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Awareness and Usage of Electronic Resources by the Faculty Members - A Case Study

Chandran Velmurugan Dr
Librarian and Head , Meenakshi Medical College Hospital and Research Institute, Kanchipuram, TN, India,
murugan73@gmail.com

R RAGHOTHAM
Sri Krishnadevaraya University, raghusku99@gmail.com

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R. RAGHOTHAM

Jr. Library Assistant
Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur- 515003,
Andhra Pradesh, India
Email id: raghusku99@gmail.com

and

Dr. C. VELMURUGAN

Librarian and Head
Meenakshi Medical College Hospital and Research Institute
Kanchipuram-631 552, Tamilnadu, India
Email: murugan73@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper aimed to explore the awareness and usage of online resources by the faculty members of Vivekanandha Arts and Science College for Women, Salem. The current study is rooted in primary data which were collected from the faculty members who are working in different departments of Vivekanandha Arts and Science College for Women. A total of 200 well structured and designed questionnaires were dispersed among the faculty members and we received only 179 filled questionnaires were returned out of 200 sample of population and the total response rate was 89.5%. The results of the study was observed and found the maximum number of 112 users (62.57%) was male distribution. Seventy percent of the faculty members were under the age group between 26 and 50 and 66.48 percent of the respondents were from rural area. It is observed the huge proportion of (42.46%) 76 faculty members were comes under Assistant professors and they ranked the first. It is noted the major portion of 91 (50.84%) faculty members were using the Internet in the central library for preparing research work. This study has recommended that more electronic journals and databases should be subscribed to, that awareness and training programmes for accessing electronic resources to be implemented, and the digital library infrastructure facilities to be enhanced.

Keywords: Electronic Resources, E-Resources, Online Resources, Digital Resources, viaas, Arts College, Science College, Salem.

Introduction

The word e- resources are also called as electronic resources or online resources. They are the collections of information in electronic or digital mode of format which is accessed through the electronic devices such as computer, mobile phone, iPod, laptop, kindle device etc. As pointed

out by Velmurugan (2013), with the emergence of new techniques and technologies, electronic information resources are becoming more and more significant for the academic society and an awareness of these electronic resources is of paramount characteristic to the library development in the 21st century. Tekale and Dalve (2012) expressed the characteristics of the electronic resources such as electronic resources are quick information, available at 24/7, provides hyperlinks, enormous information reservoirs, variety of search engines, easy storage and flexibility and easy citations etc. Shelton (2011) declared that the use of digital resources through academic personnel in the United Kingdom universities has revealed that 87 percent of the user communities are well aware and using e-resources in their research activities. Online resources have been successfully incorporated into learning, teaching, and research in Australian institutions, according to Deng (2010). This has inspired him to investigate the usage patterns and trends of electronic resources across all staff and student categories in higher education in Australia. Aina (2004) stated that electronic resources are information medium in an electronic format. Shim, McClure and Bertot (2001) indicates that electronic resources are information which accessed electronically via a computing network by user community. Therefore, this study tried to focus on the awareness and usage of electronic resources among faculty members at Vivekanandha Arts and Science College for Women in Sankari, Salem in India.

Review of Literature

Previous studies tried to identify the awareness and usefulness of electronic resources such as online journals and e-books, and electronic databases. For this study, a few of the recent research have been chosen. Chanda, Anupam (2021) made an attempt to explore the awareness of E-resources among the College Students in Assam. The main objective was to observe the level of awareness of e-resources and their usage pattern and also this study tried to reveal the perception of college students on the use of electronic resources, the challenges and their level of satisfaction with using the e-resources. This study employed a descriptive survey design and online questionnaire method used for data collection. The results of the study reveal that 52.81% of the respondents were highly aware of the e-resources. It was noted 87.29% of the respondents use the smart phone as the most used device for accessing e-resources. It was also noted that 53.49% of the respondents said that they were highly satisfied by using e-resources.

Doraswamy (2020) studied the utilization of print resources in Degree college libraries in Visakhapatnam district during 2020. He found some results that the postgraduate students used more number of reference and competitive books, and dissertations as compared to undergraduate students. He also noted that the undergraduate students used more number of news papers as compared to postgraduate students. He concluded that there was no significant association among undergraduate and post graduate students in the use of text books. Further, he suggested that the authorities of the colleges should conduct more orientation programmes for their library users at regular intervals to enhance effective use of the library resources. Holeyannavar (2015) carried out a study on Internet Use by Faculty Members at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum. He found that the majority 98.00% respondents using the internet for research and teaching and 85.00 % respondents use the Internet for E-mail purpose.

He also suggested that the user education programmes for the faculty should be conducted at regular intervals and the internet speed should be increased to reduce the access time. Velmurugan (2013) examined the study to know the awareness and utilization of library electronic resources among faculty members of SKR Engineering College (SKREC) at Chennai. To analyze a descriptive method was used with a total of 105 as sample population. The results show that nearly fifty percent of respondents were lectures and 62.8 percent of respondents were well aware of electronic resources and only 37.2 % of them were not aware. It is also found that almost 60 percent of respondents faced the problem of slow Internet access speed.

Srinivasulu and Pulla Reddy (2010) examined a survey of Medical College Libraries in Andhra Pradesh with objectives were to know the impact and use of information technology in medical college libraries and to observe the differences between the libraries of government and private medical colleges relating to the different aspects of libraries. He found based on the results, forty eight of the students reported that their libraries are not providing reprographic service and seventy percent of the respondents stated that they do not know about SDI service and 92.40 percent replied that their colleges not having digital library and 80.61 percent of the students reported that they were not aware of open access electronic journals available on Internet.

Olle and Borrego (2010) reported their study on the impact of electronic journals and scholarly information that Google Scholar was an emerging significant basis of information for research people owing to their knowledge up-date, citations and ranking etc. Kaur (2002) pointed out that the use of internet access at the Guru Nanak University, Amritsar and the results indicated that major proportion of the respondents faced the problem of slow speed of Internet connectivity while they were accessing the internet for study purpose. Some notable studies on awareness and use pattern of electronic resources among student community in accordance with Adomi,Omodeko and Otolo (2004), Annuobi, (2005); Gitta and Odongo, (2009) revealed that access and utilization of electronic information resources among students was very little.

College and Central Library Profile

The Vivekanandha Arts and Science College for Women, which is affiliated with Periyar University, is located at Veerachipalayam, Sankari west post, Sankari Taluk in the Salem District of Tamil Nadu. The 2,00,000 sq. ft. building space includes classrooms, a library, labs, a separate seminar hall for the arts and sciences department, a smart auditorium, and learning centres, among other things. The college's library is a learning centre with a sizable number of collections that supports the academic endeavours of students, professors, and the local community with cutting-edge information services. It is a hybrid library that uses cutting-edge technological tools. The complete library has a collection of books, periodicals, non-book materials, and other items related to computer science, life science, and other fields. It keeps separate collections of reference books, journals, theses, video cassettes, and CDs, among other materials, as well as electronic resources like N-List, DELNET, NDLI, CDs and DVDs, as well as books and journals with open access, among many other things.

Objectives of the Study

The present study aims to observe the impact of electronic resources used by the faculty members at Vivekanandha Arts and Science College for Women, Salem, India. The objectives of the study are as follows:

➢ To know the level of awareness about e-resources by the faculty members.
➢ To examine the use of electronic information resources among the faculty members.
➢ To analyze the gender, age and experience wise distribution by the faculty members.
➢ To see the frequency of Library visit to use E-Resources among faculties and
➢ To observe the level of satisfaction on Electronic Resources among the faculty members

Methodology and Limitations

Research Tools like the random sampling technique and the questionnaire method were used to achieve the aforementioned goals. In April 2022, a survey was conducted at the Vivekanandha Arts and Science College for Women in Salem. Only 179 of the 200 completed questionnaires that were distributed to the faculty members and carefully constructed and prepared were returned, yielding an overall response rate of 89.5 percent. For clarity and better understanding, the obtained data was examined, divided into categories, tabulated, and figured.

This study is confined to Vivekanandha Arts and Science College for women, Sankari affiliated to Periyar University, Salem connected with the awareness and usage of electronic resources.

Analysis and Results

1. **Gender wise distribution**

The analysis indicates the gender distribution, and the results show that the majority of the 112 users (62.57 percent) were male, with the remaining 37.43 percent being female. The findings show that male faculty members made up the majority of responders.

Table 1: Gender wise distribution

S. No	Gender	Respondents Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	112	62.57
2	Female	67	37.43
	Total	179	100

2. **Age wise distribution**

The age distribution of the Vivekanandha Arts and Science College for Women faculty is shown in Table 2. The typical age range was from under 25 to over 50. According to the survey's findings, the age group from 26 to 30 made up the bulk of participants - 57, or 31.84 percent, followed by 27. 37% of the faculty members were between the ages of 31 and 40 or younger.

The age group over fifty had the fewest respondents (9, or 5.03 percent). More than 70% of the faculty members were under the age of 26 at the time of the study, according to the results.

Table 2: Age wise distribution

S. No	Age	Respondents Frequency	Percentage
1	Below 25	23	12.85
2	26-30	57	31.84
3	31-40	49	27.37
4	41-50	41	22.91
5	More than 50	9	5.03
	Total	179	100

3. Experience wise distribution

Table 3 shows that the majority of the 58 (32.41%) faculty members at Vivekanandha Arts and Science College for Women have 11 to 20 years of experience, followed by 49 (27.38%) faculty members with 6 to 10 years of experience, and only 21 (11.73%) faculty members with more than 31 years of experience.

Table 3: Experience wise distribution

S. No	Experience	Respondents Frequency	Percentage
1	Upto 5 years	18	10.05
2	6-10	49	27.38
3	11-20	58	32.41
4	21-30	33	18.43
5	Above 31	21	11.73
	Total	179	100

4. Respondents distribution by Residence

During the study, the researchers examined the faculty members' distribution by residency. Table 4 demonstrates how the distribution of residences is split into two categories, such as rural and urban. It shows that out of 119 respondents, 119 (66.48%) were from rural areas, and 60 (33.52%) were from urban areas.

Table 4: Residence wise distribution

S. No	Category	Respondents Frequency	Percentage
1	Rural	119	66.48
2	Urban	60	33.52
	Total	179	100

5. Educational Qualifications

This table examines the five educational backgrounds that were selected for the current study, including professor, associate professor, assistant professor, and guest lecturer and visiting professor. The results show that an enormous percentage of (42.46 percent) of the 76 faculty members fell under the category of assistant professors, and they were placed top. Associate professors, who received 54 responses, came in second place, with the fewest responders being others (4.47 percent).

Table 5: Qualification wise respondents

S. No	Qualification	Respondents Frequency	Percentage
1	Professor	41	22.91
2	Associate Professor	54	30.16
3	Assistant Professor	76	42.46
4	Others	8	4.47
	Total	179	100

6. Knowledge of Computer Literacy

For all professions in the digital age, learning how to use computers is essential. With this in mind, the current study has made an effort to determine the faculty members' computer understanding and knowledge. The survey reveals that every responder was computer literate, and the findings demonstrate that 97 faculty members, or 54.19 percent of them, have exceptional computer knowledge, while just 5.03 percent have merely adequate proficiency.

Table 6: Knowledge of Computer Literacy

S. No	Factor	Respondents Frequency	Percentage
1	Excellent	97	54.19
2	Good	51	28.49
3	Fair	22	12.29
4	Satisfactory	9	5.03
	Total	179	100

7. Purpose of Internet Use

To properly use the internet, faculty members go to the main library. As a result, Table 7 depicts the purpose of using the internet, and the findings show that the majority of 91 faculty members (50.84 percent) used the Internet at the central library to prepare research projects. Sixty eight (37.99%) of the faculty members used the Internet to refresh themselves and expand their knowledge. Only 5.03 percent of the faculty members were found to be utilizing the internet for leisure.

Table 7: Purpose of Internet Use

S. No	Purpose to visit	Respondents Frequency	Percentage
1	For Research work	91	50.84
2	For Enrich knowledge	68	37.99
3	For Email / Chatting	11	6.14
4	For Entertainment	9	5.03
	Total	179	100

8. Level of Awareness on E-Resources

Table 8 pointed out that almost all faculty members of the college were well known and familiar with the online resources which are available in the central library.

Table 8: Level of Awareness on E-Resources

S. No	Awareness on E-Resources	Respondents Frequency	Percentage
1	Aware	179	100.00
2	Not aware	0	0
	Total	179	100

9. Frequency of Library visit to use E-Resources

Table 9 (fig.1) shows how frequently faculty members visit the library to use the electronic resources. The findings indicate that the majority of female faculty members (38.03 percent) and the majority of male faculty members (37.96 percent) visited the central library daily to use the online resources, with 30.55 percent of the male and 19.72 percent of the female respondents visiting on a weekly basis. It is noteworthy that only a small number (11.27 percent) of female respondents and 6.48 percent of male respondents visited the central library occasionally to access the digital contents, while 15.49 percent of female users and 12.96 percent of male users visited the library to use online resources every two weeks.

Table 9: Frequency of Library to use E-Resources

S. No	Frequency	Male	Female	Mean	Variance	Total
1	Daily	41 (37.96%)	27 (38.03%)	34.0	98.0	68
2	Weekly	33 (30.55%)	14 (19.72%)	23.5	180.5	47
3	Fortnightly	14 (12.96%)	11 (15.49%)	12.5	4.5	25
4	Monthly	13 (12.03%)	11 (15.49%)	12.0	2.0	24
5	Irregularly	7 (6.48%)	8 (11.27%)	7.5	0.5	15

	Total	108	71	-	-	179

Source: Primary data Chi- square value: 0.404

Testing of Hypothesis

H₀: Null Hypothesis

➤ There is no significant relationship between male and female of the faculty members and their frequency of library visit to use E-Resources.
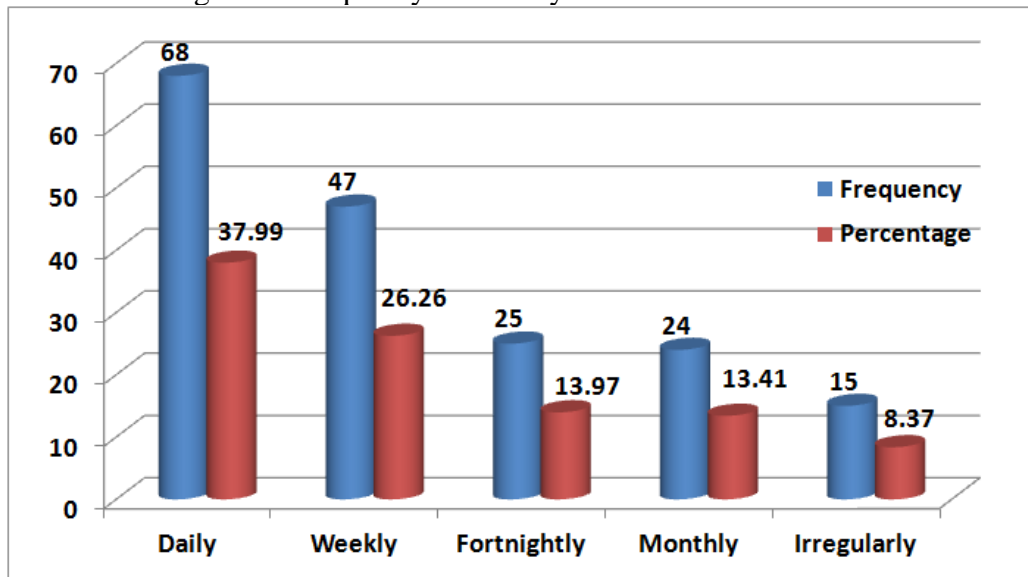
H₁: Alternative Hypothesis

➤ There is a significant relationship between male and female of the faculty members and their frequency of library visit to use E-Resources.

Chi-Square Calculated Value	Degree of Freedom	Chi-Square Table Value@5%
0.404	4	9.49

It is confirmed that the table value of χ^2 for 4 degree of freedom at 0.05% level of significance is 9.49. It indicates the calculated value of χ^2 is lesser than the table value and therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted and the Alternative hypothesis is rejected. Based on the analysis, it is confirmed that there is no significant relationship between male and female of the faculty members and their frequency of library visit to use E-Resources.

Figure 1: Frequency of Library visit to use E-Resources

10. Level of satisfaction on E- Resources

Through data analysis, the level of satisfaction among the college's faculty members was determined. It was discovered that more than 50% of the faculty members are completely satisfied with the availability of online resources in the central library, followed by 34.64 percent of the faculty who felt partially satisfied, and nearly only 11% of respondents who did not respond. According to the findings, approximately 90% of faculty members are happy with the e-resources they used.

Table 10: Level of satisfaction on E- Resources

S. No	Level of satisfaction	Respondents Frequency	Percentage
1	Fully Satisfied	98	54.75
2	Partially Satisfied	62	34.64
3	Not Satisfied	12	6.70
4	No response	7	3.91
	Total	179	100

Major Findings

Based on the data collected and analyzed by the researchers, the selected findings are given below.

➢ It is observed the maximum number of 112 users (62.57%) was male distribution

➢ It is analyzed the maximum number 70% of the faculty members were under the age group between 26 and 50 and 66.48 percent of the respondents were from rural area.

➢ It is observed the huge proportion of (42.46%) 76 faculty members were comes under Assistant professors and they ranked the first.

➢ It is found the mammoth number of 97 (54.19%) faculty members excellent knowledge in computer

➢ It is noted the major portion of 91 (50.84%) faculty members were using the Internet in the central library for preparing research work.

➢ It is examined the major number of 65% of the faculty members both male and female visited the central library daily to use the online resources.

➢ It is seen that more than fifty percent of the faculty members are fully satisfied with the availability of online resources in the central library.

Discussion and Conclusion

Electronic resources play a crucial role in academic, research, and development in the digital age. Academic digital libraries must give more appropriate credit to electronic information

sources, infrastructure, and services with the use of new technology. Some relevant studies conducted on digital resources in different periods and few of them discussed in the present study. Balasubramani, Anbalagan, and Prabhu (2022) investigated to know the aware of electronic resources by the faculty members of Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College. A total sample of 277 Faculty Members was randomly selected from thirteen departments using empirical method. The results reveal that the huge number of (86.17%) faculty members were highly aware on IEEE, Springer Open and O'reilly Open book and 80.24% of the faculty members fully satisfied with NPTEL resources. Another study was conducted by Adedokun (2022) using descriptive survey with 305 community health practitioners from Primary Health Care centres in Ibadan out of which 215 respondents were selected through random sampling technique. The findings of the study show that the majority of (38.0%) were between the age of 35 and 45 years, and 62.2% were female while 29.4% were male. It was observed 85.9% of the respondents said that they could make effective use of information resources and services whereas 90.2% of the respondents said that information literacy leads to significant changes in the state of knowledge. A study was done by Singh, Sulekha and Ram (2022), and they observed and found that the awareness and use of open educational resources among the research scholars of Kurukshetra University, Haryana, India. 81.08 percent filled questionnaire were retrieved back out of 185 and used the purpose random sampling method to analyze the data and the results showed that most of the research scholars were very popular with digital educational resources. Kumar, et al. (2010) carried out a study on the faculty members and doctoral candidates regarding the availability of resources and services at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology library, Meerut. The findings of the study revealed that more than 70 percent of the users visited the library to access the electronic resources daily and 40% of the faculty members and doctoral candidates were fully satisfied with the quality of library services. Tran, Lan Anh (2000) explored the study on training and implementation of electronic resources as a curriculum for Vietnam. The results of this research found that ten proposed courses namely were for implementation and the courses were offered in a sequence that coherent with existing curriculum to the degree that feasible. Carlson and Reidy (2004) have conducted to identify the effective access of faculty's use of online resources. The study was examined at the higher level education to explicate the discrepancies and parallels between developers' understandings of faculties' necessary and what faculty actually their needs. The results suggested that they should create a bridge between the needs of teachers and the work of developers from corner to corner of all disciplines in future.

Few research works carried out one the authors of this study such as Velmurugan (2017) examined the Information Use Pattern of Users through particular disciplines at Periyar University in Salem. He observed and found that more than 54 percent of the users were female and 42 percent of the total users were visited the library daily. There were Ninety percent of the users using the digital library in an effective manner. Another study conducted by Velmurugan (2013) to know the level of Library user visit of undergraduate students at an Engineering College Library, affiliated to Anna University, Chennai and based on the research results, he suggested to increase the users' visit, the department heads and supporting faculty members and

also library science personnel have to take necessary serious action to make available latest edition of information resources in both digital and physical formats based on the users convenient. In the same year, Velmurugan (2013) carried out a study to identify the usage of electronic information resources by the user community at Siva Institute of Frontier Technology, India. The results showed that most of the users (34.14%) came to prepare for projects and the least number of user community were (6.51%) to write book reviews. It was noted that 68.29 percent of the users were satisfied with the availability of digital resources.

The goal of the current study was to determine the relationship between the influence of electronic resources and how well they were used by the faculty at Vivekanandha Arts and Science College for Women in Salem. We looked at a number of factors, including gender, age, educational background, years of experience, frequency of library visits for e-resource use, awareness and satisfaction levels, and more. According to the analysis, it is proven that there is no correlation between faculty members' frequency of visits to the library to use electronic resources and their gender. According to this study, more electronic journals and databases should be subscribed to, e-resource access awareness and training programmes should be implemented, digital library infrastructure facilities should be improved, and library staff should offer sufficient assistance with information searching.

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