of information. He further agreed that electronic resources deliver the collection of information as full text databases, e-journals, image collections, multimedia in the form of CD, tape, internet, web. Another study by Gowda and Shivalingaiah (2009) stated that gathered data from researchers of humanities, social science and science disciplines in six universities in Karnataka. Results of the survey shows that in general research scholars prefer print resources and there exist significant differences in the preference of print and e-resources among various disciplines. The discipline wise responses show that the science researchers use the facility most and their counterparts in humanities use least. More than half of the social science disciplines respondents are using the facilities. Full text databases and e-journals are most used resources followed by bibliographic databases and portals. Another study conducted by Dadzie (2007) writes that electronic resources are invaluable research tools that complement the print – based resources in a traditional library setting. Their advantages,

according to her include access to information that might be restricted to the user due to geographical location. Viswanathan and Sasireka (2016) stated that the usage of e-resources has great impact on higher education. As the number of e-resources available is good and satisfied the information needs. Despite positive attitudes towards e-resources, there are some frustrations regarding their use. Lack of computer knowledge doesn't know how to use and restricted access by publishers.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

A questionnaire survey was conducted to collect the information regarding the use of electronic resources, frequency of use of electronic resources, purpose of using electronic resources, frequency of locating desired information, problems faced by users while using electronic resources. A total of 30 questions were designed. Two hundred (200) questionnaires were distributed to collect the primary data. One hundred and fifty-two (152) were found useable representing 76 % of the valid sample size. Stratified random sampling method was followed for the selection of respondents among faculty members and students of selected Management Institutions in Coimbatore. The study was conducted only in Management Institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University only. The study covers geographical limit of Coimbatore District Only.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Main objectives of the study are:

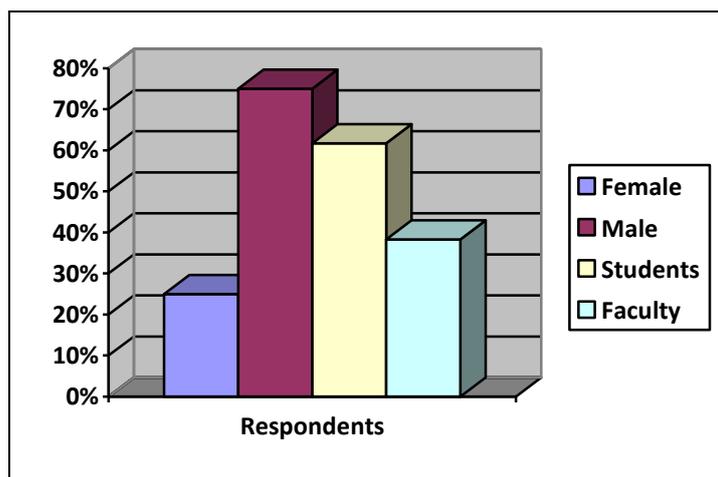
- To find out the level of awareness of electronic resources among the users.
- To find out the frequency of use of electronic resources among the users
- To find out the kind of electronic resources preferred by users
- To ascertain if users are satisfied with the electronic resources.

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

Analysis is not fulfilled without interpretation; and interpretation cannot proceed without analysis. So, both are inter-dependent. In this paper, a detailed analysis of the collected data has been presented and discussed as per the objectives stated earlier.

**Table 1: Demographic information**

| <b>Description</b> | <b>Respondents</b> |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Female             | 25%                |
| Male               | 75%                |
| Students           | 61.7%              |
| Faculty            | 38.3%              |

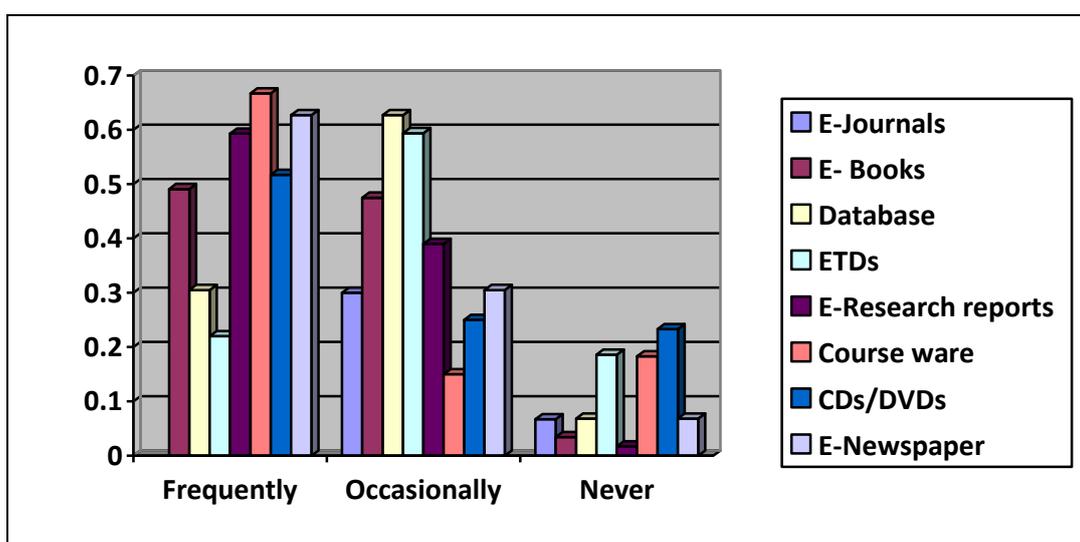


**Fig1. Demographic Details**

The above Table-1 shows that most of them are Male respondents (75%) and female respondents are 25% only. Also 61.7% are students and remaining are faculty members.

**Table 2: Respondents of Frequency of Usage of E-Resources**

| E-Resources        | Frequently | Occasionally | Never |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| E-Journals         | 63.3%      | 30.0%        | 6.7%  |
| E- Books           | 49.1%      | 47.5%        | 3.4%  |
| Database           | 30.5%      | 62.7%        | 6.8%  |
| ETDs               | 22%        | 59.4%        | 18.6% |
| E-Research reports | 59.3%      | 39.0%        | 1.7%  |
| Course ware        | 66.7%      | 15.0%        | 18.3% |
| CDs/DVDs           | 51.7%      | 25%          | 23.3% |
| E-Newspaper        | 62.7%      | 30.5%        | 6.8%  |



**Fig2. Respondents of Frequency of Usage of E-Resources**

The above Table-2 reveals that Most of the respondents (66.7%) were frequently using Courseware in Covid Pandemic Time. It is followed by 63.3% were frequently using E-Journals for their academic & research Purpose. Most of them (62.7%) were using Online Databases Occasionally, E-newspapers are widely used among the users and 59.3% were using E-research reports and Projects. 59.4% of the respondents occasionally used Electronic Thesis & Dissertations (ETDs). 23.3% of the respondents never used CD/DVDs and its followed by ETDs.

**Table 3: Respondents of Advantages for using E-resources**

| <b>Advantages</b> | <b>Strongly Agree</b> | <b>Agree</b> | <b>Moderately Agree</b> | <b>Disagree</b> | <b>Strongly Disagree</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Time saving       | 45.0%                 | 21.7%        | 23.3%                   | 6.7%            | 3.3%                     |
| Easy to use       | 46.0%                 | 18.3%        | 18.0%                   | 16.7%           | 1.0%                     |
| More Informative  | 43.2%                 | 28.3%        | 11.4%                   | 12.6%           | 4.5%                     |
| Cost saving       | 38.2%                 | 31.1%        | 15.0%                   | 10.2%           | 5.5%                     |

The above Table-3 shows that nearly half of the respondents strongly agree that electronic resources are time saving, easy to use and more informative. Hence, these advantages make the use of e-resources popular. Only 5.5% respondents are strongly disagreed that e-resources are cost saving.

**Table 4: Respondents of Source of getting e-resources facilities & services**

| <b>Source</b>               | <b>Strongly Agree</b> | <b>Agree</b> | <b>Moderately Agree</b> | <b>Disagree</b> | <b>Strongly Disagree</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Through Library Orientation | 25                    | 25           | 30                      | 16.7            | 3.3                      |
| Through library staff       | 20                    | 43.3         | 13.3                    | 20.0            | 3.3                      |
| Through Faculty             | 26.7                  | 43.3         | 10                      | 16.7            | 3.3                      |
| College website             | 18.3                  | 23.3         | 28.3                    | 18.3            | 11.7                     |
| Library Email/circular      | 16.7                  | 36.7         | 25                      | 8.3             | 13.3                     |
| Self-Exposure               | 21.7                  | 26.7         | 28.3                    | 10              | 13.3                     |
| Other modes                 | 25.5                  | 30.7         | 15.3                    | 16.8            | 11.7                     |

The above Table-4 shows that 26.7% of the users getting updates, facilities & services of e-resources through teachers and it's followed by library orientation. 20% reported that through library staff helps them to update on e-resources. 43.3% strongly agreed that their faculty members and library staffs are main source of getting e-resources services.

**Table 5: Respondents of Purpose of using e-resources**

| <b>Purpose</b>                  | <b>Strongly Agree</b> | <b>Agree</b> | <b>Moderately Agree</b> | <b>Disagree</b> | <b>Strongly Disagree</b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| For study/ coursework           | 36                    | 33.3         | 20                      | 7.5             | 3.2                      |
| For research work /projects     | 27.4                  | 37.0         | 16.3                    | 16.0            | 3.3                      |
| For Teaching Purposes           | 45                    | 11.7         | 10                      | 18              | 15                       |
| To Update the Subject Knowledge | 26.3                  | 35.4         | 12.3                    | 14.3            | 11.7                     |
| For writing research articles   | 18.7                  | 24.1         | 15.5                    | 20.7            | 21                       |

The above Table-5 reveals that 45% strongly agreed that they are using e-resources for teaching purpose and it is followed by 36% of the respondents using e-resources for studying/ course work. Also 37% of the respondents agreed that they are using e-resources for research purpose. Few respondents are agreed that they used e-resources for writing research articles.

## **CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The study investigated the relationship between the impact of electronic resources and usage in Management Institutions libraries in Coimbatore. All the four contracts (satisfaction level, preferred database, time and frequency, and level of awareness) of impact of electronic resources indicated a significant positive relationship with usage among the users. Based on the premise above, all the above hypothesized relationships between impact of electronic resources and usage are accepted.

The study recommends that the institutions should adopt more dynamic marketing strategies to inform and create awareness of the existence of the electronic resources. They must highlight on the availability of databases, time and frequency of accessibility of the system. These could include new student's orientation, faculty seminars, mailing list to users, circulars, and through word of mouth. Adoption of various marketing strategies to promote the use of e-resources will certainly help the institutions to reach maximum users thereby create awareness and ensure quality information dissemination to the users.

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