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Usage of Visvesvaraya Technological University e-Consortium resources by Engineering Colleges of Udupi district, Karnataka, India: a study

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Abstract — Aiming at the objectives of the study is to assimilate and estimate the usage of Electronic learning Resources brought out by learned societies, publishers, and distributors to the affiliated technical institutions of the VTU, Belagavi through VTU-Consortium. The study was conducted on Students, and Faculties of the NMAM Institute of Technology (NMAMIT) Nitte, Shri Madhwa Vadiraja Institute of Technology and Management (SMVITM) Udupi, and Moodalakatte Institute of Technology (MIT) Kundapura, which is affiliated to VTU, Belagavi. For this, the structured questionnaires are prepared and randomly distributed to identify their skills in selecting and accessing the information for their academic activities. The collected data from the administered questionnaire were analyzed, tabulated and represented in statistical and graphical form. This study reveals that 100% of library users were aware of the VTU-Consortium, it was found that 54% of users were using electronic resources over, printed resources for their academic purpose and 44% of the users have found difficulties in finding the information. This study has suggested the librarians should focus on user orientation programs on available e-resources under VTU Consortium. By this, users can utilize the resources at the maximum level.

Keywords— Utilisation of e-resource, VTU Consortium, e-resources, engineering colleges, Udupi District

1. Introduction:

The continuation innovation in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has brought a sea change in academia. Because of information explosion one has to force to shift his/her interest to print media to electronic media. To provide a good source of information in the field of electronic resources; library has provide a huge budget every year. Spending on e-resources is not an easy task to handle. However, information explosions, ever increasing cost of Technical publication, quick and easy access of e-resources, One window settlement with publishers and distributors, available of previous years resources, easy to access are forced libraries to move towards the Consortium. Growing of various library consortia in all around the world have been observed during the last decade. Most of the countries are observed the value of e-resources and they seriously started e-library Consortium as per their need. This helps to develop the innovative ideas in students, research scholars, scientist, and teacher's in their respective countries. In the same way, in Karnataka, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) launched a determined program called VTU e-Consortium in 2014. The main principle of establishing the Consortium is to provide the facility to access Digital resources like Journals, Books, Conference proceedings, and database to the affiliated engineering colleges in Karnataka. VTU has negotiated with the reputed publishers all over the world to provide the online information resources to the colleges in a reasonable price.

About VTU-Consortium

With the Vision^[1] "Develop an information rich society in VTU and its affiliated as well as autonomous institutions in the State of Karnataka" The thought of VTU e-Consortium was planned at the National conference on "Trend in developing and managing e-resources in libraries" conducted by VTU on May 2012. According to the ideas of experts and feedback, VTU firm to set up an expert committee comprise of LIS experts and Principals/Librarians of VTU affiliated institutions in the state on March 2013. This is the ambition of the VTU to make it as a model for all Consortium s in the country and promotes to take advantages of e-resources to its affiliated institutions to get access an affordable cost. The VTU Consortium planed to support

and build the collection development of e-resources in every academic institution and to facilitate their faculty and students to access scholarly data on their fingertips. Under the Chairmanship of Professor D H Rao Dean Academic, VTU, Belagavi the first meeting was held on August 2013 at VTU, Belagavi and the authority of the VTU Consortium comprises with the Governing council, the steering committee and the Nodal officers committee.

2. Objectives

The following objectives have been identified to study the real utility of e-resources by the academia of VTU affiliated technical institution in Udupi district.

- To analyse the use of e-resources by the students and staffs of engineering colleges of Udupi district;
- To enquire into the access points, problems and challenges faced by the users related with VTU Consortium.
- To find out the awareness of users on VTU Consortium
- To identify the preference of users on e-resources
- To find out the purpose of using VTU-Consortium e-resource;
- To study problems faced by the students and staff while using e-resources; and
- To know the various factors to discouraging users from using e-resources.

3. Methodology

For fulfilment of objectives of the study, deploying survey method by structured questionnaire. The targeted user community has been classified into three different groups namely students, faculties and the librarians. By employing sampling method the data were collected by the targeted users, which are representing the whole population of engineering colleges of Udupi district.

4. Data analysis

Total 75 questionnaires were distributed to the students and faculties and 84% (63) responses were received. The data collected from the questionnaires were analysed, tabulated and represented in simple statistical methods and graphs.

Table 1: Response of users

User population	Total No. of questionnaires distributed	Total No. of questionnaires duly filled	Percent of respondent
Students	60	51	85%
Faculties	15	12	80%
Total	75	63	84%

Table one shows that the numbers of Questionnaires were distributed 75, users are dully filled the questionnaire 84 % (63), and 16 % (12) of Questionnaires were not usable.

Table 2: College wise response

College name	Students	Faculties	Total	Percentage
NMAMIT, Nitte	19	5	24	96%
SMVITM, Udupi	13	3	16	64%
MITK, Moodalkatte	19	4	23	92%
Total	51	12	63	84%

The data shows in table two that out of the total, 84 % of questionnaires duly filled by the colleges, each college has distributed 25 questionnaires and the data indicate that the 96 % of the users are replied from NMAMIT, Nitte, and 64 % of response from MITK, Moodalkatte and 64% from SMVITM, Udupi.

Table 3: Preference of media

Type of resource	Responded	Percentage
E- Resources	34	54%
Printed Resources	09	14%
Both	20	32%

The date shows in the Table three, that 54% (34) are comfortable with using e-resources, 14% (09) of respondents replied they are comfortable with print resources and 32 % (20) of responders are comfortable with using both e-resource and print resources. It shows that maximum number of participants is more comfortable with using e-resources.

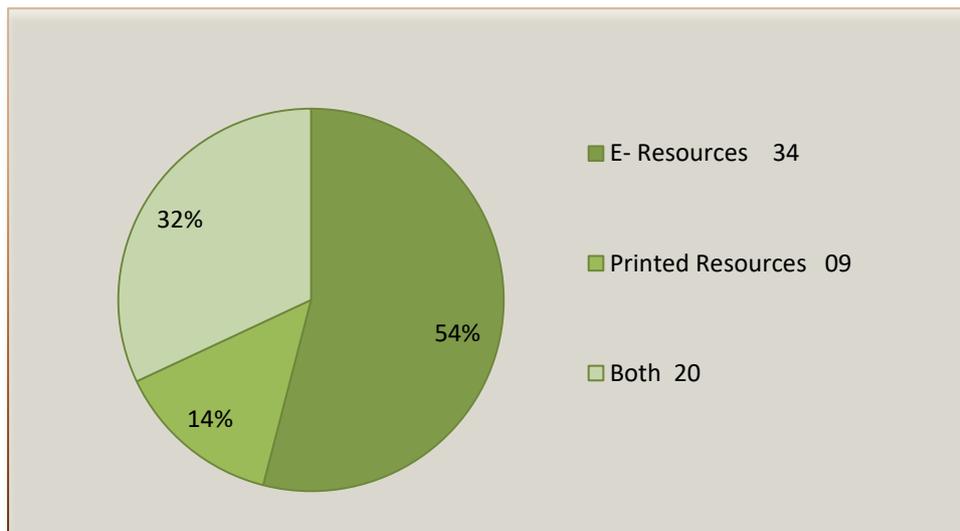


Chart 1: Preference of media

Table 4: Users awareness about VTU E- Consortium

Yes	NO	Percentage
63	nil	100%

The data which are collected shows that the respondents have 100% awareness about VTU E- Consortium.

Table 5: Frequency of browsing e – resources

Frequency	Respondents	Percentage
Daily	19	30%
3-5 times a week	28	44%
3-5 times in a month	13	21%
Rarely	03	05%
Total	63	100%

In table five, it shows that 44% (28) of users are using e-resources 3-5 times in a week, 30% (19) of respondent are using daily, 21% (13) of respondents are use 3-5 times in a month and only 5% (3) are using rarely.

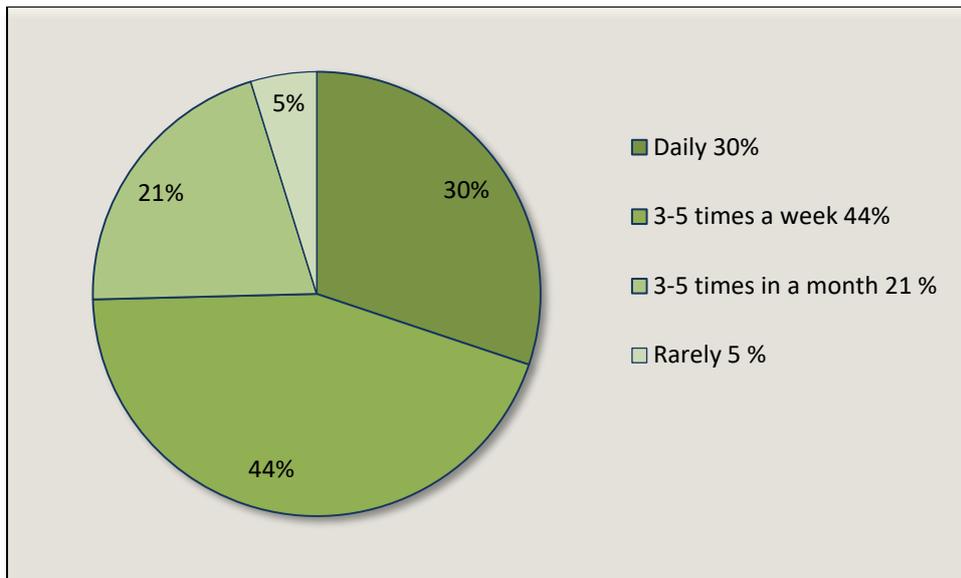


Chart 2: Frequency of browsing e – resources

Table 6: User awareness about different Consortium

Name of Consortium	Respondents	Percentage
VTU E- Consortium	63	100%
INDEST – AICTE	12	19%
UGC- INFONET	9	14%
IIM Libraries Consortium	0	Nil
HELINET	0	Nil
CSIR E-Journal Consortium	0	Nil
DRDO Consortium	0	Nil
DeLCON Consortium	0	Nil
E-Shodhsindu	7	11%
Any other	0	Nil

Table four shows that 100% (63) of respondents have aware about VTU Consortium , 19 % (12) of the respondents have a aware about INDEST-AICTE, 14 % (9) are know the UGC-INFONET and only 11% (7) have the knowledge about E-Shodhsindu.

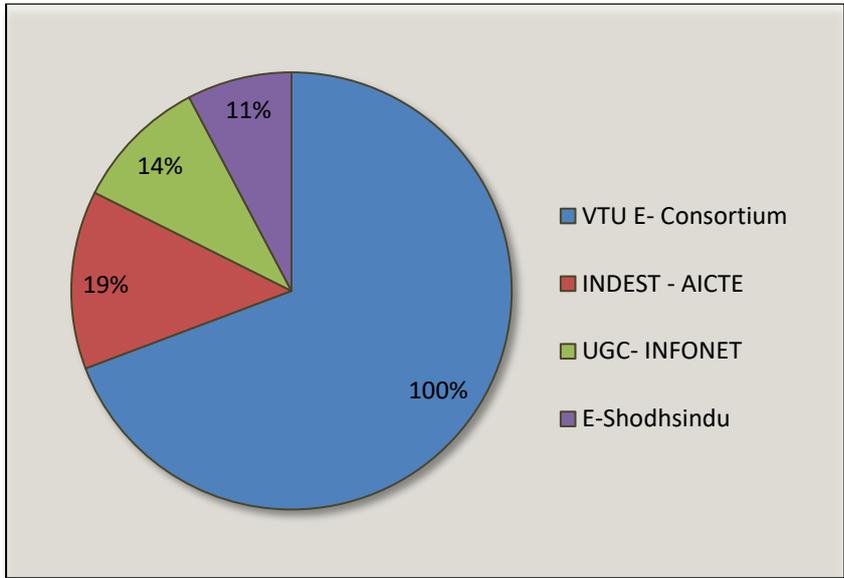


Chart 3: User awareness about different Consortium

Table 7: Most Frequently used location of VTU e- resource

Place	Respondents	Percentage
Library	42	67 %
College campus	21	33 %
Remote access	0	Nil
Any other	0	Nil
Total	63	100%

Table seven reveals that 67% of the population are using the VTU e-Consortium resources from library. 33 % of population responded that they are using the e-Consortium in college campus. Here the participants are not having an aware about remote access of the Consortium.

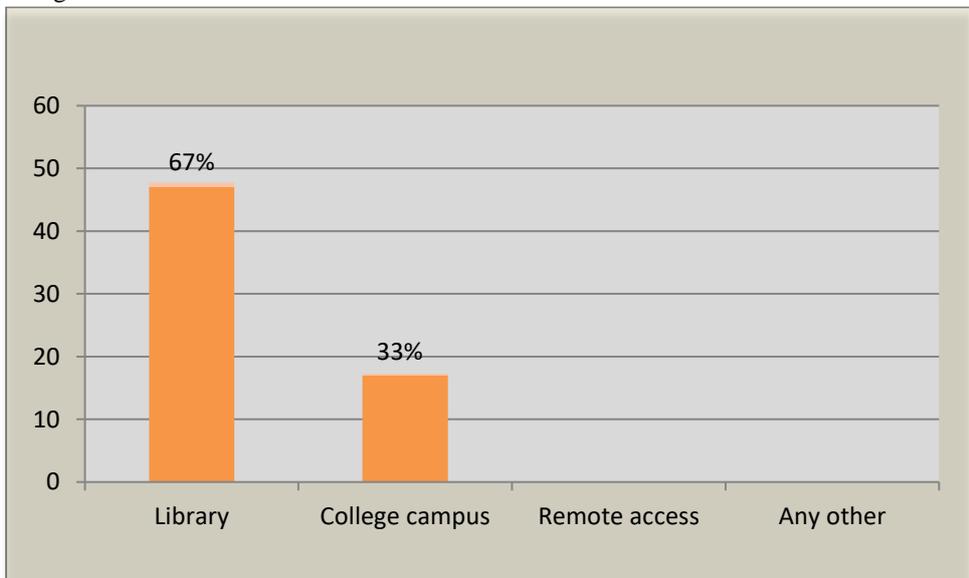


Chart 4: Most Frequently used location of VTU e- resource

Table 8: Purpose of using VTU e-Consortium

Purpose	Respondents	Percentage
For research work	03	05 %
For publication of articles	42	67 %
For project work	57	90 %
For seminar/assignment	39	62 %
For finding information in specific area	11	17 %
Any other (Please specify):	0	0%

The table eight shows that the interest of the users on using the e-Consortium. The study found that 90% (57) of the participants are using VTU e-resources for project report, for publication of articles 67 % (42), for seminar/assignment 62% (39), for finding information in specific area 17% (11) and only 5% (3) of the users using for research work.

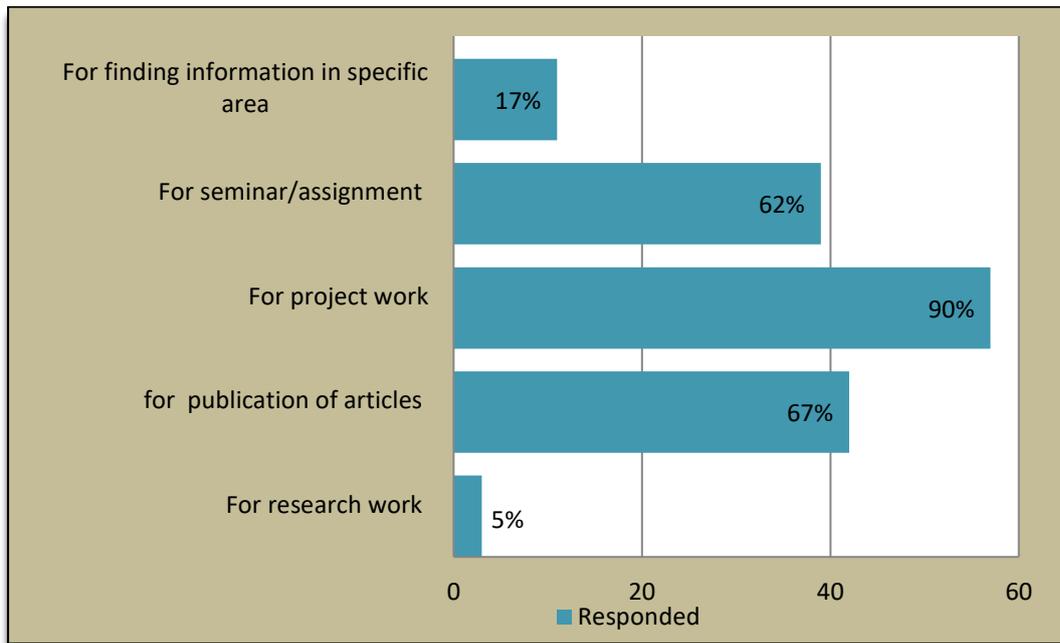


Chart 5: Purpose of using VTU e-Consortium

Table 9: Way of browse the required information from the VTU- Consortium

Brows through	Respondents	Percentage
Publishers website	59	94%
Use search engines	04	6%
Directories	00	0%
Any other	00	0%

The data exhibit in the table nine reveal the way of browsing the e-resources of Consortium by the participants is, 94 % (59) are browse the information through publishers website, and only 6% (4) are answered by using search engines

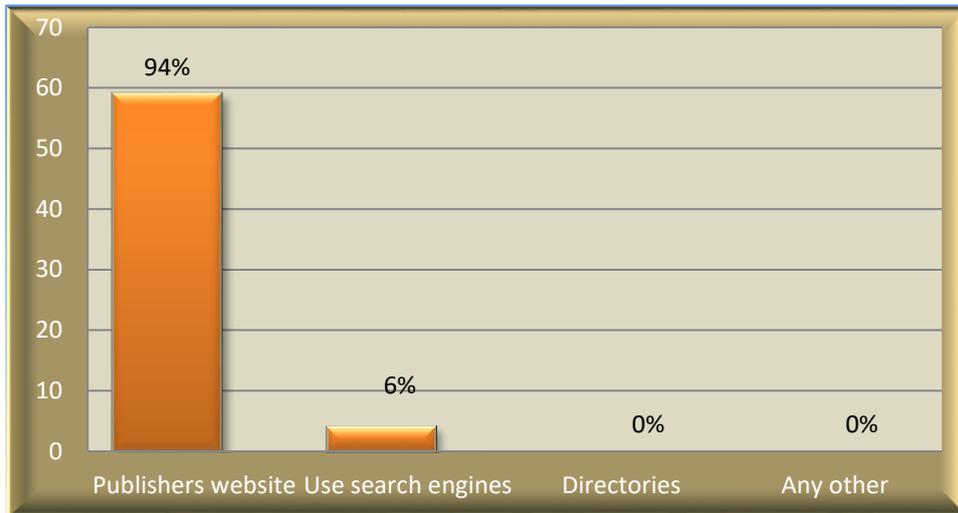


Chart 6: Way of browse the required information from the VTU- Consortium

Table 10: Problems Encountered while using the VTU e-resources

Problems	Respondents	Percentage
Lack of knowledge on Consortium	9	14%
Difficulty in finding relevant information	28	44%
Lack of user education	17	27%
It take long time to download pages	8	13%
Power problem	0	0%
Any other problem	1	2%
Total	63	100%

The data exhibit in the table ten clarify that 44% (28) are facing difficulty in finding/access relevant information, 27 % (17) have lack of user education, 14 % (9) of participants have lack of knowledge on Consortium, 13% (8) are facing the long time to download the pages and only 2% (1) are want to know the list of titles of journals which the Consortium offer.

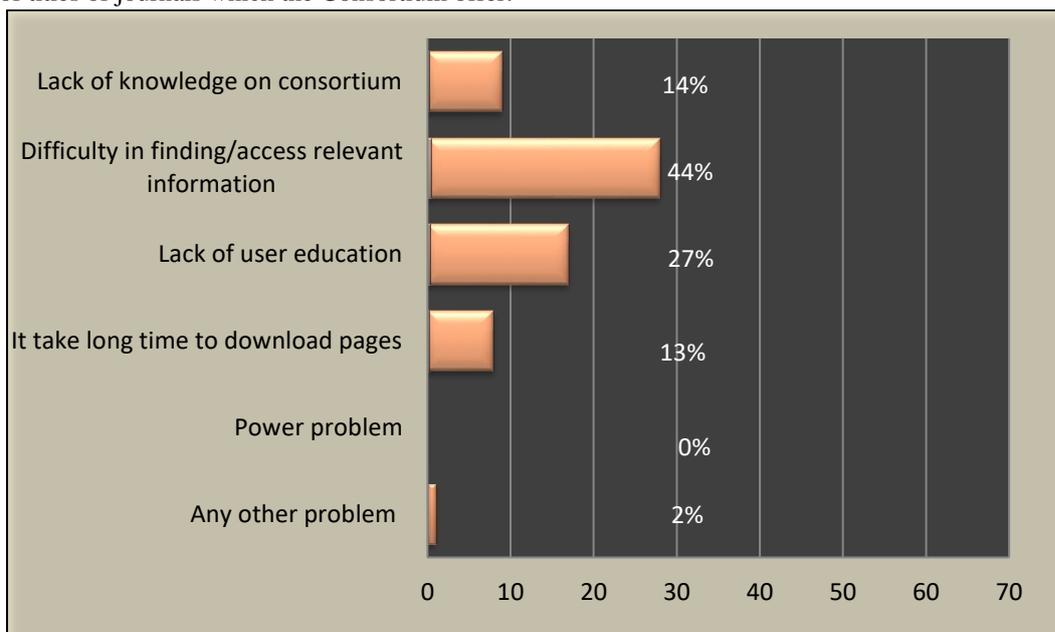


Chart 7: Problems Encountered while using the VTU E-Consortium

Table 11: Need for Orientation programme on VTU-Consortium

Required orientation programme	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	58	92%
No	5	8%

The Table eleven prove that 92 % (58) respondents are required orientation programme/guidance on VTU-Consortium. And only 8% (5) of users not required any orientation programme.

Table 12: Preference of e- resources by the respondents

Resources	Respondents	Percentage
E-Journals	60	95%
E- books	20	32%
Abstracts	17	27%
Review	13	21%
Conference proceedings	47	75%
Dissertation	21	33%
Project reports	40	63%
Book catalogue	2	3%
Any other	0	0%

The data exhibit in the table twelve shows that 95% (60) of respondents are reputedly need e-journals as their first preference, 75% (47) are selected Conference proceedings as a second preference, 63% (40) respondents are prefer project reports as a third preference, 33% (21) are prefer dissertation, 32% (20) are prefer as e-books, 27% (17) are specified about abstracts, 21% (13) participants prefers a review, and only 3% (2) are favour as a book catalogue.

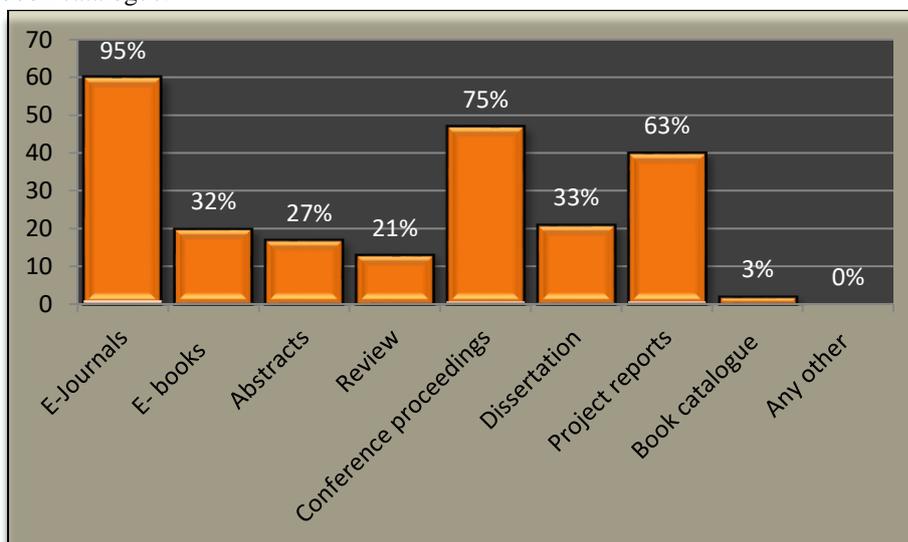


Chart 8: Preference of e- resources by the respondents

Table 13: Cause for prefer e-resources

Cause for prefer e-resource	Responded	Percentage
Easy to search	62	98%
Easy to store and copy	63	100%
Easy to access	51	81%
Save time	49	78%
Frequently updating	50	79%
Any other	Nil	Nil

The data provided in the table thirteen shows that 100% (63) of respondents are feel that they can store and copy the searched data very easily, 98% (62) are feel that they can easily search the data which is needful for study. 81% (51) of respondents are feels that they can get the information very easily. 79% (50) are using the e-resources for its frequency of updating, 78% (49) are prefer for save the timing while using, By this data it is clear that users are very well known about the benefits of e-resources.

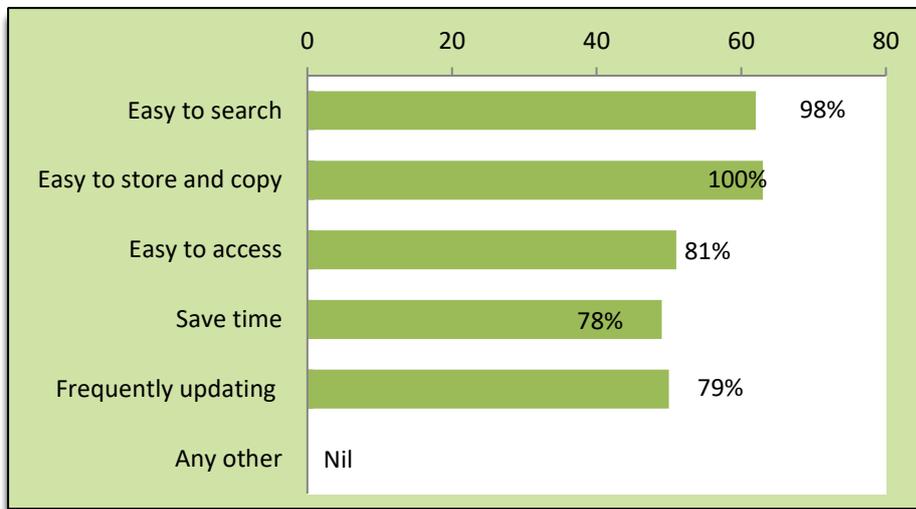


Chart 9: Cause for prefer e-resources

Table 14: Satisfaction level of VTU Consortium

Rate	Responded	Percentage
Highly satisfied	14	22%
Moderately satisfied	27	43%
Partially satisfied	20	32%
Less satisfied	2	3%
Not satisfied	0	0%

The analysed data in the table fourteen explain that 43% (27) of users are moderately satisfied with VTU Consortium, 32% (20) are replied partially satisfied, 22% (14) are highly satisfied on available resources in VTU Consortium, and only 3% (2) are less satisfied with VTU Consortium.

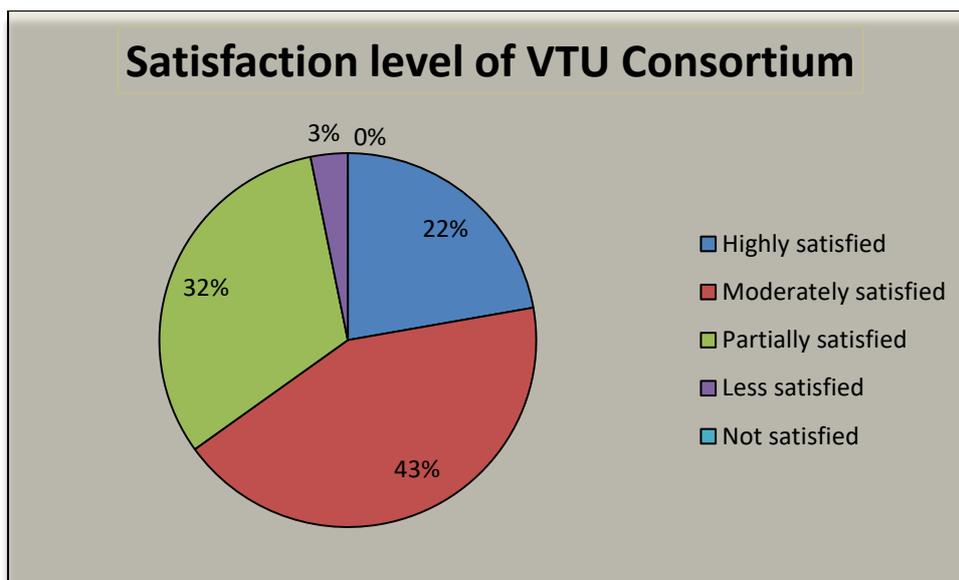


Chart 10: Satisfaction level

5. Findings

- The study has reveals that 100% users are aware on the VTU Consortium.
- 67% of users are preferred to access the resources in library, and 33 % of users in college campus. No users are preferred to use the remote access facilities.
- The study found that 90% users are using the VTU Consortium for project work. 67% are use for publication of articles. 62% are use for Seminar and assignment.
- The study found that 44% of the users are facing difficulties in finding the relevant information because of 27% users facing lack of user education
- 95% of users are given first preference to E-journals for their academic purpose , 75% of users are preferred e-resources for conference proceedings and 63% are prefer project report
- 54% of users they comfortable with e-resources and 32% are comfortable with e-resources and print resources.
- The study found that 43% of users is moderately satisfied with VTU e-Consortium , and 32% are partially satisfied, and 22% users replied highly satisfied

6. Suggestion

On the basis of findings, the researcher suggests following proposals for the effective use of VTU Consortium

- Institution may give more attention on connection of Wi-Fi, because most of the students are using the resources in library and few in campus
- Library may conduct more user education, training programmes for the users.
- Need to support the users by providing good facilities like extending the library timings, high speed internet, power backup, Wi-Fi facilities
- Authority should give more attention to increase the e-resources which is useful for academic and research purpose.

7. Conclusion

The Visvesvaraya Technological University has facilitated VTU Consortium to all affiliated technical institutions in Karnataka, This resource is a dream to get for any individual, by continues effort of the VTU has made available of e-Consortium in a single platform. The study made possible a great impact on individual institution to use the resources in a maximum level. The study shows that the users are interested in utilising the facilities provided by the VTU Consortium. Very importantly, all the users in this area aware of VTU Consortium and they utilising this facility in a great extend. Here the

individual institute needs to focus on user awareness to make use of this Consortium effectively. This study notifies that most of the users are equally preferred both printed as well as e-resources. Majority of the users preferred e-resources as a primary need. The users specified that, by the VTU Consortium it become easy to search and store the information in a digital format and also specified that this Consortium helps to keep them up-to-date in their course of study.

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