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Sivakami N.S Research Scholar

Periyar Univaersity, Salem, sivakami.librarian@gmail.com

Rajentran N Dr

Salem sowdeswari college, Salem

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USAGE OF ONLINE RESOURCES BY FACULTY MEMBERS OF ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES IN ERODE DISTRICT: A STUDY

Mrs. N. Sivakami ¹ Dr.N.Rajendran ²

¹Ph.D., Research Scholar, Periyar University, Salem,

²College Librarian (S.G), Salem Sowdeswari College (Aided), Salem, Tamil Nadu, India

Email: sivakami.librarian@gmail.com and rajendranlibra@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This paper presents of this study investigates the usage of online resources among the Arts and Science College Faculty Members in Erode District. A total number of 340 structured questionnaires was distributed 324 (96%) Faculty Members are responding. A survey of 152 (46.9%) Arts Group Faculty Members and 172 (53.1%) Science Group Faculty Members are selected randomly for the study from Nine Arts and Science Colleges in Erode District. The data, thus collected were statistically analysed using by SPSS Software. This study main finding shows that the majority of Arts Group Faculty Members are using Internet (35.5%) tool frequency and E-Database (32.6%) Science Group Faculty Members was using online resources. Majority of the Faculty Members use the online resources daily. The analysis reveals that Faculty Members use online resources for General Studies (30.3%) and Prepare Project Purposes (36%). This paper highlights the use of online resources among the Arts and Science College Faculty Members. This study analyzed the awareness of the Faculty Members in accessing the online resources.

Keywords: Online Resources, Erode District, Online Databases, Faculty Members, User Studies.

1. INTRODUCTION

Online resources is defined as any physical or virtual entity of limited availability or anything used to help one earn a living. The use of online resources for research and educational purposes by UG & PG Students means that they benefit from the works of experts in the different fields of study. They use online resources for a wide variety of reasons which include acquisition of knowledge, monitoring publications in the different fields of study. The commonly available online resources namely CD-ROMS, OPACs, Online Databases, Internet, E-Mail, Search Engines and other networked information sources are competing with and in some instances replacing the print-based information sources and also methods of learning online resources by faculty members. The quality of higher education in india requires ongoing changes and developments in the

teaching-learning and research are the goals of any institution of higher learning process. Faculty Members in Universities need to let go the concept of merely text-book-oriented lecturing system in the changing higher education environment. The present study examines the usage of online resources among the Arts and Science College Faculty Members in Erode District.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Chandra, K., et.all., (2014) carried a study on use pattern E-Resources among Faculty Members in Arts and Science Colleges in Chennai. The survey was conducted with the help of a questionnaire. Questionnaire was distributed to a stratified random sample of Associate Professor 807 and Assistant Professor 481 total number of 1288 Faculty Members from different Arts and Science Colleges available in the time of the study at Chennai and the response rate was **(85.86%)**. The study also aims to identify the level of experience with the information accessed by faculty members through the available e-resources. The study reveals that **(98.37%)** of the respondents are aware and used e-resources. The major findings reveal that most of the faculty members are aware of the availability of e-journals 1086 (84.32%) and largely use them for reference purposes in the keeping up-to-date information 836 (64.91%). Study also reveals that majority of the respondents opinion about the e-resources are useful.

A Study made by **Kalbande, Dattatraya, T., etc (2013)**. about the Use of E-Resources by the Faculty Members of Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri (M.S). They used survey method and questionnaire a tool of this study. The study results reveal that **(82.41%)** of the respondents have good awareness about the e-resources. It is observed from the analysis that **(78.70%)** of respondents are frequency of internet use daily, **(50.52%)** of them use the e-resources for study and research, **(45.95%)** respondents use it for study and teaching purpose. Most of the users use all types of e-resources frequently used e-databases **(31.15%)**. Still there is enough scope for Central Library to develop its infrastructural facilities for accessing e-resources, procurement of more e-resources as per requirement, motivating users for assessing open source e-resources, etc.

Krishna dass, N., and Jayaraman, S. (2014) are discussing the utilization of E-Resources by Faculty Members and Research Scholars in Management Institutions Affiliated to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore surveyed **50** Faculty and **50** Research Scholars were conducted through a questionnaire method was used. The study indicates that majority of the **(42%)** faculty members and research scholars are using the e-resources for the propose of research, general information and communication of investigation. The study result reveals that **(77%)** of the members opinion

about the internet connection in the library is adequate and (31%) of them said that the library is center for e-resources access. The following online database EBSCO, Emerald proQuest J-gate Elsevier and DOAJ are utilized by them.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The fundamental targets of the present study are as per the following:

- ❖ To analyze the factors that influences the usage of online resources.
- ❖ To provide gender-wise distribution of the respondents.
- ❖ To know different types of online resources used.
- ❖ To examine the frequency of using online resources.
- ❖ To find out of the purpose of using online resources.
- ❖ To study the preferred format for using online resources.
- ❖ To analyze the places of access the online resources.
- ❖ To find the problems of the Arts and Science Group Faculty Members which accessing the usage of online resources.
- ❖ To know the satisfaction levels of respondents.

4. SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The present study covered the Arts and Science College Faculty Members. The scope of the study is limited to the usage of online resources and to fulfil the teaching and research purpose of the faculty members. They are Nine Arts and Science Colleges in Erode District of Tamil Nadu. In this Arts and Science College Faculty Members only have been selected due to usage of online resources by the colleges.

5. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study the awareness level of integrating usage of online resources among the Faculty Members of Arts and Science Colleges in Erode District. In this research paper was conducted using a survey (questionnaire) method. The Primary data was collected through well structured questionnaire was designed keeping in view of the objective of the study, has been used as a data collection tool.

6. DATE ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

For this purpose a total of **340** questionnaires were distributed among Arts and Science College Faculty Members in and around Erode. A total of **324** filled questionnaires were returned this constitutes **96** percent (**324/340**) of the total respondents for the study. Out of this, a sample of

152 Arts Faculty Members and 172 Science Faculty Members were taken at randomly selected in the study group. The collected data were analysed and presented in the tabular form of this paper.

6.1. POPULATION STUDY

TABLE 1: CATEGORY WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

CATEGORY	QUESTIONNAIRES DISTRIBUTED		QUESTIONNAIRES RECEIVED	
	No	%	No	%
Arts Group	136	40	152	46.9
Science Group	204	60	172	53.1
TOTAL	340	100	324	100

Table – 1 Shows that out of 340 questionnaires distributed 324 filled up questionnaires were received. Questionnaires were distributed to 152 (46.9%) Arts Group Faculties and 172 (53.1%) Science Group Faculties were responded the survey.

TABLE 2: GENDER WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

GENDER	ARTS GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS		SCIENCE GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS	
	No	%	No	%
Male	68	44.7	72	41.9
Female	84	55.3	100	58.1
TOTAL	152	100	172	100

Table – 2 (i): Shows that the gender wise distribution of respondents. A maximum of 84 (55.3%) Female Arts Group Faculty Members have responded. The study conducted that both majorities of respondent are Female Arts group Faculty Members.

Table – 2 (ii): A maximum of 184 (56.8%) Female Science Group Faculty Members out of 324 and 140 (43.2%) Male Science Group Faculty Members have responded. The study conducted that both majorities of respondent are Female Science Group Faculty Members.

TABLE 3: DESIGNATION WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

DESIGNATION	ARTS GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS		SCIENCE GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS	
	No	%	No	%
Assistant Professors	82	53.9	86	50
Associate Professors	46	30.3	50	29.1
Professors	24	15.8	36	20.9
TOTAL	152	100	172	100

Table – 3 (i): Present that designation wise distribution of responses. It can be noted from the above table that the majority of 82 (53.9%) of respondents are Assistant Professors, followed by 46 (30.3%) of respondents are Associate Professors and only 24 (15.8%) respondents are Professors in Arts Group Faculty Members.

Table – 3 (ii): It was found that the majority of 86 (50%) of respondents are Assistant Professors, followed by 50 (29.1%) of respondents are Associate Professors and only 36 (20.9%) respondents are Professors in Science Group Faculty Members.

TABLE 4: DEPARTMENT WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

DEPARTMENT	ARTS GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS		SCIENCE GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS	
	No	%	No	%
UG Faculty Members	74	48.7	94	54.7
PG Faculty Members	50	32.9	56	32.5
M.Phil Faculty Members	28	18.4	22	12.8
TOTAL	152	100	172	100

Table – 4 (i): It was found that the majority of 74 (48.7%) of respondents are UG Faculties, followed by the 50 (32.9%) of respondents are PG Faculties and only 28 (18.4%) respondents are M.Phil Faculties in Arts Group Faculty Members.

Table – 4 (ii): It was found that the majority of 94 (54.7%) of respondents are UG Faculties, followed by 56 (32.5%) of respondents are PG Faculties and only 22 (12.8%) respondents are M.Phil Faculties in Science Group Faculty Members.

TABLE 5: USAGE OF ONLINE RESOURCES

ONLINE RESOURCES	ARTS GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS		SCIENCE GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS	
	No	%	No	%
Internet	54	35.5	38	22.1
E – Database	30	19.7	56	32.6
E – Books	12	7.9	20	11.6
E – Journals	18	11.9	26	15.1
E – Mail	38	25	32	18.6
TOTAL	152	100	172	100

Table – 5: Indicated the usage of online resources by the faculties of Arts Group and Science Group. It could be noted that majority of the Arts Group 54 (35.5%) respondents are Internet using the online resources and Science Group 56 (32.6%) respondents were using online resources E – Database.

TABLE 6: USE OF SEARCH ENGINE

SEARCH ENGINES	ARTS GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS		SCIENCE GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS	
	No	%	No	%
Google	56	36.8	64	37
Yahoo	35	23.2	30	17
Rediff	32	21	38	23
Bing	12	7.9	26	15
Altavista	17	11.1	14	8
TOTAL	152	100	172	100

Table – 6: Indicates that 56 (36.8%) of the Arts Group Faculty uses the Google search engine whereas 64 (37%) of Science Group Faculty uses the same search engine to browse the Internet.

TABLE 7: FREQUENCY OF USING ONLINE RESOURCES

FREQUENCY	ARTS GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS		SCIENCE GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS	
	No	%	No	%
Daily	48	31.6	60	34.9
Weekly	38	25	40	23.3
Fortnightly	32	21	34	19.8
Monthly	26	17.1	26	15
Rarely	08	5.3	12	7
TOTAL	152	100	172	100

Table – 7: reveals the frequency of using online resources. Out of 324 respondents, Arts Group 48 (31.6%) are using online resources daily than Science Group 60 (34.9%) Faculty Members were using online resources daily.

TABLE 8: PURPOSE OF ONLINE RESOURCES

PURPOSE	ARTS GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS		SCIENCE GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS	
	No	%	No	%
For Teaching	38	25	38	22
Prepare Project	20	13.2	62	36
General Studies	46	30.3	36	20.9
Professional Development	16	10.5	14	8.1
For Writing Papers	32	21	22	13
TOTAL	152	100	172	100

Table – 8: revealed that the Arts Group Faculties 46 (30.3%) are prefers online resources for General Studies purposes. The Science Group Faculties 62 (36%) are prefer to use online resource to Prepare Project.

TABLE 9: FILE FORMATS OF ONLINE RESOURCES

FILE FORMATS	ARTS GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS		SCIENCE GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS	
	No	%	No	%
Print Sources	46	30.2	74	43
Non – Print Sources	72	47.4	60	34.9
Both	34	22.4	38	22.1
TOTAL	152	100	172	100

Table – 9: It was observed from the analysis that 72 (47.4%) of Arts Group Faculties preferred Non – Print Sources, and 74 (43%) Science Faculties preferred Print Sources for using online resources.

TABLE 10: LOCATION FOR ACCESSING ONLINE RESOURCES

LOCATION	ARTS GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS		SCIENCE GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS	
	No	%	No	%
Central Library	43	28.3	63	36.6
Department Library	57	37.5	58	33.7
Computer Centre	33	21.7	28	16.3
Other Places	19	12.5	23	13.4
TOTAL	152	100	172	100

Table – 10: Presents the Location of accessing online resources by the respondents. In this study, a majority of 57 (37.5%). Arts Group Faculties access online resources in Department Library and 63 (36.6%) Science Group Faculties access online resources in Central Library.

TABLE 11: PROBLEMS IN ONLINE RESOURCES

PROBLEMS	ARTS GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS		SCIENCE GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS	
	No	%	No	%
Lack of Timing	40	26.3	60	34.9
Lack of Training	24	15.8	34	19.8
Slow Internet Speed	58	38.2	42	24.4
Software Problem	12	7.9	26	15.1
Frequently Power Failure	18	11.8	10	5.8
TOTAL	152	100	172	100

Table – 11: Shows the problems in accessing by using online resources. In this study 58 (38.2%) Arts Group Faculties are faced by the Slow Internet Speed Problem, and among the Science Group Faculties 60 (34.9%) report that Lack of timing problem in accessing the online resources.

TABLE 12: SATISFACTION OF ACCESSING THE ONLINE RESOURCES

SATISFACTION LEVEL	ARTS GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS		SCIENCE GROUP FACULTY MEMBERS	
	No	%	No	%
Fully Satisfied	77	50.7	67	39
Satisfied	33	21.7	49	28.5
Fairly Satisfied	25	16.4	35	20.3
Dissatisfied	17	11.2	21	12.2
TOTAL	152	100	172	100

Table – 12: reveals that the Arts Group Faculties 77 (50.7%), are fully satisfied using the online resources. Furthermore Science Group Faculties 67 (39%) respondents are fully satisfied using the online resources.

7. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The Major Findings of the Present Survey are:

- ❖ Majority of Arts Group Faculty (31.6%) and Science Group Faculty (34.9%) are found using the online resources daily.
- ❖ It is found that majority (35.5%) of Arts Group Faculty respondents found using Internet and (32.6%) Science Group Faculty are using E-Database daily.
- ❖ Majority of (30.3%) of Arts Group Faculty used General Studies to find articles from online resources, where as (36%) Science Group Faculty used for Prepare Project Work Purpose.
- ❖ Most of the Arts Group Faculty (50.7%) and Science Group Faculty (39%) are Fully Satisfied with the availability of online resources.
- ❖ Analysis shows that (36.8%) Arts Group Faculty and (37%) Science Group Faculty made use of Search Engines.
- ❖ A Majority Problem in using the online resources is Slow Internet Speed (38.2%) and Lack of Timing(34.9%).

8. CONCLUSION

The main purpose of the present study aims at finding the usage of online resources among the Arts and Science College Faculty Members in Erode District. Now-a-days the online resources had emerged as most powerful medium for information retrieval. The online resources are very popular among academic communities to get help in their studies and research. The majority of respondents usage of online resources to update their general studies and education project and get help in their teaching and research. Most of the faculty members using google search engine and more than (74%) of the users information needs fulfilled through online resources. The study reveals that the Arts and Science College Faculty Members are using the available online resources satisfactorily. The usage of online resources are the most important benefits the Faculty Members to access up to date information.

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