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## INFORMATION SOURCES AND SERVICES FOR USING RESEARCH SCHOLARS AND FACULTY MEMBERS IN THE SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCE IN PERIYAR UNIVERSITY, SALAM, TAMILNADU: A CASE STUDY

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**INFORMATION SOURCES AND SERVICES FOR USING RESEARCH SCHOLARS AND  
FACULTY MEMBERS IN THE SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCE IN PERIYAR  
UNIVERSITY, SALAM, TAMILNADU: A CASE STUDY**

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**ABSTRACT**

This paper described that users visit the school of Life Science in Periyar University for collecting information from Research scholars and faculty members. The researchers have attempted to find out the perceptions and outlook of the university library users with highly response to utilize the facility is available. The study shows that the quality of collection with respect to books, Journals and e-resources. Purpose of using e-resources and satisfaction level of using e-resources. This study reveals that the accuser to spent more than one hours for searching e-resources. Access e-resources for preparing the papers for seminars and conferences at the same time Google is the most widely used search engine and next level Bing search engine are very much satisfied with the use of e-resources. Services Quality for the university library in Inter Library Loan (ILL) Services through DELNET and INFLIBNET.

**Keywords,** E-Resources, Open Access resources, Library resources, Library services, User Studies.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Information plays major role in meeting the information needs of the user community. Information has its own value and essential for survival and progress of the society. The information which was preserved in lock and key, is shared, exchanged and disseminated to the user community.

Since the information is a vital integration to the educational institutions, library is considered as store house of information needs to stimulate the academic and research community to utilize available resources, because huge amount is being spent for procuring the resources.

Information plays significant role in development of the individual as well as the nation. Due to advancements of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), the growth of information is manifold. The major reasons for information explosion are easy publication of information over the web, interdisciplinary research, multidisciplinary research, specialization and varying information needs of the user community. Library is treated as central focus of any institution procures, organises, preserves and disseminate the information to the right user at right time in right perspective way. In this digital environment, lots of electronic resources are available. The resources are such as electronic journals, electronic books, e-Databases, e-Theses and Dissertations, e-Reports, e-Magazines, e-Newspapers and lot of Open Access Resources (OAR) are available must be brought to the notice of the user community and ensure that the resources are being utilised effectively.

Every institute spends sizable portion of the amount to subscription of various resources to the user community. The amount invested for subscription of resources can be compensated if the resources are being utilised effectively by the academic community, otherwise the common man tax will become waste and it will be great loss to the individual, institution and the nation as a whole. Library has to take a judicial role in procuring the resources which are very much useful to the academic and research community such as students, research scholars and faculty members. It is also important that the library professionals should ensure whether balanced collection is being maintained so that all the discipline users will use the resources and the research also will be same in all disciplines.

### **1.1 . Impact of Information Technology on libraries**

Library attached to the educational institutions are considered as hub of the institutions where all the information sources and services are available meets the information needs of the students, research scholars and faculty members.

Information Technology (IT) poses series of challenges to the libraries which has shown a great impact on library services. Access to information over the web has changed the role of the libraries and librarians. Librarians and libraries of today have to deal with both printed as well as electronic information. When comparing to the printed resources, electronic resources are flexible can be accessed from multiple locations by multiple users at any time.

The electronic resources can be made available within the library, local, regional, national and international. Hence, libraries in these days must work with both printed as well as electronic resources, which is also called hybrid library. RFID, which eliminates LIS professionals intervention and they can work on some other activities.

## **1.2 . Information seeking behaviour**

Information Seeking Behaviour (ISB) refers to the activities performed by the users in searching, identifying and use of the identified resources. It is totally human behaviour in relation to sources and channels of information, including both active and passive information seeking and information use.

## **1.3 Electronic resources**

Electronic resources are information available in digital format which needs computers and communication networks to access the resources. In this digital technology era, for every printed resources, there is an equivalent electronic resources. There are different types of electronic resources such as electronic journals, electronic books, e-Databases, e-Theses and Dissertations, e-Magazines/Newspapers, e-Reports, multimedia resources, CD-ROMs. There are many limitations in print resources such as use of single user, access within the library timings, loss of books, theft. Electronic resources are considered as important one because of access by many users simultaneously, access by removing the geographical boundaries, have multiple copies and access at any time. There are many publishers such as IEEE Explore, Elsevier Science Direct, ASCE Journals, ASME Journals, EBSCO, Springer etc have brought their information through electronic mode. These resources can be accessed or subscribed based on subscription through payment. The publishers will made it available of the above said resources based on IP range so that the user who falls in the specified IP range can access the sources. Most of the academic libraries have subscribed electronic resources either individually or through consortia for their academic and research community.

### **1.3.1 Different types of e-resources**

Electronic resources are available in different formats same like printed resources. Following are the list of electronic resources.

- e-books

- e-journals
- e-theses and dissertations
- e-magazines
- e-newspapers
- e-bibliographic databases
- full text databases
- e-audio/visual resources
- e-data archives
- Institutional repositories
- e-manuscripts
- e-reports
- e-maps

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The university Library most uses research scholars and faculty members using for books, journals and magazine use for research purposes. Most of the scholars and faculty used printed materials than electronics materials and in web based information services. OPAC and ugc-infonet digital library consortium resources by scholars and faculty members of school of life science. The main aim is to determine the needs of scholars and faculty members of Periyar University in the discipline of varies activities and to find out how far their information needs are fulfilled by the information resources available through ugc-infonet digital library consortium. The paper attempts to define this consortium, its objectives, scope, e-resources subscribed and the government initiative to provide current information in various disciplines for research and teaching excellence.

A study on user attitude towards electronic information resources in Academic Libraries: a cross faculty analysis was conducted by **Dehigama& Dharmarathne (2015)**.For the study, the authors have selected two faculty libraries of University of Peradenia. The study falls under descriptive nature. From the analysis of the study, it is found that majority of the

respondents were not aware of the electronic information resources, which was the major reason that they were not using the electronic information sources. Among various electronic resources, highest numbers of respondents have used e-mails, e-databases and e-journals and other sources were utilised less by the respondents. The respondents have faced many problems, in which some of the problems are that they have less number of computers and requested the authority to make it available of the resources at convenient time. They also requested that the information should be accessed from outside the library. The study recommended that user awareness programme should be provided to the users quite often to utilise there sources.

A study on “Awareness and Usage of Electronic Information Resources among Post Graduate Students of Library and Information Science in Southern Nigeria” was conducted by **Alkpojotor (2016)**. The major purpose of the study was to find out the awareness level and usage of electronic resources among the students. Based on the analysis, the study found significant difference between the respondents level of awareness with usage of electronic resources, and found that post graduate students of the surveyed institution has high level of awareness, usage of electronic resources and skills and encountered number of challenges while accessing the electronic resources. The study concluded that electronic information resources are very much essential to the post graduate students for their academic purpose.

User satisfaction on electronic resources and services in Kerala State University libraries was conducted by **Binu & Baskaran (2017)**. Kerala is one of the Indian states has many universities. For this study, the researcher has selected only six universities. In order to collect data from the respondents, the researcher has used questionnaire method. 421 questionnaires distributed to the students, research scholars and faculty members. The respondents have used electronic resources for various purposes such as projects, assignments and so on. With regard to satisfaction with the available resources and services, the respondents have mentioned that they were happy with the resources. Based on the findings of the study, the study recommended procuring more resources and providing periodic training to the user community in order to utilise the electronic resources effectively and compensate the amount spent for procuring electronic resources.

A study on “User Perception of Electronic Information Resources: A case study of Alagappa College of Arts and Science, Tamil Nadu, India” was conducted by **Alagu & Thanuskodi (2018)**, The major objectives of the study were to find out awareness, current use of electronic resources, level of satisfaction, and purpose of using electronic resources. Survey research design was used for the study. Findings of the study revealed that 85% of the respondents were aware of e-Resources and e- Journals and e-Books were the mostly used by the respondents. It was also found that most of the respondents used e-Resources for preparing projects followed by writing articles, prepare study notes, and only small number of respondents used electronic resources for seminars/assignments and to get general knowledge. Again, majority of the respondents were satisfied with the relevance of the electronic resources followed by second highest were highly satisfied and very less was moderately satisfied. The study suggested to provide more training to the users and recommended to install surveillance system to identify which journals are used much by the respondents and to cancel other resources if those resources are not utilised properly.

A study on “Use of Electronic Information resources: a case study of Thapar University” was conducted by **Kaur &Verma (2019)**. The major objective of the study was to know the use and awareness of electronic resources and find the impact of usage of print as well as electronic resources. Survey method was used to collect primary data. The respondents were undergraduate, post graduate students, research scholars and faculty members of the university. The findings of the study shows that e-Journals were used by large number of users, the impact showed that there is a decreasing trend in collection of print journals. The results also revealed that the respondents use in library is low, which is because of the users were able to access the resources from anywhere. By seeing the decrease in use of print journals, Thaper University is putting maximum effort to provide electronic information services to the users.

### **3. ABOUT PERIYAR UNIVERSITY**

Periyar University is one of the Tamil Nadu State Government Universities established in the month of September 1997 as per the provisions of Periyar University Act, 1997. Each university covers certain districts as jurisdiction area. Periyar University covers

four districts namely Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri. The university has got 12 (B) and 2f status from University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi and accredited with “A” Grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore, which is accreditation council assess the universities and colleges in India periodically for ranking and funding. Based on the rankings, the university has bagged 68<sup>th</sup> position among the Indian Universities by NIRF, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), New Delhi.

### **3.1. Periyar University Library**

Periyar University Library is being established in 1997 has 92,567 volumes of books and reference books on various disciplines. The library subscribes 180 National and International journals and 13 leading Newspapers. The library follows open access system and meets the needs of the P.G. Students, M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars, faculty members and staff of the University. The library used modern technologies for all library activities has good infrastructure and digital technology facilities. Library has various sections namely Reference Section, Stack Area for text books, Competitive Examination Section, Theses Dissertations Section, Back Volumes Section, Reprographic Section, Question Banks etc. Library not only serves of the University, it also serves the students and faculties of affiliated colleges.

### **3.2. Library services**

1. Circulation Service: (Books issue / return /renewal)
2. Reference Service
3. Online Public Access Catalogue(OPAC)
4. Selective Dissemination of Information Service(SDI)
5. Current Awareness Service(CAS)
6. Question Bank Service
7. Reprographic Service
8. Internet Service
9. Inter Library Loan (ILL) Services through DELNET and INFLIBNET

10. Courseware Repositories
11. Article Repositories
12. TOC (Table of Contents) e-delivery service.

### **3.3. Library resources**

The library has very good collection of books, journals both print and online, theses and dissertations, back volumes, newspapers, CDs, reports, Audio & Video Cassettes.

### **3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:

- To know the gender wise and department wise analysis on the usage of E- Resources by Research Scholars and Faculty members of Life Science school in Periyar University.
- To determine the type of some information sources and services require the users community
- To find out the satisfaction level on different electronic resources available in the library
- To find out the satisfaction level on electronic services provided by the library
- To find out the satisfaction level on various infrastructure facilities available in the university library

### **5. METHODOLOGY**

A structured questionnaire was distributed to the 86 respondents of users in school of life science and received 70 questionnaires from research scholars and faculty members of university. All the Valued responses were tabulated analyzed and interpreted in the following paragraph.

### **6. Analysis of Data**

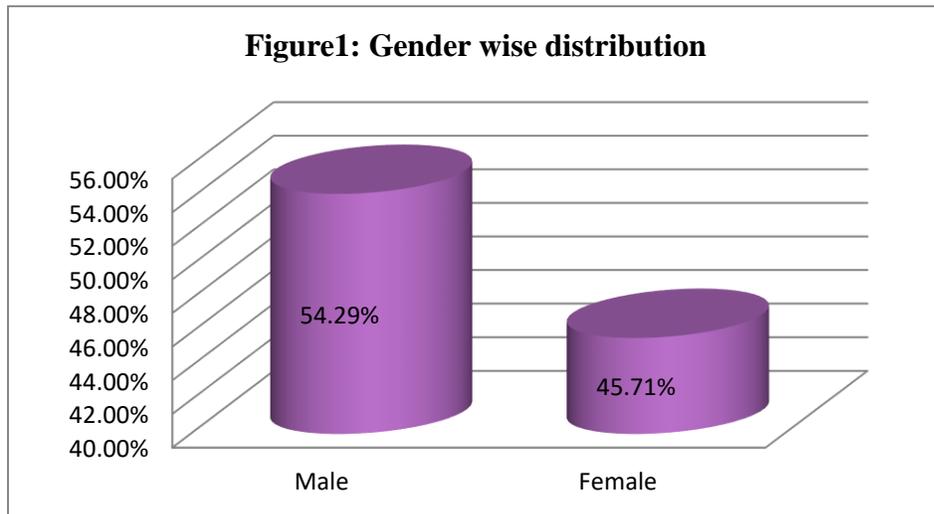
This analysis is based on the data collection through questionnaire from Research Scholars and Faculty members of Life Science school in Periyar University.

**Table 1: Gender wise distribution of respondents**

S.No	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
01	Male	38	54.29
02	Female	32	45.71
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data**

Different categories of gender among the respondents were covered under the study. Among the 38(54.29%) respondents was Male, 32(45.71%) respondents Female. It was found from the current investigation that male respondents were higher than female respondents. Through more male respondents use library resources female respondents also access the same. This shows the interest among both men and women in using library resources.

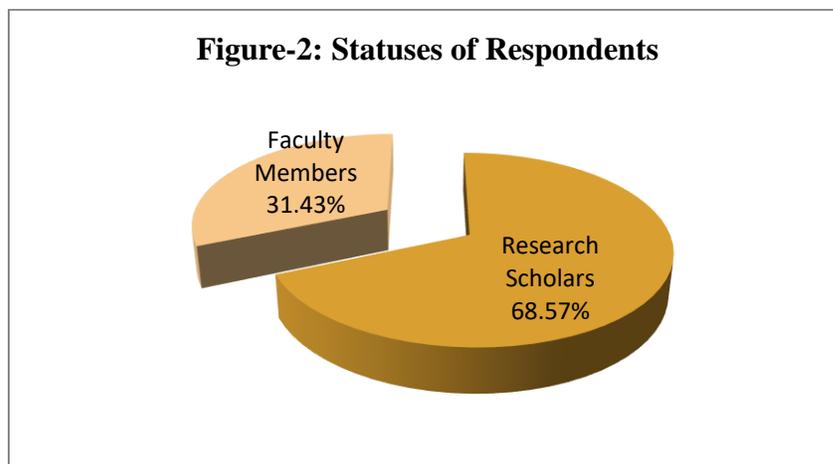


**Table: 2 Statuses of Respondents**

S.No	Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
01	Research Scholars	48	68.57
02	Faculty Members	22	31.43
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data**

Different categories users have surveyed in this study are shown in Table 2. Among the 48(68.57%) respondents was Research scholars, 22(31.43%) respondents Faculty Members. It was found from the current investigation that Research scholars respondents largest. Through more Research scholars respondents use library resources Faculty Members respondents also access the same. This shows the interest among both Research scholars and Faculty Members in using resources.

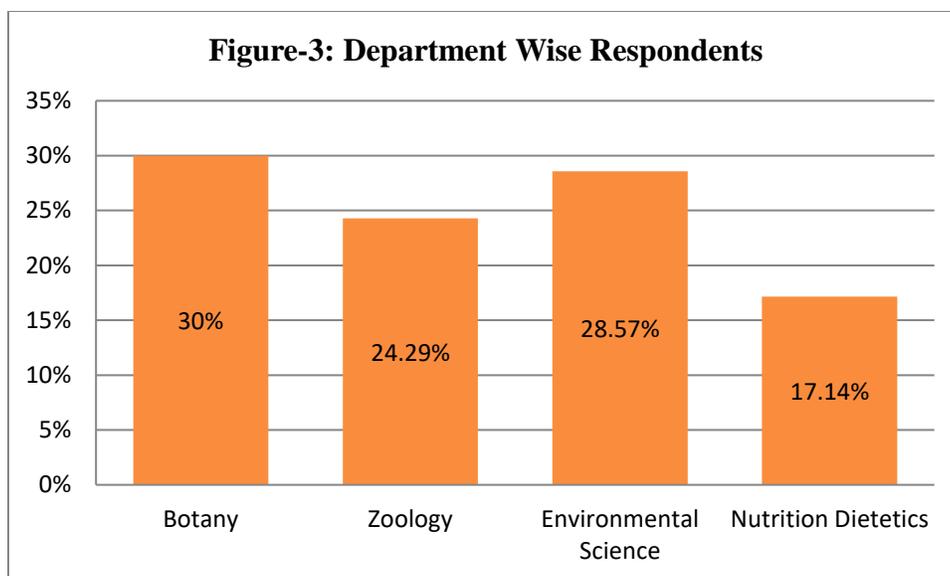


**Table 3: Department Wise Respondents**

S.No	Department	No. of Respondents	Percentage
01	Botany	21	30
02	Zoology	17	24.29
03	Environmental Science	20	28.57
04	Nutrition Dietetics	12	17.14
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data**

Table.3 describes that 21(30%) of respondents belong to Botany Department, 20(28.57%) of respondents were Environmental Science, 17(24.29%) of respondents are Zoology and 12(17.14%) of respondents are Nutrition Dietetics departments Research scholars and Faculty Members. Majority of the Research scholars and Faculty Members belongs to the Botany department.

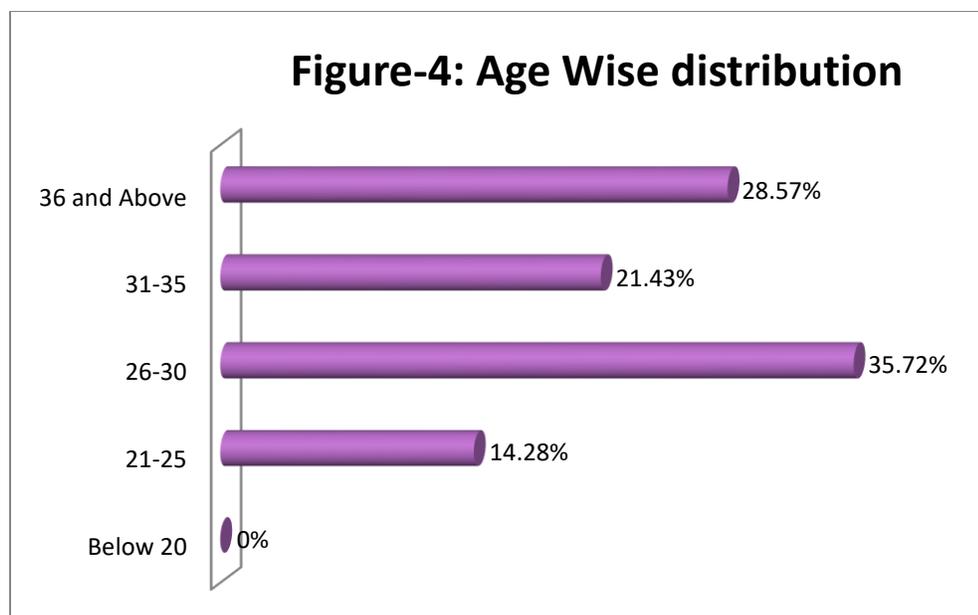


**Table 4: Age Wise Respondents**

S.No	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
01	Below 20	0	0
02	21-25	10	14.28
03	26-30	25	35.72
04	31-35	15	21.43
05	36 and Above	20	28.57
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data**

Table.4 was evidenced from the current study 25 (35.72%) that respondents belong to the age of 26-30 years followed by 20 (28.57%) respondents belong to the age of 36 above years than followed by 15(21.43%) respondents belonged to the category of up to 31-35. Further, it was also found that 10(14.28%) respondents belonged to the category of up to 21-25 and the remaining 0(0%) respondents belonged to the category of below 20 Years. A majority of the respondents covered in the present survey belonged to the age category of 26-30 Years. Young People are adaptive in nature. They use more Journals, Magazines, e-resources for their Information needs.

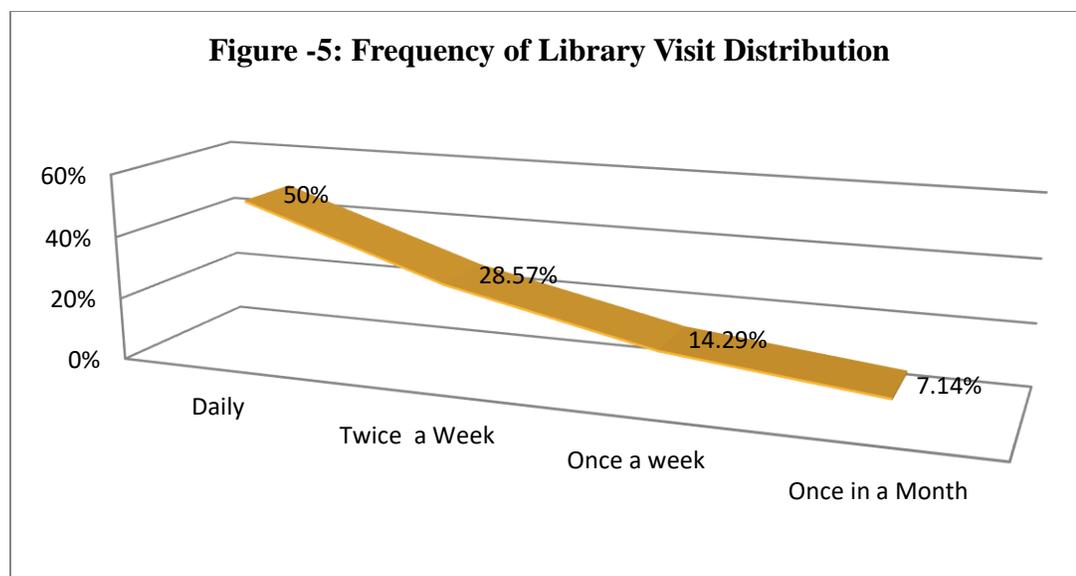


**Table: 5 Frequency of Library visit**

S. No	Usage of E-Resources	No. of respondents	Percentage
01	Daily	35	50
02	Twice a Week	20	28.57
03	Once a week	10	14.29
04	Once in a Month	5	7.14
Total		<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data**

Table.5 describes the Frequency of users visit the University library for as among the 70 respondents, of which 35(50%) respondents are library collection used for daily. In this study, 20(28.57%) respondents are using twice a week, 10(14.29%) respondents use weekly once, and 5(7.14%) respondents use the library E-Resources once in a month. Hence the majority of the respondents used the library E-Resources for daily.



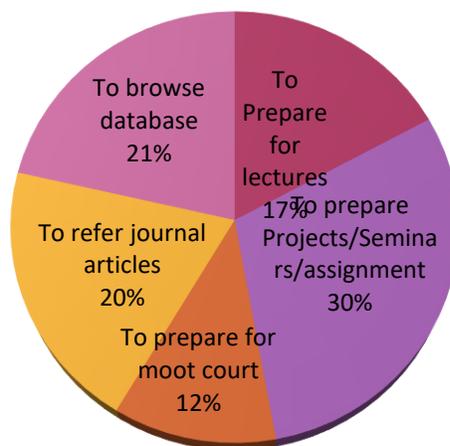
**Table 6: Purpose of visit to the library**

S.No	Purpose of visit	No. of Respondents	Percentage
01	To Prepare for lectures	12	17.14
02	To prepare Projects/Seminars/assignment	21	30
03	To prepare for moot court	8	11.43
04	To refer journal articles	14	20
05	To browse database	15	21.43
Total		<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data**

Table.6 describes the Frequency of various Purpose of visit to the University library for to Prepare for lectures, seminars, lectures to use database and to refer journals for as among the 70 respondents, of which 21(30%) respondents are to prepare Projects/Seminars/assignment. In this study, 15(21.43%) respondents are to be browse database, 14(20%) respondents are to be to refer journal articles, 12(17.14%) respondents are to be Prepare for lectures, and remaining 8(11.43%) respondents are to be preparing for moot court use the library. Hence the majority of the respondents used the library to prepare Projects/Seminars/assignment.

**Figure-6 :Purpose of visit to the library**

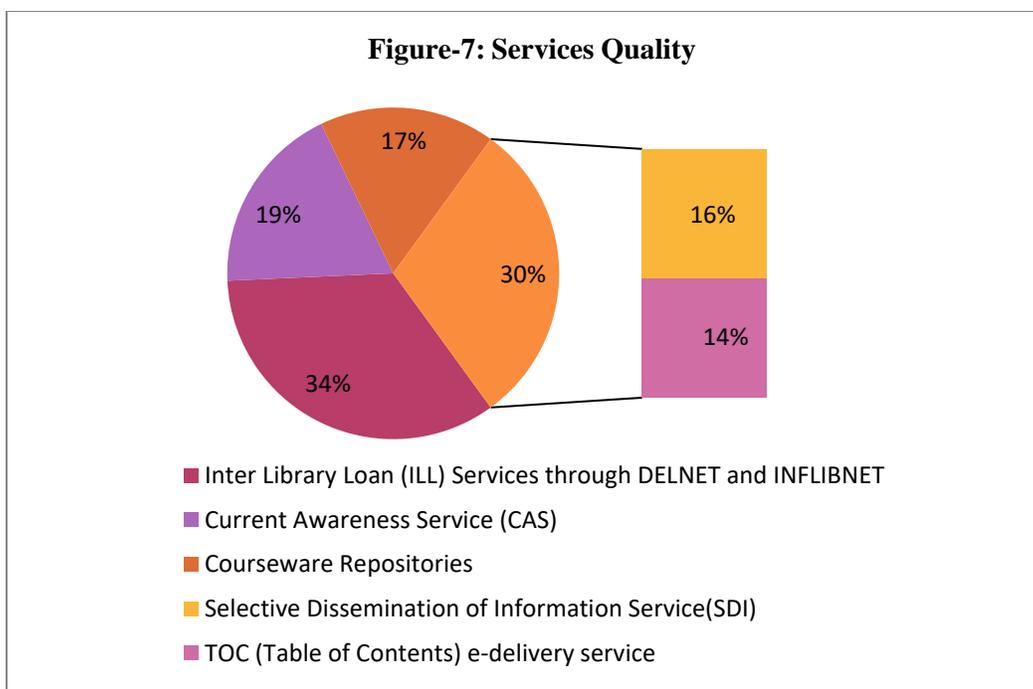


**Table 7: Services Quality**

S.No	Types of library services	No. of Respondents	Percentage
01	Selective Dissemination of Information Service(SDI)	11	15.71
02	Current Awareness Service(CAS)	13	18.57
03	Inter Library Loan (ILL) Services through DELNET and INFLIBNET	24	34.29
04	Courseware Repositories	12	17.14
05	TOC (Table of Contents) e-delivery service	10	14.29
Total		<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data**

Table.6 describes the Frequency of the University library Services Quality for various services among the 70 respondents, of which 24(34.29%) respondents are Inter Library Loan (ILL) Services through DELNET and INFLIBNET, than followed by 13(18.57%) respondents are Current Awareness Service (CAS) and than followed 12(13.05%) respondents Courseware Repositories, than followed by 11(15.71%) Selective Dissemination of Information Service (SDI) and the remaining by 10(14.29%) TOC (Table of Contents) e-delivery service. Hence the majority of the respondents Services Quality for the university library in Inter Library Loan (ILL) Services through DELNET and INFLIBNET.

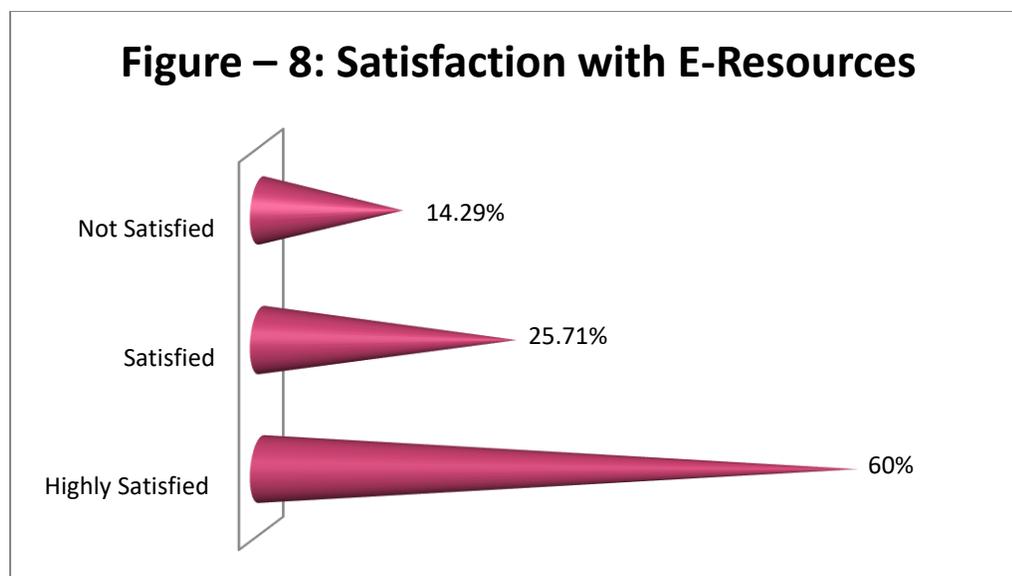


**Table 8: Satisfaction with E-Resources**

S.No	Satisfaction with E-Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
01	Highly Satisfied	42	60
02	Satisfied	18	25.71
03	Not Satisfied	10	14.29
Total		<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data**

Table .8 shows the level of satisfaction of e-resources 42(60%) Respondents are report that access of e-resources is highly satisfied, 18(25.71) Respondents report that access e-resources is satisfied and the remaining by 10(14.29) respondent not satisfied for e-resources. Hence the majority of the respondents highly satisfied for using e-resources.



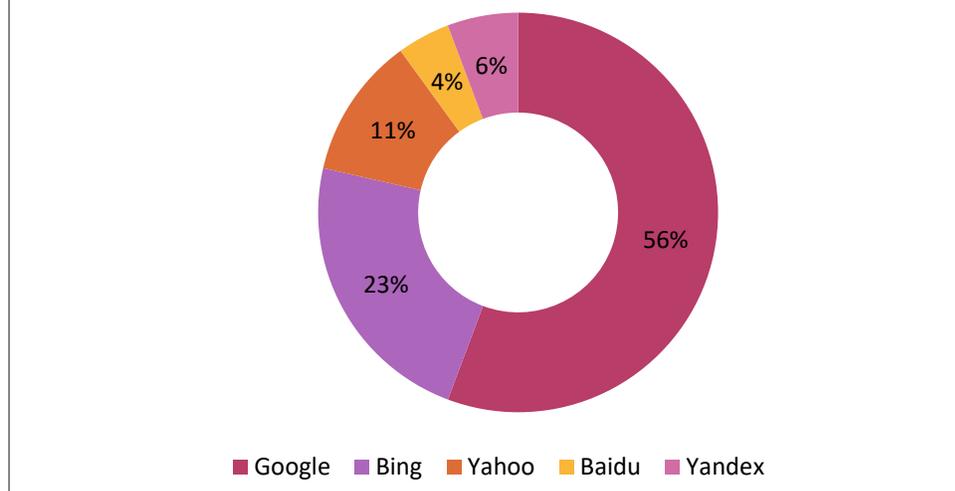
**Table: 9 Use of Search Engines Searching E-resources**

S.No	Search Engines	No. of Respondents	Respondents Percentage
01	Google	39	55.71
02	Bing	16	22.86
03	Yahoo	8	11.43
04	Baidu	3	4.28
05	Yandex	4	5.72
	Total	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data**

Table.9 describes the Frequency of the University library using search engines Searching E-resources for the 70 respondents, of which 39(55.71%) respondents Google, than followed by 16(22.86%) respondents use search engine Bing, next respondents Yahoo 8(11.43%), next respondents Yandex 4(5.72%), and the remaining 3(4.28%) respondent using search engines Baidu. Hence the majority of the respondents using search engines Searching E-resources for Google in the University library.

**Figure – 9: Use of Search Engines Searching E-Resources**



## 7. CONCLUSION

This study discussed user much more interest on using internet for accessing scientific information in which global level publications. This study reveals that faculty of science respondents secured maximum level due to keen search and obtained information by scientific journals and electronic publications. The maximum number of users are visited the library for preparing seminars, conferences and assignments. The Internet users prefer Google search engine and is next Bing position in this study. Latest enhancing Information and Communications technology for the Library services in 21<sup>st</sup> century the readers can be use the resources at anywhere. Researchers must access more electronic journals and databases provide by UGC-Infonet. Faculty members and research scholars can be accessed electronic resources through campus wide network facility provide in the University.

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